

The Forty-fifth Anniversary YEAR BOOK

A Family Church

1892



1937

REVEREND ANTHONY LUIDENS, M.Th., D.D.

Minister

Parsonage, 219 Arbordale Avenue

The Brighton Reformed Church

Arbordale Avenue and Blossom Road

Rochester,

New York

Dedication



We unreservedly dedicate this anniversary book to the Reverend Anthony Luidens, who has so untiringly served God and man in this community during these trying years; and to his beloved wife, Mrs. Mae Luidens, for her loyal, patient and understanding support and cooperation.



The Brighton Reformed Church Stands at the Eastern Gateway to the City of Rochester

As the most easterly church in the city of Rochester, the Brighton Reformed Church extends a welcome to all. Its location is historic. Its site is only a short distance from Indian Landing Bluff, the meeting place of traffic for all points of the compass for almost a century. This bluff rises sheer from the Irondequoit Creek which opens into Lake Ontario. Before the coming of traders and settlers this same gateway opened into the trails of the ancient Iroquois Confederacy. To the north of Indian Landing and in the bounds of the parish of Brighton Reformed Church is the lost city of Tryon. Farther north on the bluff are the ruins of Schuyler Fort. Through this area first came LaSalle, the Jesuit missionaries, the New England circuit rider, and the adventurers who later founded the city of Rochester.

Into this territory the Hollander came in the middle decades of the past century. Many of their small estates have since been bought up and are being converted into Ellison Park, one of Monroe County's most scenic parks and a most popular family playground.

Brighton Reformed Church is favored by the close proximity of this glacier-created park with its unusual beauty and coolness in summer and its challenging hills for skiing, coasting and tobogganing in winter. It is already the summer playground of more than a score of church organizations. With the nearness of Ellison Park to the church and the beauties of Browncroft in the immediate vicinity, Brighton Reformed Church is in a position to call itself "beautiful for situation."

How the Brighton Reformed Church Was Started

Immigrants from Europe kept coming into Rochester in a steady stream from the middle of the 19th century. By 1890 it was reported that there were 5,000 immigrants from the Netherlands residing in Rochester. Rev. Peter DeBruyn, for 17 years minister of the First Reformed Church, saw clearly that a new church was needed in the Eastern part of the city. Five miles of walking was a handicap to test the faithfulness of many. It was easy to attend a church of another denomination already thriving in the Brighton community. Unless a new congregation was started, a large group of Reformed Church people would be lost to the denomination. As one of the closing acts of his ministry, Dominie DeBruyn helped to organize these worshippers into groups, first in homes, later in store buildings, and last of all in a new chapel which was built at a cost of \$3,100, the funds being contributed by the First Reformed Church and people living in Brighton. The April report of 1892 from the consistory of the First Reformed Church includes the story of the completion of the chapel at Brighton.

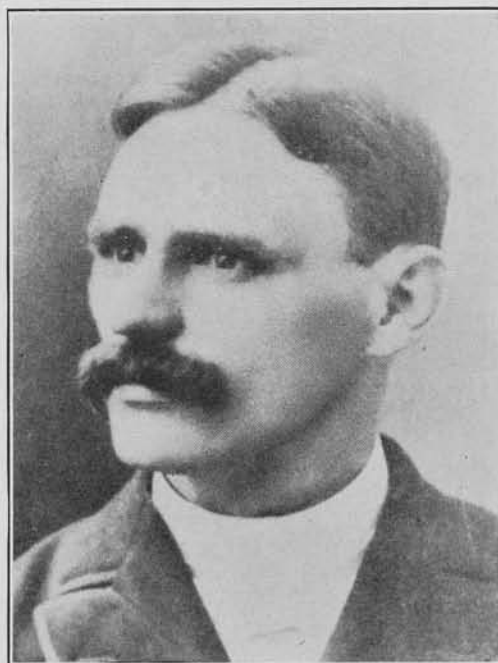
At a special meeting of Classis, convening at Palmyra, on May 3, 1892, with Rev. John VanWestenburg, minister at Pultneyville, president of Classis, the petition of 70 people desiring to establish a Reformed Church at Brighton was heard and granted. A committee composed of the Reverends S. A. Schilstra, John VanWestenburg, and Marinus VanDoorn and Elders M. VandeBerg and J. VanHouten, was appointed to complete the organization of this new church. The date set by Classis for the organization of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Brighton, New York, was June 9, 1892, at which time 55 men and women became charter members. Classical preaching supplies were granted and the congregation was recommended for aid to the Board of Domestic Missions.

Thus the Brighton Reformed Church came into being.



