

OUR CHANCEL  
See Page 9

Sketch by William Staedke



# First Church

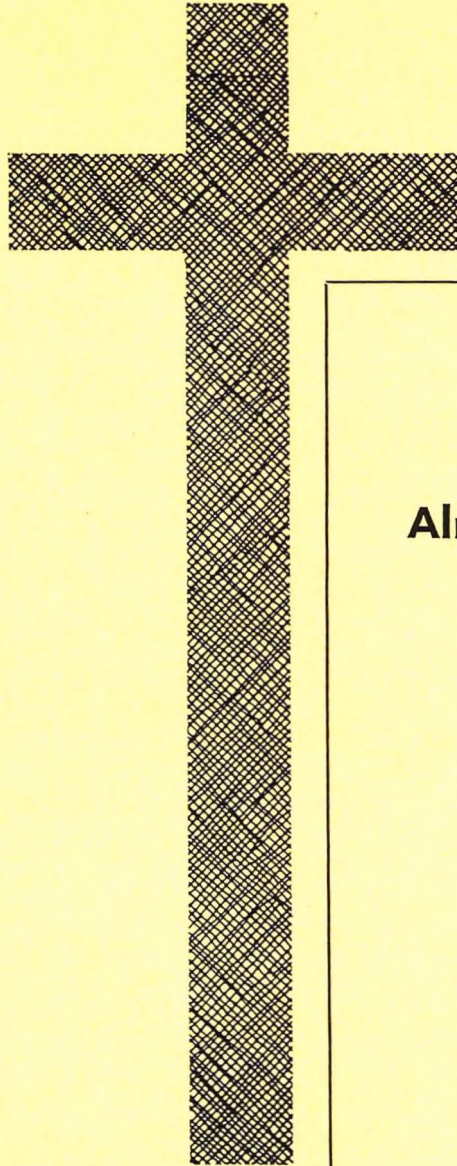
OF LOMBARD  
(CONGREGATIONAL)

220 SOUTH MAIN STREET

• LOMBARD, ILLINOIS

Dedication

March 16, 1958



## "TO THE GLORY OF GOD"

**Almost a century** has passed since our church at the corner of Main and Maple streets was erected. With its tall steeple a commanding landmark, this building has served well the needs of Lombard.

Several times our church has been renovated to meet growing needs. As each new age made new demands for larger facilities, our people responded with generosity, showing their faith in the future by building so our Church would remain an important influence within this community's religious and social life. It is our confidence that what we are offering to God this day will provide for many years to come a place of inspiring beauty for His worship, adequate classrooms for Christian education and attractive social rooms for neighborly fellowship.

We make this offering with gratitude to God for the wonderful spirit of generosity and co-operation with which he has led the congregation through this building program.

It is our prayer that the Spirit of the Living God may fill this House which we dedicate to Him this day; that the Grace of His Son Jesus Christ may be upon us in this and every endeavor we undertake within these buildings; and that the companionship of His Holy Spirit may be our joy and strength as we continue to serve Him in the years to come.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORS

Rev. T. S. Sampson

Rev. Leslie B. Allen

## The Concept In Planning Our Church

The church, with almost 2,000 years of tradition behind it, has been the strongest building type to resist the advance of modern architecture.

In our time the Romanesque, Colonial, Renaissance and Gothic style — all excellent examples of functional architecture in their time — have been modified, simplified and stylized to such a point that what remains is a deceptive shell which causes a false security of possessing a proven style.

A church building, above all other buildings, must be honest. Its architecture must be as truthful in plan and in structure as its teaching.

Reliable modern materials and techniques should not be concealed with ornaments of the

past, but should be exploited and executed with all the skill and know-how we possess. Honest architecture must of necessity be an expression of the civilization at the time and place of its creation.

The First Church of Lombard is such a building. It should encourage communal fellowship and the worship of God.

In this church, mate-

rial expresses itself in an honest interpretation of today's design. The structure, by its form, allows for all liturgical functions. Cliches of the past are not relied upon — religious form being expressed by the concept of space and the use of materials.

