

Presbyterian Church

ANDOVER CHURCHES

That Andover people are a good people is evidenced by the fact that they support five churches in their midst. Surely the prerogative of the American citizen that all men are permitted to serve God according to the dictates of his own conscience meets with the hearty approval of Andover people as we here find Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Seventh-day Baptist churches all in a working condition. We give the following account of the organizations in the order of their establishment.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On July 14, 1824, a meeting was held to effect an organization under the rules of the Congregational Church. The original members were: Joseph Woodruff, Samuel Mallory, Amherst Kingsbury, Asa S. Allen, and Abigail Strong. The record says: "Asa S. Allen was chosen deacon and clerk, and the society took the name of the First Congregational Church in Andover."

The first house of worship was dedicated in 1840. It stood on the present site of the Andover State Bank. The building was burned at the time of the great fire in 1866.

The present church building was dedicated Jan. 23, 1868 and the name of the society changed to the First Presbyterian Church of Andover.

The Presbyterian Harvest Home, an annual festival of this society usually held in the Maple Grove in what was the Andover Village Park—previous to last year's cyclone—the third Thursday in August, is a public event of the year to more than those under whose supervision it is conducted. It is liberally patronized by all.

The clergymen who have served the church are: Rev. Silas Hubbard, Jabez Spicer, Asa S. Allen, Benjamin Russell, Jacob Russell, James Conley, S. A. Rawson, Charles Kenmore, A. H. Lilly, J. Blakestop, J. R. Johnson, J. Winkoop, T. Kemp, M. Nutting, J. S. Bingham, A. C. Titus, J. Lee, B. G. VanCleve, G. M. James, H. D. Bacon and H. B. Williams.

The church has a membership of about 175. The value of the church property is estimated at about \$18,000. The work of the church is ably supplemented by the Sunday School under the superintendence of Erwin D. Baker.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Baptist Church was instituted Dec. 31, 1829. Of the constituent members—of whom there are said to be twelve—only three names are obtainable, those of Philip Wardner, Ambrose Coats and Samuel Rush. Prior to the erection of the present house of worship, which was dedicated Nov. 30, 1853, religious services were held in school houses and in the Congregational Church.

The Baptist society's edifice would cost \$5,000 and the parsonage adjoining the church \$2,500.

Of the pastors in charge up to

date, in many instances only the family names are procurable,—we have ascertained the following: Revs. Benis, Randall, Haskins, Chadwick, Colwell, Colby, Clark, Call, Newland, E. F. Crane, R. A. Washburn, Wilson, Shotwell, F. F. Sherer, P. M. McLead, J. J. White, Smith, Taylor, Crum, Charles Smith, S. Childs, L. C. Davis, Wayne Brewster, V. L. Eggleston, Chas. H. Harrington, A. L. Boynton, W. H. Randall, A. S. Wahl, N. M. Long, necker, G. A. Orton, D. M. Sutton.

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ANDOVER

The beginnings of Methodism in this section date back to a log schoolhouse at Elm Valley (then known as Shoemaker's Corners), where in 1833 a class of thirteen members was organized, with Stephen Tanner as class leader. The Rev. G. W. Vaughn organized the class, adding to it regular preaching places on Amity Circuit. One of the great pioneers of Methodism, a man whose record is honored in the historical building at Delaware Park, Buffalo, was at that time the presiding elder of this district, the Rev. Gleason Fillmore, cousin to President Fillmore.

A second Methodist Class, consisting of eleven members, was formed at Andover Corners in 1840, led by Jason Hunt, who a short time before had been converted at Shoemaker's Corners. He is described by one writer as a "mail-clad warrior, battling for the faith delivered to the saints."

On page 172, of the Court Records at Belmont may be found the record of the incorporation of "The First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Andover." The trustees at that time were Loring Leonard, Orlando Kaple, William Hardy, Ira S. Mills, Jason Hunt, J. S. Martin, and Isaac W. Page. The Rev. Samuel Nichols was preacher in charge.

The society, during its 81 years of history, has worshipped in three different buildings. The first stood where the present one stands. It was a frame structure, costing \$750. It was sold to Hale Davis in 1862, and was removed from the lot and converted to other uses. A second building was erected in 1862, at a cost of about \$2,500. This was sold to the Seventh-day Baptist Church of Andover. The present brick edifice was erected during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Cook, and dedicated in 1873 by his successor, the Rev. David Nuttin. Its cost, including furnishings, was about \$14,000.

The first parsonage was built during the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas Jolly. It continued in use for many years, becoming at last unsuitable. The present parsonage, one of the most beautiful and commodious on Olean District, was built during the pastorate of the Rev. W. H. Adams, who toiled unceasingly to make it possible and lived but a short time after its completion.