Charter Members of Brighton Reformed Church

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Jacob Albright | 28. Mr. Leonard Johnson |
| 2. Mrs. Jacob Albright | 29. Mrs. Leonard Johnson |
| 3. Mr. Abram Baart | 30. Mr. Peter LeRoy |
| 4. Mrs. Abram Baart | 31. Mrs. Peter LeRoy |
| 5. Mr. Peter Beune | 32. Mr. Wm. H. Rowerdink |
| 6. Mr. Josias DeBack | 33. Mrs. Wm. H. Rowerdink |
| 7. Miss Elizabeth DeBack | 34. Mr. Adrian VandenBroecke |
| 8. Mr. Paul DeBack | 35. Mrs. Adrian VandenBroecke |
| 9. Mr. Abram Cambier, Sr. | 36. Mr. Jacob VandenBroecke |
| 10. Mr. Abram De Potter | 37. Mrs. Jacob VandenBroecke |
| 11. Mrs. Abram De Potter | 38. Mr. Jacob Van Eeden |
| 12. Mr. Isaac De Roo | 39. Mrs. Jacob Van Eeden |
| 13. Mrs. Isaac De Roo | 40. Mr. John VandeWalle |
| 14. Mr. Jacob De Hollander | 41. Mrs. John VandeWalle |
| 15. Mrs. Jacob De Hollander | 42. Mr. Jacob Van Bortel |
| 16. Mrs. John De Cook, Sr. | 43. Mrs. Jacob Van Bortel |
| 17. Mr. Peter De Cook | 44. Mrs. James LeRoy |
| 18. Mrs. Peter De Cook | 45. Mr. John Vanderlinde |
| 19. Mr. Jacob De Cook | 46. Mrs. John Vanderlinde |
| 20. Mrs. Jacob De Cook | 47. Mr. Adrian Versluis |
| 21. Mr. Adrian De Mey | 48. Mrs. Adrian Versluis |
| 22. Mrs. Adrian De Mey | 49. Mr. John W. Willink, Sr. |
| 23. Mrs. Isaac De Mallie | 50. Mrs. John W. Willink, Sr. |
| 24. Mr. Isaac De Mallie | 51. Mr. Marinus Asbroeck, Sr. |
| 25. Mr. John Faas | 52. Mrs. Marinus Asbroeck, Sr. |
| 26. Mrs. John Faas | 53. Mr. Isaac Zonneville, Sr. |
| 27. Mr. Rokus Hallings | 54. Mrs. Isaac Zonneville, Sr. |
| | 55. Mr. Peter VerMeulen |



Reverend John Van Westenburg

1891-1895

The Rev. John Van Westenburg was the first minister of our church. He was born at Brouwershaven, the Netherlands, on Christmas Day, 1866. He was graduated from Hope College, Holland, Michigan, in 1888, and from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1891. His first pastorate was at Pultneyville, N. Y., and from there he came to Brighton, where he was installed by the Classis of Rochester on September 22, 1892. Those sharing the service of installation were, the Reverends Lubach, Peter Ihrman, S. A. Schilstra and John Boehrer.

The church was organized on June 9, 1892, by Classis and on June 14, the first congregational meeting was held. J. B. Pike was chosen chairman. A consistory of four members was elected. They were Elders John H. Willink and Wm. H. Rowerdink; and Deacons Rokus Hallings and Isaac DeMallie. With a change in consistory, the names of the following appear in 1893: Rokus Hallings and John B. Pike, elders; and deacons, William Willink and Jacob Albright.

A congregational meeting was called again on June 23, 1892, with the purpose of selecting a minister. It will be interesting to know that Dominie Van Westenburg was elected by woman suffrage. By a vote of fourteen to nine, women were given the privilege to vote for a minister. How well the women accepted this suffrage power is seen when we read that forty-four ballots were cast for the Rev. John Van Westenburg of Pultneyville, N. Y.

The Brighton Reformed Church prospered under its first pastor. The reports to Classis show great activity. In 1893, the report shows 103 members. The statistics for 1893-94 show a membership increase of 38 by confession and 67 by certificate from other churches. This is the largest annual increase in membership in the church's history.

A Christian Endeavor society was organized, the Sunday school was developed, the church debt was reduced to almost nothing by 1894. The chapel became too small for the congregation. An application was made to the Classis for aid from the Board of Domestic Missions to the amount of \$4,500 for a new church building. This was approved by Classis. The Ladies' Missionary Society was organized on February 2, 1893, and is mentioned in the Classis report of 1894 as "doing much good."

A special meeting of Classis was called in December of 1896 to dissolve the pastoral relationships of the first minister and the Brighton congregation. The minutes of Classis read, "The Reverend Schilstra presented a communication from the consistory of the church at Brighton, being an application for the dissolution of pastoral relations between the church of Brighton and the Reverend J. Van Westenburg."

As Dominie Van Westenburg rests from his labors at his home in Grand Rapids, Michigan, our heartfelt thanks, Christian love, and grateful esteem go out to him in his blindness. We hope that a little of the brightness of our gratitude shall shine into his darkness. We rejoice in his radiant testimony that "at evening time it is light."



Reverend D. Lawrence Betten

1897-1910

The minutes of the Classis of Rochester contain the following item in a meeting of September 10, 1897: "On request of the church at Brighton it was moved and carried that arrangements for the installation of the Rev. D. Lawrence Betten be left with the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Martin Ossewarde. At a subsequent meeting in the Second Reformed Church, Rochester, Dominie Betten's letter of transfer from the Classis of Paramus was presented and Classis moved to accept it."