All lines in this new church were created to sweep man's thoughts from himself upward to

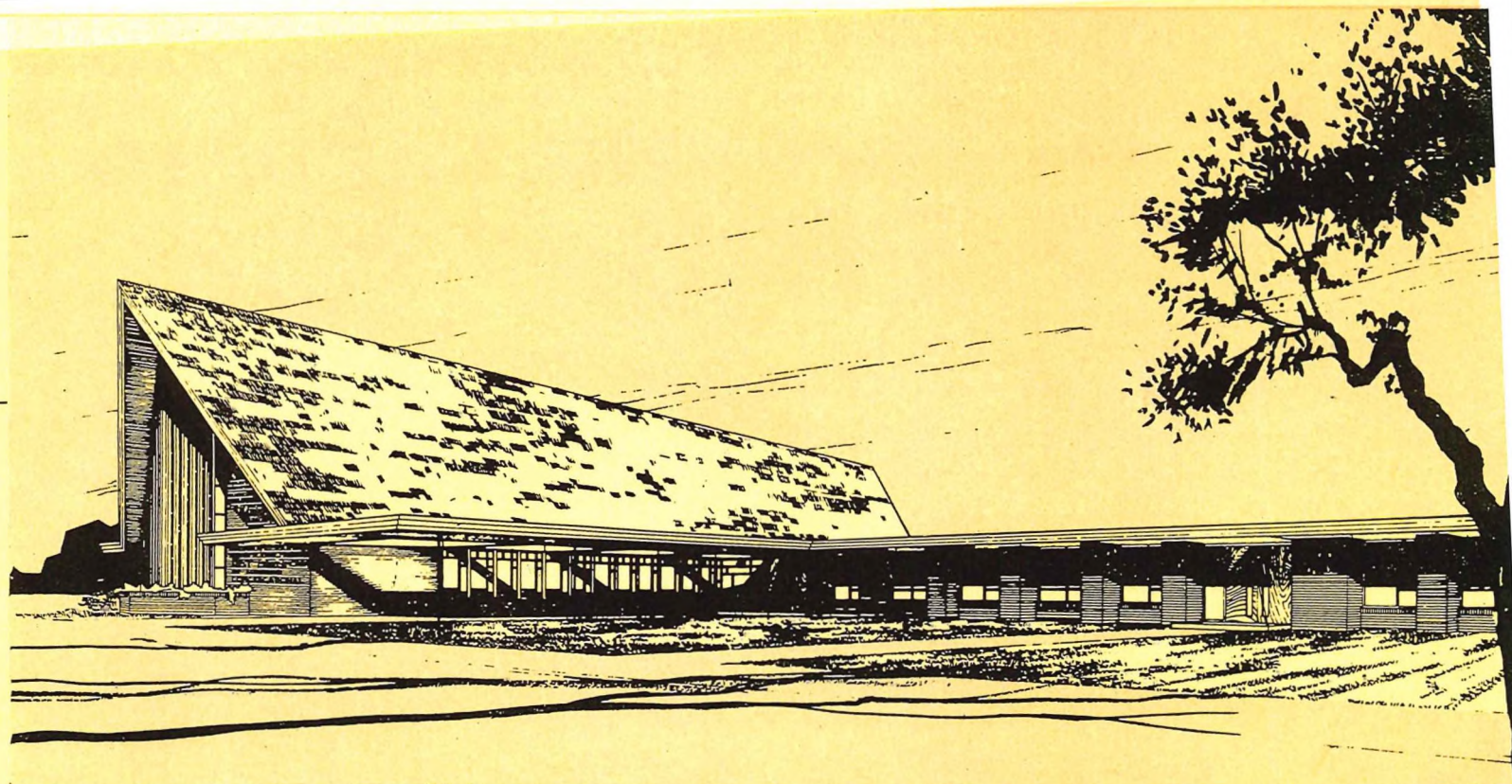
the Almighty. Both inside and out the building moves heavenward. All ornamentation and superfluous decoration which would attract attention have been omitted.

Christians must approach the Throne of God in simplicity and complete honesty. The design of the church is to carry out this feeling of unaffected reverence.

The new building was constructed to be a friendly place — to be a home where the Christian family may gather in joyous worship and in happy social fellowship.