The church has had 44 pastors, including the present one, the Rev. W. H. Smith.

The greatest revival in the history of the church occurred under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Davis, when 175 persons were added to the membership.

Three have gone from the membership of the church, after suitable scholastic preparation, into Christian service, the Rev. Burdette B. Brown, who for some time served as Superintendent of St. Christopher's Home at Bobb's Ferry, N. Y., and the Rev. W. P. Trowbridge, who also served the church for one year as its pastor. Miss Brown, a sister of the Rev. B. B. Brown, entered Deaconess work, and is now employed in New York City.

The church now has 218 resident members, and 43 non-resident members. Two women's missionary societies are flourishing, the Inasmuch Society, of which Mrs. R. A. Pease is president, supports two scholarships in India, and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, of which Mrs. C. A. Robinson is president, pays annually a full quota amounting last year to \$80.

The Sunday School is growing, and doing good work under the superintendency of Mr. Charles S. Robinson. An excellent choir rejoices in the leadership of Mr. William G. Lloyd. The Ladies' Aid Society has always been a great help in aiding the social and financial interests of the church. Under the efficient presidency of Mrs. David Slocom many notable things were accomplished, and the society rejoices in an outlook equally bright under the leadership of its recently-elected president, Mrs. H. Emmett Robinson, who takes up her work with enthusiasm.

Mr. R. A. Pease is President of the Board of Trustees. The treasurer of the Current Expense Fund is Mrs. Edwin F. Earley; the treasurer of Benevolences, Mr. Harry G. Smith.

the winter of 1870-71, which added largely to the membership of all the Protestant churches of the town, had extended to not a few persons of Seventh-day keeping prejudices. Under the ministry of Rev. A. H. Lewis—whom and to his people, both the Baptist and Methodist societies had given kindly welcome in their respective houses of worship—many persons of the Seventh-day Baptist faith entered into covenant bonds.

The present church edifice was purchased by the Methodist society soon after they completed their new brick church adjoining in 1876 for \$3,000, the present value of the property.

At the death of Ed. Everett, a few years ago, he bequeathed to the Andover church the residuum property corner of First and Greenwood Streets.

The pastors of the church have been: Revs. A. H. Lewis, T. L. Gardner, T. A. Williams, Jar d Kenyon, E. A. Witter, E. H. Stockwell, Joshua Clark, L. A. Platts, Stephen Burdick, Edgar VanHorn, A. E. Webster, Eria Sutton, Clyde Ebers, W. L. Green who is the present pastor.

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Concerning the early history of the Blessed Sacrament parish very little is known with certainty. The first Catholic residents of Andover attended the old Greenwood Church. Mass was said for the first time in Andover about 1848 by Father Thomas McEvoy, who had lectured the previous evening. The first public Catholic services were held about the year 1850, in the old Connell homestead, on North Main Street, by Father John Touhey (died March 24, 1875). He afterwards was wont to celebrate mass in the rear of the Pardon store, now Fowler's.

The erection of the first Catholic



Church of The Blessed Sacrament

then editor of the "Catholic Union and Times" of Buffalo, preached the sermon. The dedication of the new church took place September 26, 1886. Father Baker was celebrant of the mass. Father Leddy, deacon, Father C. O'Byrne of Buffalo sub-deacon, and Dr. Hoelscher master of ceremonies. The Right Rev. Bishop Ryan delivered the dedicatory sermon, and also confirmed a class of 82 children and 13 adults. Fathers Earley, Berkery and Conery also assisted in the ceremonies.

In September 1888, Father Walsh was called to Buffalo to build the Working Boys' Home, where he labored over ten years. Subsequently he was appointed to found the new Parish of the Nativity, where he completed one of the handsomest churches in the city, together with a parochial residence and parochial school. He remained there till the time of his much lamented death, February 25, 1920. Rev. Maurice J. Lee took charge September 14, 1888, but remained only a few months, going to Portage, N. Y., where he died Nov. 16, 1893. Father John H. Brown became pastor March 1, 1889 and remained until his death June 23, 1892, aged 34 years. To him, succeeded Father John D. Biden, who was pastor from July 1, 1892 to June 7, 1893. He is now rector of the Church of the Annunciation, one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Buffalo.