Our second minister was a son of one of the prominent pioneers of the middle of the 19th century. His grandfather was Rev. Antonie Betten, born at Utrecht, Netherlands, in 1813, and a prime mover in the great tide of immigration in the United States. He was closely associated with Reverends Van Raalte, Scholte and others.

Our own D. Lawrence Betten was born at Pella, Iowa, in 1869, and was graduated from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1894. He came to us after serving the First Holland Church of Paterson, from 1894 to 1897.

Dominie Betten brought to our church a trained mind, an accuracy of records and accounting, and thoroughness of business management, which our congregation needed. He extended widely the community relationships of our congregation.

The use of the new parsonage at 246 Winton Road North comes into the story of the church under Mr. Betten's ministry. Elders J. B. Pike, Wm. H. Rowerdink, and Isaac De Mallie, of their own volition, built a parsonage for which they jointly paid \$3,500. After renting this to the congregation until 1904, they sold it to the congregation for \$2,500. It was generosity of this kind that made possible the building operations of these early years.

While the new church building was completed in October of 1896, before the arrival of Dominie Betten, it was left to the new minister to reconstruct the old church for Sunday school, social, and chapel purposes. This was done and all bills were paid with a surplus in the treasury.

Many other minor improvements were made during Dominie Betten's pastorate. A cement walk was laid on the Blossom Road side. Water was supplied to the parsonage by the Ontario Water Co. The church was repainted in the year 1905. The women carpeted the church in the same year. Electric lights were installed in 1907. The church was declared self-supporting by the Classis in 1907. The properties were left in good repair. The records of the church which had been destroyed by fire were restored as well as possible by Dominie Betten. His ministry was characterized by zeal and thoroughness and breadth of outlook.

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Reverend Andrew Stegenga

1911-1918

The Rev. Andrew Stegenga is known as the "World War Minister" of our congregation. His many contacts with families in fear, distress, and hysteria during these war years made his ministry one of personal relationships.

His ministry was spent during the period of internal struggle within our church centering around the language problem. Should the congregation leave the Holland language for the English of the coming generation? Such struggle is always accompanied by personal disturbances in a church. Pastor Stegenga's ministry was a ministry of reconciliation.

For this task of reconciliation he was singularly well prepared. He was born at North Holland, Michigan, in 1881. His early years were spent in a bi-lingual congregation. He graduated from Hope College in 1906. His studies at the Western Theological Seminary equipped him for churches with Dutch constituencies and young people awaking to the needs of the new generation.

Pastor Stegenga's ministry to the men of the church was a rich one. He taught one of the largest men's Bible classes Brighton has known. Many of these men have subsequently become officers and leaders of the congregation.

He was greatly assisted in his work by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Stegenga, whose help at the organ and in the leadership of the women's organizations was a source of constant enrichment to the life of the church. Their comradeship in the work, not always permitted to a minister's wife because of illness or family cares, was richly possible and fruitful in the ministry of this under-shepherd.

The names of young men who went into the World War from our congregation have been inscribed in an honor roll that adorns the walls of the church. They are here affectionately printed with appreciation of Pastor Stegenga, whose personal friendship, understanding and strength helped to sustain anxious hearts and troubled souls in those months and years of trial.

The names of the Honor Roll follow:

John Anderson
Edward Chambery
Jacob DeBrine
Peter DeBrine
Charles DeHollander
John DeRoo

George DeRoo
Anthony DeDie, Jr.
Abram deWitte
Abraham Ghyzell
Peter Ghyzell
Jacob Johnville

Howard Mink
Cornelius Oldenstein
George A. Rapp
Henry Tallie
Peter Watermeulen
Clarence Willink

Edward Zonneville
*Edward Bowman
*Isaac Tierson
*Isaac Scheerens
*Michael Vanderzell

*Killed in action.



Reverend Henry C. Jacobs

1920-1927

The ministry of Rev. Henry C. Jacobs was one of great activity. The post-war prosperity made church improvements financially possible. Many new homes were built during this period. The truck gardens and small farms were converted into building lots. A suburban community life developed. Large tracts of land were incorporated into the city of Rochester. Thus Brighton Reformed became a church of the city of Rochester.

The bi-lingual question was settled by Minister Jacobs and his consistory. The use of the Holland language was discontinued. A Young Women's Missionary Society called the Far and Near Circle was started. The Daily Vacation Bible School was admitted into our church following the request of the Rochester Council of Religious Education. The week-day school of Christian instruction for children from School 28 was begun. The Community Circle, an affiliate with Brighton Reformed, yet not a church organization, was begun. The Christian Endeavor was revived and brought to new power. Two older classes of women were combined into the Ladies' Bible Class, in 1920, with Miss Sarah Cambier as their first president. Relations with the Federation of Churches were promoted. New organizational and congregational spirit arose.