### The Architects

C. E. STADE & ASSOCIATES  
M. DOLAN AND H. ANDERSON  
LEROY W. BONESZ



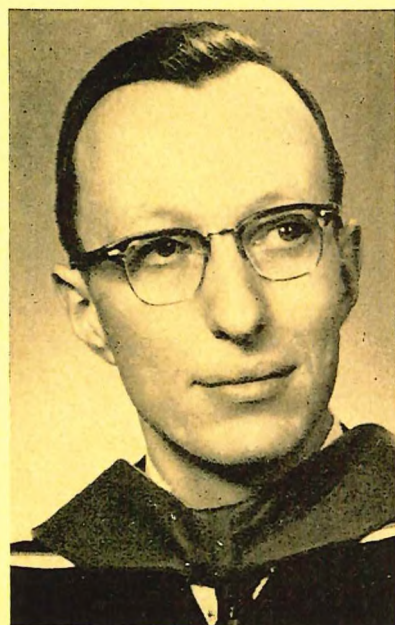
## A NEW CHURCH HAS RISEN

**The Reverend** Thompson S. Sampson was born in Hull, Mass., Sept. 6, 1913. He was graduated from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me., in 1936 and then was engaged in the brokerage business for two years. From 1939 to 1941 he served as student minister at the Bethlehem Community Church. He served as regular minister of Half Day Church from 1941 to 1944, and at Mundelein Church from 1942 to 1955. He came to First Church of Lombard in January of 1956. He is a 1945 graduate of the Chicago Theological Seminary. His wife Eleanor, received her degree in Religious Education there in 1940. They have four children: Jane, Susan, Hannah and Priscilla.



**THE REV. T. S. SAMPSON**  
Minister

## OUR *Ministers*



**THE REV. LESLIE C. ALLEN**  
Assistant Minister

**The Reverend** Leslie C. Allen was born in Beverly, Mass., on May 15, 1925. He came to First Church of Lombard as the assistant minister in October of 1956. He was graduated from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, in 1951, and received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary at the University of Chicago in 1955. From 1952 to 1956 he served as minister of the Roscoe Congregational Church in Roscoe, Ill., where he was ordained in 1956. He is married to Nancy.

# PROGRAM FOR DEDICATION WEEK

MARCH 14 TO MARCH 23, 1958

## FRIDAY 14th—SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

8:00 p.m. For members and close friends of the church. Offered by the Deacons, the Rev. Messrs. Sampson and Allen

## SUNDAY 16th—SERVICES DEDICATING SANCTUARY AND EDUCATIONAL WING

8:30 a.m. The Rev. Robert Hotelling, Religious Education Director of The Illinois Conference, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Allen

10:00 a.m. The Rev. Lee Smallsreed, Director of Extension, Conference of Southern California, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Sampson

11:30 a.m. The Rev. Clarence McCall, Assistant Superintendent of The Illinois Conference, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Sampson and Allen

4:00 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL on the new Schlicker Organ  
Organist: Lawrence Moe, Professor of Music at the University of California, Berkeley, California

5:00 p.m. OPEN HOUSE for the new building. Sponsored and arranged by the Congregators and others

## TUESDAY 18th—COMMUNITY NIGHT

8:00 p.m. The Rev. Victor Obenhaus of the Chicago Theological Seminary

## THURSDAY 20th—WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DAY

12:00 p.m. Luncheon served by the ladies of the Fellowship  
Nominating committee report, Mrs. Virgil Beilharz

1:30 p.m. Worship Service  
Devotions, Mrs. C. H. Becker  
Organist, Mrs. C. W. Hoglund  
Soloist, Mrs. Joseph Wright  
Women's Gift Presentation, Mrs. James Heller  
Guest Minister: The Rev. Flora Slosson Wuellner of the Crawford Congregational Church of Chicago

## FRIDAY 21st—YOUTH NIGHT FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

8:00 p.m. Guest Minister: The Rev. Boardman Kathan of Dover, Ill. — LaMoile Congregational Church

## SUNDAY 23rd—SERVICE OF DEDICATION OF THE CONGREGATION

9:30 a.m. The Rev. Dr. A. C. McGiffert Jr., President of the Chicago Theological Seminary of the Federated Faculties of the University of Chicago, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Allen

11:00 a.m. The Rev. Dr. McGiffert, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Sampson. Offering this day to go to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

6:00 to 9:00 p.m. YOUTH NIGHT FOR SENIORS



# History

## OF FIRST CHURCH

By Mrs. D. D. Barta

**In November** of 1851 nine persons met to found the town's first church of record, known as The Congregational Church of Babcock's Grove. This church and its Sunday School met for a few years in a school building on St. Charles Road just west of Grace Street.

An early history declares that the new church "stood four-square upon the live moral issues of the day—temperance and slavery."

By 1868, in spite of many vicissitudes and varied meeting places, the membership had increased sufficiently to build a beautiful chapel on Maple Street on the very place where the new Methodist Church now is being erected. This first building was destroyed by fire within a few months. The next site was the corner of Main and Grove Streets.