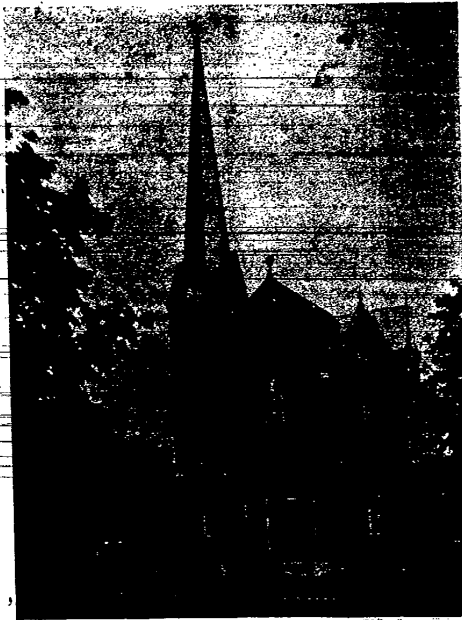
Father Thomas A. Murray was appointed pastor and took charge June 11, 1893. During the eight years of his management, the parish property became the finest church property in Andover. He removed the old buildings, enlarged and modernized the parochial residence, graded the lawn, laid a stone walk on Church Street besides clearing the property from debt. On May 25, 1901 he was appointed to St. Michael's parish at Warsaw, where he labored with the same earnestness until his final sickness. He died Dec. 3, 1902, aged 44 years.

Father Murray was succeeded by the genial and gentlemanly Father Edward J. Rengel, May 25, 1901. During his three year's pastorate many improvements were made to the church and rectory, while the amount of spiritual good accomplished during this time can only be adequately estimated by Him who reads the secrets of hearts. To the great regret of his devoted parishioners and numerous friends, he was transferred

to Ellicottville in June 1904. While there he built a beautiful church and rectory, and labored with his accustomed zeal and energy until his well-merited promotion to St. Mary of the Angels Church, Olean, N. Y. Here he completed and in an incredibly short time cleared of debt one of the most beautiful churches in the United States, which will be for future generations an abiding monument of his indomitable energy and self-sacrificing zeal.

Rev. John J. Sheehy of Buffalo succeeded Father Rengel in June 1904. With his long and fruitful pastorate begins a new era of prosperity and development in the history of the Blessed Sacrament parish. During the years of his very successful administration, so extensive were the improvements made to church and rectory that the former is to be ranked amongst the most artistically decorated and most appropriately furnished, while the latter may be considered amongst the most comfortable and commodious of the whole Diocese of Buffalo. Like his immediate predecessor, Father Rengel, the amount of spiritual good accomplished during the fifteen years of his pastorate is simply incalculable. When, in October 1919, he was promoted to the rectorship of the Old St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo, an honor richly deserved, he left for his successor not only a parish splendidly organized, but also a balance of more than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in the church treasury. He left Andover towards the end of October 1919 to enter upon the duties of his new parish, accompanied by the prayers and good wishes of his loyal and devoted parishioners, who, they rejoiced at the signal honor conferred upon him by the Right Rev. Bishop, were sad at the thought of parting with one whom they rightly regarded as their Father and their friend.

The present rector, Rev. P. C. Tracy was appointed by Right Rev. William Turner, D. D. Bishop of Buffalo, November 4, 1919, and entered upon his duties as pastor on November 23. Messrs P. C. Lynch and John Dean are the Lay Trustees. Both were appointed February 5, 1898. These gentlemen have held office under four successive pastors, all of whom have made grateful acknowledgment of the valuable assistance given them by their faithful trustees in their administration of the affairs of the parish.



Methodist Episcopal Church

Mr. Crayton L. Earley is chairman of the Finance Committee. Mrs. Hervey S. Thorne is president of the Epworth League.

The record of all benevolent offerings for the Conference year ending September 30th last was: For the Centenary (including Home and Foreign Missions, etc.), \$349; Methodist Home for Children, \$87; Anti-Saloon League, \$50; Epworth League property at Silver Lake, \$31; other worthy causes (such as Near East Relief, China famine, etc.) \$173. The church met in full its apportionment for ministerial support, which, in addition to pastor's salary, and its quota on bishops' and district superintendents' salaries, included an item of \$208 for the support of retired ministers, their widows and orphans.