A building and improvement wave swept over the church during this period. From 1920 through 1924 the church basement was dug and completed. This gave much-needed new classroom space.

A new Moller organ was purchased at the cost of \$4,225. More than \$3,000 was paid on this in the first year. It was dedicated on April, 1920. The committee in charge was Isaac De Wolf, William Vanderzelle, and James De Graff.

A memorial church bulletin board was presented to the church in February, 1922, to commemorate the death of Isaac Tierson, Isaac Scheerens, and Michael Vanderzelle.

In 1925, it was voted to improve the church lawns. The grounds were landscaped and planted at a cost of \$99.35. This beautification with shrubs and trees added much to the attractiveness of our church property.

Mr. Jacobs also was active in the city and classical work. His leadership of the cause of the Ministerial Pension Fund in our Classis was strong and able.

Mr. Jacobs' family life, with its three children, was typical of the family life of preceding ministers. The parsonage on Winton Road was a constant center of contact and social fellowship.

His removal to serve the Second Reformed Church at Pella, Iowa, was doubly attractive. It brought him nearer Alton, Iowa, his own birthplace, and early home. It gave him the enriching comradeship of teachers and professors in Central College. Intense activity in the Brighton Church, he felt, should now be supplemented by a period of mental and spiritual enrichment offered through life in a college community.

During Mr. Jacobs' ministry, Brighton Reformed became a community institution.

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Reverend Richard J. Blocker

1927 1928-1929

Rev. Richard J. Blocker was called to the Brighton Reformed Church from the church at Owasco, New York, made famous as the birthplace of Guido Fridolin Verbeck, missionary to Japan and an honored educator in the service of the Imperial Government in educational, translation, and advisory work. While Pastor Blocker's ministry in Brighton Reformed was brief, he left certain indelible impressions. As a student of theology, a preacher of Scriptural insight, an advocate of the religious instruction of children, a genial comrade with men of all classes, and a congenial friend of young people, he won an immediate place in the affection of the Brighton Reformed congregation.

It may be said with freedom from self-praise that the Brighton Reformed Church has invariably sought to make the life of its ministers and their families pleasant and "at home in Brighton." However, due to the insistent plea of the former church at Owasco for his return and his own personal feeling that his work there was not completed, Mr. Blocker asked for release from the pastoral relationship at Brighton in 1929.

At the 40th anniversary service of the founding of this church, this youthful leader said: "The Fountain of Youth is ever the object of our search. We are afraid of growing old. The aim of every true church is to lead people to Jesus Christ, the Source of the water of life. For forty years the people of this congregation have turned hither for refreshment and spiritual stimulus. Jesus Christ, the Fountain of Life Eternal, will never fail. All our springs of energy and power are in Him. The Christian Church is the Visible Outlet of Christ's spirit. As fountains are made beautiful by light playing upon them, so may ever the light of Faith, Hope, and Love fill the outflowing devotions and services of this church with their heavenly beauty until all about us shall exclaim, 'With Thee are the Fountains of life and at Thy right hand are pleasures for evermore.'"

It is a real pleasure to know that Pastor and Mrs. Blocker live not far away and that from time to time they and their two children visit us and still feel there is "the tie that binds."

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During the vacancy period, May, 1929 to March, 1930, the activities of the church were ably carried on under the leadership of our senior-elder, Mr. Adrian J. Hartsen.

In addition to the discharge of their regular duties, the members of the consistory resolved that the next pastor of the church should be housed in a new parsonage, modernly equipped and located in more pleasant surroundings.

With this in mind, committees were appointed to select and purchase a site; to confer with architects, and to raise the necessary funds.

The result is the delightfully pleasant new parsonage, of early Colonial design, at 219 Arboresdale Avenue, in the beautiful Browncroft residential section.

Reverend Anthony Luidens

The recorded history on the preceding pages covers our existence for the first 38 years, from 1892 to the spring of 1930, when, after a vacancy of ten months, the untiring efforts of the Consistory, together with the patience of the congregation, were duly rewarded by the acceptance of the call extended to the Rev. Anthony Luidens of the Reformed Church at Highland Park, N. J.

Early in March of 1930, our present pastor and his family, Mrs. May Luidens and their son Edwin, arrived. Their furniture and belongings had already been arranged in the new parsonage, by the good women of the congregation. There was food in the pantry, the gas, water and electricity had been turned on, and a new and welcome family had started life in the community.

The smiling personality and bubbling vigor of our new pastor was immediately and effectively put into service. Arriving Wednesday afternoon, March 5, he attended prayer meeting in the evening, and a special meeting of the Consistory was called for Saturday evening, March 8, when arrangements were completed for Holy Communion service on Sunday, the 9th, and a reception on the evening of the 11th, and the installation on the 13th.

It was very appropriate to start our new relations with our pastor by the solemn observance of the Lord's Supper. The response and attendance both were very gratifying.

In spite of inclement weather, the reception to our pastor and family was well attended. However, the climax was reached on the evening of March 13, when he was officially installed as pastor in a very impressive and inspiring service.