### 1869 . . . The Year of Decision

In 1869 the village was incorporated as the Town of Lombard. A new church organization was formed with thirteen members, all but three of whom had come from

the former church. The present church building at Main and Maple Streets was dedicated in 1870.

The bell of this church served as a call to worship and a fire alarm for the community. It, as was the land upon which the old church is built, was a gift of the Newton Chapin family, pioneer DuPage County residents and charter members of the church.

### What First Pastor Wrote

The first pastor, the Rev. Charles Caverno, wrote: "I began my pastorate in Lombard in the Spring of 1874, to the only church in town, and it and the community were practically identical. We were a lonely village in open country and only a handful of folk.

"Behind us and conditioning all our lives lay two major disasters—the Great Fire of Chicago and the Panic of 1873. We didn't call it a depression—we called it 'Hard Times,' and faced it grimly. We kept together to keep warm, and had nothing to live by but brains and character. Our Church was a bulwark in the time of storm."

The trustees were directed by vote of the Church to

borrow enough money to pay in full pastor Caverno's salary of \$800 a year. The sexton was voted the stipend of \$8.00 a month. Pews were rented to raise funds, but at the year's end there still was a \$35 deficit in church financing.

In 1877 the Ladies Union—forerunner of the present Women's Fellowship—was organized.

### Action to Aid Missionaries

The Missionary Society was formed in 1883 with Mrs. Isaac Claflin as charter member and frequent president during many years. Records show that excellent work was accomplished in Missionary education by a very few dedicated women.

The Rev. Mr. Caverno resigned in 1888 to accept a pastorate in Boulder, Colorado, but returned ten years later to build a home at 135 S. Main Street, and spend the remainder of his life in Lombard.

In 1906 the idea was conceived by the Ladies Union to build a Parish Hall on the land south of the Church—this property having been purchased a few years before.

## MINISTERS

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| The Rev. Charles Caverno       | 1874-1888 |
| Mr. Arthur Ackerman            | 1888-1890 |
| The Rev. Henry F. Goodwin      | 1891-1895 |
| The Rev. James Campbell        | 1895-1905 |
| Mr. Everett Dean Martin        | 1905-1908 |
| The Rev. Willis A. Ellis       | 1908-1914 |
| The Rev. John R. Heyworth      | 1914-1919 |
| The Rev. William N. Tuttle     | 1919-1927 |
| The Rev. Robert James Watson   | 1927-1941 |
| The Rev. William Frazier       | 1941-1948 |
| The Rev. Lee J. Smallsreed Jr. | 1948-1955 |
| The Rev. Thompson S. Sampson   | 1956-     |
| The Rev. Leslie C. Allen       | 1956-     |

It was agreed that as soon as \$2,500 had been pledged a like amount of bonds would be issued and construction begin.

## The Cushing Parish House

The records show that a gift from the late Nathaniel Cushing, an early and very active member of the church, was responsible for clearing the debt on the Parish House in half the time originally contemplated, so it was voted to call the new building the Cushing Parish House.

In 1921, the Norbury property, adjoining the Church on the south was purchased as a parsonage for \$5,250. The Rev. William N. Tuttle and his wife were the first ministerial occupants. This parsonage was removed in 1956 to make possible the erection of the new sanctuary.

In April of 1927 First Church lost one of its long-time devoted members, Col. William R. Plum. He had been active in the organization of both village and church, holding many offices in both. Through his generosity Lombard received both its Library and Lilacia Park.

The same year saw the death of another charter member, Allen B. Wrisley, a man of strong integrity and character who worked ceaselessly for First Church during

his long life. The Wrisley Building was given by his family and dedicated in September, 1929, to his memory.

## How Lombard's Library Began

In 1929, Josiah T. Reade, another famous charter member of the Church, died. He was founder and for over fifty years manager of Lombard's first Library, which was housed in a room in the church building. Just before his death a few months under 100 years, the church Library was merged with the young Helen M. Plum Library and the room thus vacated was dedicated as the Josiah T. Reade Memorial Room.

In February, 1929, the Church and its Ecclesiastical Society (which managed all financial matters) merged into one body to form the First Church of Lombard Inc.

The Celtic or Ionic Cross that adorns the Church spire was a gift to the Church in 1937. The steeple, a landmark, is the highest in DuPage County.

## The Reade Memorial Organ

In the year 1945 was dedicated the new Reade Memorial Organ, installed to replace one which had had 65 years of service. Other gifts during the year were the Pilgrim Hymnals, Cross and Candlesticks, a new Altar, the Pulpit and the Chancel.