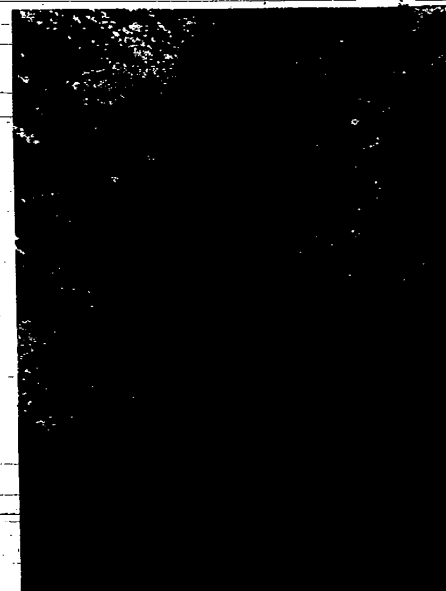
The pastor begins the second year of his pastorate with a definite program, which he hopes to carry thru with the co-operation of his people. Sunday morning congregations are uniformly good; evening and mid-week services are making headway, both in interest and attendance. Educational work, in the form of Mission Study, Bible Study, and Teacher Training Classes, will be carried on thru the winter. The aim of the church is to co-operate to the full with other churches in the work of Christianizing Andover, to maintain denominational loyalty without bigotry, to preach and exemplify a Gospel which saves and gives joy, to welcome strangers, to comfort sorrowing hearts, to extend a helping hand to the needy, to train the young in Bible knowledge and in Christian living, to win souls for Christ, to champion civic righteousness and law enforcement, to promote the spread of the Gospel thruout the world and to build up the Kingdom of God in our own community. Its motto may be well expressed in the words of Bishop Simpson: "We live to make our own church a power in the land, while we live to love every other church that exalts our Christ."

SEVENTH-DAY BAPTIST

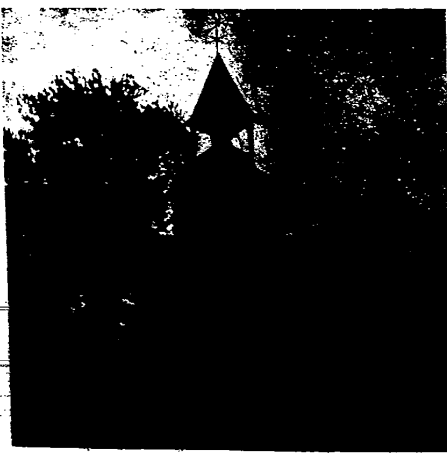
The Seventh-day Baptist Church was organized Oct. 7, 1871. The wide-spread religious awakening of

Church was begun in the spring of 1855. It was built on Dyke Street, where the Vars residence now stands. Father Touhey, no doubt named the church St. John's in honor of his patron Saint. He attended it from Greenwood every alternate Sunday. He was succeeded by his nephew, Father James Touhey, after whom, in 1859, came Father Arthur McConnell. In 1866 Father McConnell purchased a house on the corner of Center and First Streets, and became the first resident pastor, attending Greenwood also. After a few years he moved to Wellsville, where he died February 2, 1870. Andover thereby lost its resident priest, and was made an out-mission of Wellsville, continuing to be such during the pastorate of Father Philip Kinsella (died October 6, 1889,) who was in charge of Wellsville and Andover from 1870 until his transfer to Ellicottville in 1879, when Father George Dunbar (died March 1, 1881) attended Andover from Belmont. At different times the Franciscan Fathers came from Allegany to attend to the spiritual wants of the people.

About 1880 Father Bernard Clark became permanent pastor of St. John's Church. He lived on Pleasant Avenue, where he died Jan. 2, 1882. He was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Herrick, whose death occurred on August 20th of this year. On April 14, 1883, Rev. Daniel Walsh took charge of the parish. July 13th of the same year the present church property was purchased. Sunday, August 9, 1885, witnessed the laying of the corner stone of the new Blessed Sacrament Church. Solemn mass was celebrated in the old church with Father Kinsella of Ellicottville celebrant, Father Henry Leddy of Wellsville deacon. Father Henry Conery of Rexville sub-deacon, and Rev. Dr. Hoelscher of Buffalo, master of ceremonies. Right Rev. Stephen V. Ryan, then Bishop of Buffalo, preached the sermon. Rev. James M. Early of Hornell, Father Berkery of Belmont, Father Baker of Buffalo, Father M. A. Naughton of Brooklyn, and Father McEvoy of Albany, assisted the above at the laying of the corner stone in the afternoon, at which the eloquent Father Cronin,



Seventh-day Baptist Church



Baptist Church

THE ANDOVER

The High School District was organized by the Free School District and came directly under the control of the Regents of the State. The present building was completed in 1903, at a cost of \$100,000. The school is a large rural school, consisting of all the schools outside the district. It has 200 pupils in the high school department and ten teachers who are alert to increase the school.

The Board of representatives are doing everything in their power to improve the school. The following are the members: First Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Second Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Third Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Fourth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Fifth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Sixth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Seventh Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Eighth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Ninth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Tenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Eleventh Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twelfth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirteenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Fourteenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Fifteenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Sixteenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Seventeenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Eighteenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Nineteenth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twentieth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-first Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-second Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-third Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-fourth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-fifth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-sixth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-seventh Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-eighth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Twenty-ninth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirtieth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirty-first Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirty-second Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirty-third Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirty-fourth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirty-fifth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.

Thirty-sixth Year 4 English I, 5 Latin I.