This week of intense activity proved to be a sample of what was to come, for from then on, the Pastor and Mrs. Luidens have been active in building up the church and its organizations.

The Maundy Thursday Communion service was first observed in our church on April 17, 1930, and has since become an established custom and is attended by increasing numbers yearly.

The adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the Reformed Church in America, providing for the election of elders and deacons for three-year terms, originally sponsored by the Rev. Mr. Luidens while he was the pastor at Highland Park, was adopted by our church immediately after receiving permission to do so from the Classis.

This method of election of officers, together with the increase from 10 to 12 members of the Consistory; and the definite assignment of a committee chairmanship to each member, has more than proved its value.

In October, 1934, a group of enterprising young men of the Sunday school started a church magazine called *The Brighton-er*, which appears frequently. Through this medium is expressed the thought and sentiment of the congregation and community.

The gathering of news, advertising, etc., for the publication of this magazine, although a large undertaking, has been done exclusively for the past year by John Olyslager.

The new life and spirit brought to our church by the Luidens family has permeated the hearts and lives of all with whom they have come in contact.

The efforts, energy, and success of Pastor Luidens have not been restricted to his congregational work. His breadth of knowledge, his sympathetic understanding of human ills and requirements have led him into many civic activities and errands of mercy.

Readily discovering his fine qualities of leadership and experience in dealing with the church laymen and the public at large, his services are continually being sought by the local Federation of Churches, the Ministerial Association, and the Kiwanis Club.

Because of his wide experience and ability he is frequently assigned to the chairmanship of the committee on Publicity for special events of the Federation. In 1936 he served as the president of the Rochester Ministerial Association. An active member of the Highland Park Kiwanis Club, he transferred his membership to the Rochester chapter, where he meets for luncheon on Wednesday. His contributions as chaplain and Spiritual advisor to many of these business men who have no other church connections is of untold value.

He is also an active supporter and contributes much of his time to the support of the local branch of the Salvation Army and other missions.

In writing the above, we have touched only a few of the high spots in the work and activities of our present pastor. To write a complete story of the work that he has accomplished in these seven years would fill volumes. Suffice it to say that his errands of mercy, his touch of kindness have been felt in hundreds of homes and his intermediary prayers have blessed thousands of lives and souls.

We, his people, are grateful and selfishly pray that God will spare him for many more years to the work of His Kingdom in the Brighton Reformed Church and its surrounding community.

Twenty-five Years

The following is a translation from the Dutch into English of a poem written in 1917 by Mrs. Peter De Cook, on the occasion of the burning of the mortgage during the pastorate of Rev. Andrew Stegenga. Its translation was written for our 45th Anniversary Yearbook by Rev. Anthony Luidens, our present pastor. *Jan 1937*

Brothers, sisters, friends and all
Join my glad song of jubilation,
Five and twenty years for praises call,
For God has blessed our congregation.

They have long since gone to rest
Who laid in faith this cornerstone,
Brave shepherds, they, with graces blest,
Sent to our church by God alone.

Through them our souls with faith were fired,
When from far distant shores we came,
By them our hearts to heights aspired
And God sent down His heavenly flame.

Our pastors changed, yet, by God's care
Each year brought us some treasure new.
And He who hears His children's prayer,
Taught faithful people what to do.

Bitter and sweet, bright smiles, hot tears,
Came to us all, each in his station,
To pastor and to people through the years,
God showed us His benign salvation.

Our hearts are glad this lovely night,
Our debts are paid, sing happy song,
Give thanks to God, glad hearts and light,
His hand has led us all along.

Soon we shall tread our homeward road,
For happy hours like these must cease.
My heart is fixed on heaven, my sure abode,
Where God Himself will give His children
peace.

OUR 1937 CONSISTORY ORGANIZATION AND CHURCH OFFICERS

President.....	Rev. Anthony Luidens	Benevolent Treasurer.....	Herbert De Blik
Vice President.....	Adrian J. Hartsen	Special Benevolent Treasurer.....	John Johnville
Secretary	Mervin S. Baker	Memorials	Edward Vanderlinde
Treasurer	Herbert De Graff	Warden	Mahlon S. Howell
Financial Secretary.....	William Van Bortel		

OUR CONSISTORY DEPARTMENTS OF WORK AND NAMES OF THOSE IN CHARGE

Elders —Chairman of Elders, Adrian J. Hartsen	Deacons —Chairman of Deacons, Marene Asbrook
Pulpit Supply.....John Johnville	FinanceWillard De Wolf
EvangelismIsaac Hubregsen	Ushering and Welcoming.....Marene Asbrook
SacramentsMahlon Howell	MusicGeorge Ross
Prayer Meetings.....Henry Blaakman	Auditing and Business Methods.....Herbert De Graff
Religious Education.....Mervin S. Baker	Property and Improvements.....Edward Zonneville
Men's and Boys' Work.....Jacob Scheerens	Financial Records.....William VanBortel

OUR BRIGHTON REFORMED CHURCH SCHOOL

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." Deut. 6:4-7.