## Growth

Both town and Church experienced unusual growth, and it soon became evident that First Church was outgrowing the space provided 85 years before. Two Sunday morning services were initiated, but the problem remained. The Church School completely overflowed its quarters and Lincoln School rooms were rented to accommodate the congregation's children.

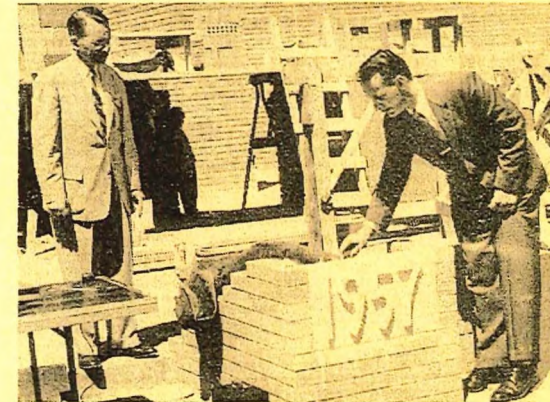
## Vote to Build Unanimous

The Congregation in April, 1955, voted unanimously to proceed with raising of funds to build a new structure for both Sanctuary and Church School.

June, 1957, brought the laying of the cornerstone of the much needed new church, now completed at a cost of

\$430,000 to serve the present 900 Church members and 763 Church School students.

Deeply rooted in the lives of the church members is their rich heritage from the past. They owe much to the brave pioneer men and women who founded this fellowship.



L. to R.: Leon Kringel and James Heller.

## CORNERSTONE CEREMONY

CONTENTS OF CORNERSTONE BOX—Copy of Constitution; Resolution approving new building; Minutes of Annual Meeting—Jan., 1957; "That We May Build" Booklet of 1957; Building Fund Canvass Plans of 1955; 85th Anniversary Booklet—1851-1936; 100th Anniversary Booklet—1851-1951; Picture of Original Church; Recommendation of Transfer of Books from the Church-sponsored Lombard Library to New Public Library; Church Papers Relative to Merger of First Church of Lombard with Society of The First Church of Lombard—1929; List of Nine Charter Members of Nov. 28, 1851, and Thirteen Reorganization Members of 1866; List of Present Members and Friends; Lombard History to 1882; Conference Papers and Church Publications; Lombard Spectator of June 27, 1957; Manual of Congregational-Christian Churches; Revised Standard Version of The Holy Scriptures. Articles referring to the United Church of Christ, the union between the Evangelical Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches.

**The Scrooby** Club: Named for the place where the Pilgrims first gathered in England, the 7th and 8th grade boys and girls meet twice a month on Sunday afternoons. Their activities are directed by their sponsors and the ministers.

### ***Pilgrim Fellowship***

Organized specifically for those of high school age, in co-operation with their sponsors and the ministers; meets every Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m.

### ***The Congregators***

Young people of the post-high school years meet for discussion, companionship and the sharing of varied interests. One of the ministers helps lead the group.

### ***The Choirs***

The Senior Choir lends a richness to the worship services in the Sanctuary and to all programs. The Senior Choir, all volunteers except the director, John Nelson, carries the major responsibility for the music of the Church throughout the year. Choir practice is held every Thursday at 8 p.m.

The three youth choirs, under the direction of the Senior Choir Director, are the Pilgrim Choir composed of the Senior High School young people; the Junior High Choir; and the Junior Choir, who are members of the 5th and 6th grades of the Church School.

# CHURCH *Groups*

### ***The Prayer Groups***

These prayer groups have been formed out of a need to experiment reverently in prayer and devotional life. Two women's and one men's prayer groups now are meeting. Those interested in joining should inquire the time and place, from ministers.

### ***The Woman's Fellowship***

Women who are church members are automatically members of the Woman's Fellowship. The group is divided into eight groups called "Circles," which rotate every two years. The objects of the Fellowship are to help women cultivate the Spirit of Christ in their own lives, in the community and throughout the world. The circles meet on the first Tuesday or Wednesday of each month. The General Fellowship meeting is on the second Thursday each month.

### ***The Men's Fellowship***

All men of the Church are invited to participate in the program of this group. Programs are devoted to matters of Christian concern and service. The men meet the third Friday each month.

### ***The Couple's Club***

This group, also known as The Icebreakers, invites married couples of all ages to enjoy programs of fellowship and fun. It meets the first Saturday night of each month.

### ***Other Activities***

First Church sponsors several Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout groups, Brownies, etc.