The Sunday school was organized in January, 1892, with John B. Pike as superintendent in charge. Some of the first teachers were J. W. Willink, Sr., Wm. H. Rowerdink, and Miss Mary Hartfeld and Mr. Adrian Hartsen. The school increased rapidly and even in its infancy gave promise of becoming a great blessing.

1937 SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS

General Superintendent.....	Mr. Isaac Hubregsen	Primary Dept. Supt.....	Mrs. Ralph Bundschuh
Asst. General Supt.....	Miss Sarah Cambier	Junior-Interm. Dept. Supt.....	Miss Janna De Graff
Adult Dept. Supt.....	Mr. Norman Scherff	Primary Dept. Secretary.....	Miss Elizabeth Keymel
Asst. Adult Dept. Supt.....	Mr. Clarence DeLyser	Junior-Interm. Dept. Sec.....	Miss Eleanor Archer
Secretary.....	Mr. Jacob DeVuyst	Missionary Supt.....	Mrs. Anthony Luidens
Asst. Secretary.....	Mr. Freelon Kerry	Missionary Treasurer.....	Miss Sarah Cambier
Treasurer.....	Miss Marie DeGraff	Social Chairman.....	Mrs. Ervin Clow
Asst. Treasurer.....	Miss Carrie Mason	Special Program Chairman.....	Mrs. Grace Antes
Cradle Roll Supt.....	Mrs. Henry Blaakman		

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Junior-Interm. Dept.	Primary Department	Adult Department	
Mrs. Jacob VanBortel	Miss Grace DeCook	Mrs. Janet Ross	Mr. Peter Woittiez
Miss Virginia Bradshaw	Miss Gertrude DeHollander	Mrs. Laurene Ross	Mr. Robert Baker
Mrs. Grace Antes	Miss Nelly DeVuyst	Mrs. Lurette Howell	Mr. Helmut Waltereit
Mr. Ralph Bundschuh	Miss Elizabeth Ross	Mrs. Patience De Brine	Rev. Anthony Luidens
Mr. John Ross	Mrs. Cathleen VandenBerg	Mrs. Dorothy Scherff	Mr. Adrian J. Hartsen
Mr. George Ross	Mrs. Isaac Hubregsen	Miss Sarah Cambier	Mr. Merwin Baker
	Miss Ruth VanGelder	Miss Margaret Merson	Mr. John Kerry
	Miss Annie VanWynen		
Total enrolled in Sunday School.....322		Teachers and officers in three schools..... 39	
Total enrolled in Vacation Church School.....141			
Total enrolled in Week-Day School..... 23		Total teachers, pupils and officers (1937).....525	

OUR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNITED FORWARD MOVEMENT

1894-1937 - - OUR TASK—"To Build a Christian World"

Rev. Robert Baker—Youth Counselor to the Senior C. E. Society	Secretary.....Miss Elma Zonneville
	Assistant Secretary.....Miss Edna Johnville
	Miss Sarah Cambier—C. E. Counselor and Co- ordinator
Junior Christian Endeavor	
President.....Miss Betty Blaakman	Treasurer.....Miss Betty Van Aalst
Vice President.....Miss Geraldine Scheerens	Assistant Treasurer.....Miss Joan Polfleit

Intermediate Christian Endeavor

President.....Miss Florence Clow
 Vice President.....Miss Mary VandenBroecke
 Secretary.....Robert Van Bortel
 Assistant Secretary.....William Ross
 Treasurer.....Miss Mary De Vuyst
 Assistant Treasurer.....Miss Helen Zonneville
 Weekly Bible Study - Group Social Activities
 Vacation Church School Helpers

Senior and Young People's Christian Endeavor

President.....William Vandenberg
 Vice President.....Jacob DeVuyst
 Secretary.....Cathleen F. Vandenberg
 Assistant Secretary.....Miss Margaret Merson
 Assistant Treasurer.....Miss Nelly DeVuyst
 Weekly Bible Study - Dramatics - Choir and
 Instrumental Music - Mission Project

Alumni C. E. Group is under Miss Cambier's direction.

OUR OLDER GIRLS' COUNCIL COMPOSED OF ORGANIZED CLASSES

"We sponsor the Annual Mother-Daughter Service in May and carry through individual group meetings monthly and have our separat eclass interests and activities."

Miss Sarah Cambier, Assistant Superintendent-Council Counselor

Miss Margaret Merson's Class

President.....Janet Keymel
 Vice President.....Florence Woittiez
 Treasurer.....Olive Scherff
 Secretary.....Helen Stonengraber

The P. K. Class

President.....Miss Hazel Howell
 Vice President.....Miss Claranna DeWolf
 Secretary.....Miss Nelly DeVuyst
 Treasurer.....Miss Eleanor Archer

C. W. Class

President.....Martha Pearson
 Secretary.....Pearl Tinker
 Treasurer.....Doris Wren

The K. W. Class

President.....Mrs. Cathleen Vandenberg
 Secretary.....Miss Ruth VanGelder
 Treasurer.....Miss Lucille Merson
 Miss G. W.Mrs. Dora Plant

"We visit the Old People's Friendly Home, enjoy reading courses, and are interested in dramatics."

"We are the teacher training class of the Sunday Church School."

Mrs. Janet Ross' Class

President.....Miss Ruth Zonneville
 Secretary-treasurer.....Miss Virginia Meintema

"We are working on a March of Time Pageant."

OUR OLDER BOYS' AND MEN'S COUNCIL

Jacob Scheerens, leader of the Men's Council; assistant, Mervin S. Baker

High School Boys' Class

President.....Robert Wentworth
 Vice President.....Jacob Johnville
 Secretary.....Stanley Nogaj
 Treasurer.....Harold De Graff

"An alert, active class with 'Personal Service' to the church as their watchword."

Peter Woittiez' Class

President.....Mr. Harry DeWitte
 Vice President.....Mr. John Johnville
 Secretary.....Mr. Gaston Vermiere
 Treasurer.....Mr. Merrit Ford

"Many of our young men sing in the Arion Octet or Senior Choir."

Progressive Young Men's Class

President.....Mr. Wilbert Hebing
 Vice President.....Mr. Chester Engler
 Secretary.....Mr. Freelon Kerry

Treasurer.....Mr. Edward Plant

"We are students of present-day life, are young home-makers and enjoy both study and recreation."

Young Business Men's Class

President.....Mr. Clarence W. DeLyser
 Vice President.....Mr. Norman Scherff
 Secretary and treasurer.....Mr. Walter Lepsch

"Our class is furnishing many of the active church leaders of today."

The Adult Men's Bible Class

Teacher, Helmut Waltereit, German Baptist Seminary, Rochester, N. Y.

President.....Mr. James DeGraff
 Vice President.....Mr. Jacob Scheerens
 Secretary-treasurer.....Mr. Ervin Clow

Bible study on Sunday—Daily Living with Boys and Young Men.

"We foster and help all boys' and youth undertakings as they develop."

OTHER MID-WEEK EDUCATIONAL UNITS MEETING IN THE CHURCH

OUR UNITED SCOUT TROOPS

Girl Scouts, Troop No. 33

Scout leader, Mrs. Henry DeRoo; assistant, Mrs. Harry Marsh.

The Scout committee: Mrs. Carl Pearson, Mrs. Harry E. Chittenden, Mrs. Edward C. Gruschow, Mrs. Margaret Hansen, Mrs. Ralph DeBrine.

Complete Girl Scout Course - Special attention to Home-making and Health.

Boy Scouts, Troop No. 74

Scoutmaster, Mr. Franklin HerrNecker; assistant scoutmaster, Mr. Robert Baynes.

The Scout committee: Mr. Jacob Scheerens, chairman; Mr. Carl Pearson, District Scout Commissioner; Mr. Edward J. Leenhouts; Mr. George A. Diehl.

OUR WEEK-DAY SCHOOL

Meeting hour, every Wednesday, from 3 until 3:45 p. m. (On Public School Released time).

Teacher, Mrs. Thomas S. Goddard; assistants, Mrs. Mahlon Howell, Mrs. Norman Scherff and Miss Lavine.

Weekly project and handiwork with Bible study.

OUR VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Vacation Church School has operated every summer for 15 years with a staff of volunteer and paid teachers and helpers. Mrs. Bertha Eesley Bacon, one of the first directors of the school, teacher and principal for many years, contributed much to its present-day success. Miss Lillian Moeschler, a trained religious education director, is principal again for 1937. One hundred forty-one enjoyed this school in 1936. Our chairman of Religious Education, Mr. Isaac Hubregsen, is in charge of the school.

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL OF BRIGHTON REFORMED WOMEN

Mrs. Charles Wentworth, president; Mrs. Walter Lepsch, secretary-treasurer.

We plan the distribution of 300 copies of "The

Upper Room" and promote family devotions in our congregation and community. We plan a united program of work.

Young Ladies' Bible Class

President.....Mrs. Dorothy Scherff
Vice President.....Mrs. Nellie Brouwer
Secretary.....Mrs. Frances Tait
Treasurer.....Mrs. Mae Hubregsen
Devotional leader.....Miss Sarah Cambier

Far and Near Circle

President.....Mrs. Dorothy Lepsch
Vice President.....Miss Marie Gates
Secretary.....Mrs. Hazel Baart
Assistant Secretary.....Mrs. Helen Trost
Treasurer.....Mrs. Doris DeRoo
Assistant Treasurer.....Mrs. Gladys Reynolds

Missionary Society

President.....Mrs. Christian Yost
Vice President.....Mrs. Edward Vanderlinde
Secretary.....Mrs. J. DeHollander
Treasurer.....Mrs. Peter Vandewall

Ladies' Aid Society

President.....Mrs. Edward DeCook
Vice President.....Mrs. Abram DeWitt
Secretary.....Mrs. H. Caley
Assistant Secretary.....Mrs. Edward Zonneville
Treasurer.....Mrs. John Zonneville
Assistant Treasurer.....Mrs. Abram Vandewalle

Ladies' Bible Class

President.....Mrs. John Zonneville
Vice President.....Mrs. Peter Woittiez
Secretary.....Mrs. Ervin Clow
Treasurer.....Mrs. Frank A. Morris

Teacher, Adrian J. Hartsen.