THE CROSS

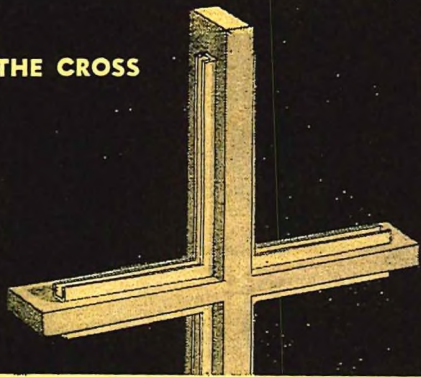
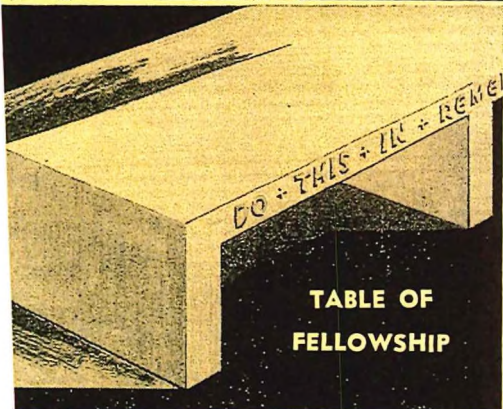


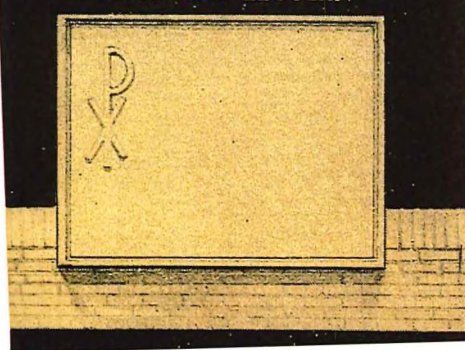
TABLE OF  
FELLOWSHIP



FONT FOR  
BAPTISM



PULPIT AND LECTERN



# THE NEW CHANCEL

(See Cover)

By The Rev. Thompson S. Sampson

Recent years have produced a deepening insight by Protestants concerning the meaning and symbolism of corporate christian worship. We at First Church, pray that the arrangements of the new chancel and nave will play a part in this revival of the spirit of worship in free churches.

**A plain cross** dominates the sanctuary. The cross symbolizes our belief that in His one perfect and sufficient sacrifice, Christ made atonement to God for the sins of the world. We believe that such an atonement was made once and for all, and so our cross is not a cross of suffering, but rather a plain cross representing the victory of Christ. As we look upon this great symbol of our faith, we are inspired to become followers of Him — to take up our cross of daily life, remembering that even though our lives may be led into ways of suffering and sacrifice, the way of Christ leads always to triumph and victory.

**TABLE OF FELLOWSHIP** — Depending, as did our fathers, upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we believe as did Amos, that religion is more than sacrifice, ceremonial or law. It is rather, as Jesus taught, "a new commandment . . . that you love one another as I have loved you." Hence, we bow before no altar of sacrifice but find spiritual strength around the Table of Fellowship. In the simple rite of Communion, of which there is nothing older in Christendom, we experience the true church, the spirit of agape or loving fellowship.

**FONT FOR BAPTISM** — We believe that Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are further conveyed to believers through the sacrament of baptism. To be baptized with water and the spirit "in the name of the Lord Jesus" is to be identified with Christ. By baptism we enter into the life of the church universal.

**PULPIT AND LECTERN** — We are united in desiring to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures. For simplicity, and yet without loss of meaning, we have combined the lectern (from which the scripture is usually read) with the pulpit (in which the text is usually expounded). We hold it to be the mission of the church to preach the truth of God's word, as revealed in the Bible, to all mankind, so that each believer will find an intelligent and inspired personal faith.

Thus, through The Cross of Victory, The Table of Fellowship, The Font for Baptism, The Pulpit and its Bible, we all look to God, His son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, to renew, comfort and inspire the souls of worshipers of our generation and generations to come.



## THE LEGEND IN LIMESTONE

The fine hand-cut Indiana limestone art work which is to be found on the East exterior wall of the Educational Building, was set in place late in 1957. Its two Biblical inscriptions and its many authentic symbols epitomize some of the great themes of the congregation.

Predominant is the phrase from the Thirty-third Psalm; "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." We proclaim the worship of the Lord by the people above all else. We aspire to worship Him with all our souls and all our minds and to look unto Him for our salvation. Hence the second inscription: "Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths."