OUR BRIGHTON REFORMED SCHOOL OF SACRED MUSIC

Organist-Director, H. Maxwell Ohley; Chairman of Music in Brighton Reformed Church, George Ross

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

"Few people are aware of the tremendous service rendered to religion by music, both as a medium whereby we pour out our praises to the Most High and as a means of personal exaltation whereby we are prepared and fitted to receive all power and blessing from on High. But many are unaware of the tremendous influence for good that music exerts in the formation of Christian character, Christian ideals, and Christian lives. The powerful vibrations and associations of a high type of sacred music, when built into the lives of young people by way of study and repetition, constitute an influence that throughout future years will remain active and unescapable. Therefore, in developing an enthusiasm for fine, sacred music among the young people of our church, we are laying a foundation of friendly co-operation and Christian service which must be an ever-increasing force for good, not only in the personal lives of our church youth, but in the larger life of the community."

The Girls' Chorus Choir—
President, Miss Ruth Tier-
son; secretary-treasurer, Miss
Ma.y VandenBroecke.

The Arion Male Octet— Presi-
dent, Mr. John Johnville, Jr.; secre-
tary-treasurer, Mr. Jacob DeVuyst;
librarian, Mr. Chester Engler.

Senior Choir—President, Mr. John
Johnville, Jr.; vice president, Mrs.
George Ross; secretary-treasurer,
Miss Mary DeVuyst.

500 or 600 words

What Shall Brighton Reformed Do In the Future?

By REV. ANTHONY LUIDENS, M.Th.

The answer to the above question is a matter of importance to every member of the church. Your personal answer to that question will decide what the future of the Brighton Reformed Church will be. You can stop with past glory and our church will soon die and pass out of existence. You can be satisfied with the present and remain a church as we are, "A Family Church," serving the descendants and close friends of our present congregation and letting the rest of the world go by. Or, we can be a church, grateful to those who have gone before, and asking for ourselves a large share in bringing the blessings of Jesus Christ to all who live in our parish, our community, and in the larger world. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world." Can we, His followers, do less and remain Christians?

I should like to see every member in our congregation spend some time in daily prayer, Bible reading, and devotions in personal and family life.

I should like to see every newly married couple and every new home builder dedicate their new homes to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

It would be a great boon to everyone if whole families would come to church together on Sundays. Better Nursery provision for little children is now required with more than 50 little children of cradle roll age in our church school.

The training of leaders for children's and youth groups is needed anew. Training classes for leadership, summer time Youth Conferences, should have the support of the entire congregation and consistory.

The excellent church school of Sacred Music should be supplemented by Christian leaders in other fields of youth interest and activity. A half dozen expert guides and leaders of youth are needed. Will the congregation employ them?

With the passing of the depression and the increase in income, every member should assume a weekly payment of money to the church through the Tither's League and the weekly envelope system. "Bring ye tithes into my storehouse." Are you investing to the limit in your church and its growing work?

Every member will also do well to set apart Sunday for worship in God's house. This personal attendance at worship is singly a great force for good. No radio program, no magazine, will supply you the inspiration coming from attendance at Sunday worship. It is, probably, the best thing you will do for yourself and your family.

Our congregation will take increasingly a very definite attitude toward the moral issues of today. Personal morality, vigorous, splendid, clear-headed, and Christlike life is needed everywhere today. Our church exists to make the Christlike life the ideal for ourselves and for everyone under our influence.

Our congregation should have a missionary vision. As Mrs. Betten well wrote five years ago, "May the 50th anniversary of the society show further achievement and the very possible realization of the hope of a foreign missionary, perhaps chosen from our own midst."

We may well honor the beloved dead and the noble living pioneers by emulating their example by providing funds whereby a new church structure can be built. This is also a personal matter that depends entirely upon you. No one can escape this obligation. This is not for the old or the young to do. This task is one that is upon us all. Have you laid aside a definite sum of your property to build a new church? Will you be a living donor? Are you leaving your church some bequest in your will?

The future of Brighton Reformed is as bright as the promises of God. All things are His. He says also to you and to me, "All things are yours." Are we ready to attempt great things for God? He is able. Are you, am I, willing? Upon your answer and mine rests the future of the Brighton Reformed Church.



Donors of the Forty-fifth Anniversary Year Book

The publication committee, the consistory and the congregation hereby express their united gratitude to the persons and firms whose names are listed below for their financial contributions toward the publication of this Year Book. It is their generous donation that makes this issue possible and we can best show our appreciation by our patronage:

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