Four traditional symbols descriptive of the Christian faith appear, the Latin Cross, the Dove, the Chi Rho and the seven lamps.

The rayed cross portrays the victoriousness of the Risen Lord. When a small circle is seen upon the cross as here, it testifies that the cross and Christian faith will be eternal, that is, as unending as the line of the circle.

From very ancient sources comes the symbol of the Dove. It was as a dove that the Spirit of God came upon Jesus following his baptism. We pray that the Spirit of God may grace our work and worship.

The Chi Rho is a symbol out of

early Christian history. It is the first two Greek letters of the word Christ: X and P. You will find them worked in the shield pattern around which are the seven lamps.

Of himself, Jesus once said "I am the light of the world." Of us he encouraged, "You are the light of the world." Of the importance of His teachings and the Word of God, the psalmist says, "Thy word is a lamp to my path." Hence the importance of the lighted lamps, in this case seven to reflect the great religious tradition of Judaism out of which we as Christians came, and which inspires us on our new way.

## THE SCHLICKE ORGAN

The Committee on Worship and Religious Arts believes that our new Schlicker Organ is one of the finest instruments obtainable. Much care was given to its selection and design, particularly to the possibility of increasing its tone potential in the future. In addition to the 15 speaking stops and 1,060 pipes which are presently installed, sound chambers and console wiring for seven more stops and an additional 592 pipes were provided, requiring only that the pipes be installed at a later date.



## Book of Remembrance

A beautifully bound book of memorials and remembrances will be kept in the Narthex of the church. The congregation is invited to look through this book at any time.

# THOSE WHO HELPED BUILD

## Committees of First Church

### On Expansion

John Tiedeman  
Ralph Bedwell  
Mrs. Wayne Langston  
Raymond Alberts  
Arnold Mareneck  
Mrs. William H. Thiele  
Warren Richardson  
Alvin Christensen  
George Morton  
Dr. Milan Novak  
Carlton Becker  
Mrs. Earl M. Worcester

### On Interest and Information

G. E. Chamberlain  
Robert W. Anderson  
Lee Bland  
Donald Berbaum  
Mrs. E. B. Millar  
Arnold Mareneck

### On Plans and Construction

Virgil Beilharz  
James Heller  
Joseph Sidwell  
Franklin Hammerschmidt  
Warren Richardson  
David Hinkel  
George Morton  
Fred Kay

### On Worship and Religious Arts

William Staedke  
Dr. Milan Novak

Dr. C. Wm. Hoglund  
Mrs. Julian Knippen  
Roy Kanold  
Dodd Millar  
Mrs. Robert F. Elrick

### On Women's Interest

Mrs. Ernst W.  
Hammerschmidt  
Mrs. A. F. Teeling  
Miss Jane West  
Mrs. Virgil V. Beilharz  
Mrs. William A. Clark  
Mrs. Dallas B. John  
Mrs. Earl M. Worcester  
Mrs. Frank A. Brown

### On Building Finance

Dallas John  
James Cassell  
Milton Darr  
C. D. Jamieson  
Chester Fitzgerald  
Otis Butler  
Ralph Paul  
Sherman Hoyt  
Franklin Hammerschmidt

### On Educational Arrangements

E. B. Millar  
Mrs. D. H. Thompson  
Mrs. C. W. Morgan

Mrs. A. S. Christensen  
Glenn Westlake  
Mrs. E. F. Ripstra  
William Horner  
John Heald

### On Administration, Furnishings and Special Facilities

Harold Jackman  
Holger Larsen  
Robert Freund  
Mrs. D. D. Barta  
Ben Schiek  
John Dove  
Carlton Becker  
John Tiedeman

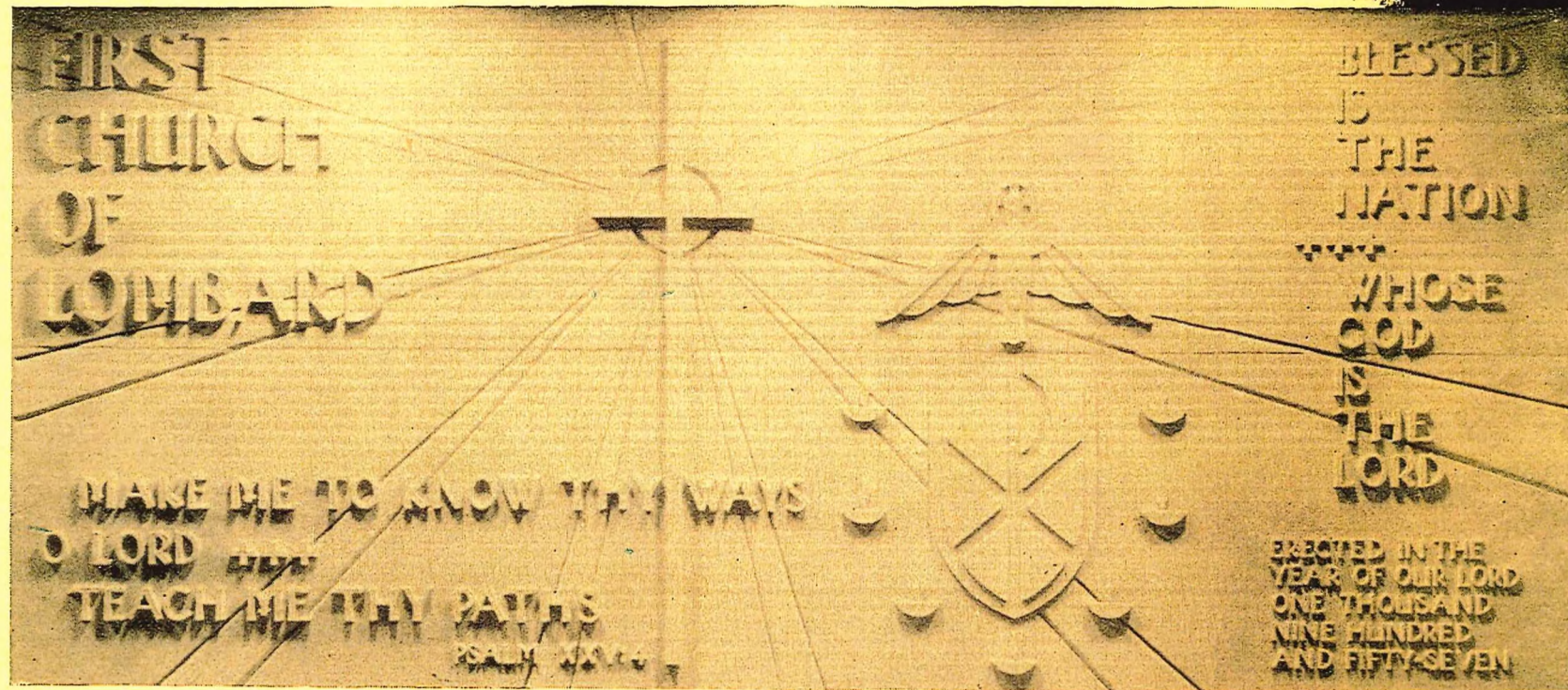
## CONTRACTORS

William C. Kuhlmann Co.  
General Contractors  
Chicago, Illinois  
Rinehimer Bros. Mfg. Co.  
Woodwork and Furniture  
Elgin, Illinois  
Hammerschmidt Lumber &  
Fuel Co.  
Lombard, Illinois  
Columbia Iron Works, Inc.  
Chicago, Illinois  
Shelco Steel Works, Inc.  
Chicago, Illinois  
W. E. Olsen Co.  
Face Brick  
Chicago, Illinois  
Timber Structures, Inc.  
Arches, etc.  
Schiller Park, Illinois

Elmhurst-Chicago Stone Co.  
Ready Mixed Concrete  
Elmhurst, Illinois  
George A. Scott Co.  
Painters & Decorators  
Chicago, Illinois  
W. C. Rutter  
Lathing & Plastering  
Elmhurst, Illinois  
Atom Electric Co.  
Chicago, Illinois  
Iron Fireman Manufacturing  
Co.  
Chicago, Illinois  
Johnson Service Co.  
Automatic Temperature  
Control  
Aurora, Illinois

Midwest Asbestos &  
Magnesia Co.  
Chicago, Illinois  
Floyd Christy Plumbing &  
Heating  
Downers Grove, Illinois  
Ecco Materials Co.  
Glazed Sewer Pipe  
Chicago 1, Illinois  
Schweppe & Sons  
Restaurant Equipment  
Lombard, Illinois  
Schreck Woodwork Corp.  
Kitchen Cabinets  
Lombard, Illinois  
Endicott Church Furniture, Inc.  
Winona Lake, Indiana  
Schlicker Organ Co.  
Buffalo, New York

## GREAT THEMES OF FAITH



*Limestone Art on Wall of Educational Building*

(SEE PAGE 10)