

# **His Church at Parkminster**

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
the watchman stays awake in vain.

**Psalms 127:1**



**Silver Anniversary**

**1954 - 1979**

**Parkminster United Presbyterian Church  
2710 Chili Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14624**



Interpretation of Cover Picture

## THE VISION

Artist: Doris Carey

The vision of the clump of trees surrounded by wheat field was originally given to Cay Anderson of the Community of Jesus, Orleans, Mass. It was meant for William P. Showalter and became a confirmation of his call to Parkminster Church.

However, the vision was also given for the church. The opportunity and responsibility for living out the Christian life as a witness has been God's gift and call to Parkminster.

*"Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

(Matthew 9:38)

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# **Part I**

## ***In the Beginning***

## **In the Beginning . . .**

Parkminster United Presbyterian Church was founded in 1954 as a mission of the United Presbyterian denomination. It was dedicated in a series of four Sunday services:

- June 6 -- Dedication to the Community
- June 13 -- Dedication to the Family
- June 20 -- Dedication to God's Glory
- June 27 -- Dedication to a World Mission

The Rev. Herman W. King, D.D., minister of Riverside United Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, accepted the call to become Parkminster's first pastor. In 1956 the congregation received full status as a church. Dr. King was installed Feb. 26, 1956. He served until his death Aug. 8, 1967.

Parkminster's roots lie deep in the small denomination known as the United Presbyterian Church of North America. This church merged in 1958 with the larger Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. to form the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

## Our Legacy

First United Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the small United Presbyterian denomination, was located at 131 Plymouth Ave. N. Its property was purchased in 1952 by the State of New York and the City of Rochester to make way for the Inner Loop.

The congregation voted to establish a new church in the suburbs. Teams of elders canvassed three areas recommended by the Rochester Federation of Churches. They were most impressed by the Chili-Pixley area, whose residents seemed eager to welcome a church in their neighborhood.

The congregation purchased a four and one-quarter acre parcel of land on Chili Avenue between Pixley Road and Cardinal Drive for a church and manse.

The amount received from the city and state for the Plymouth Avenue property was \$137,500. This, together with \$12,300 realized from the sale of a manse at 425 Wellington Ave., covered the cost of the land, the church and manse, except for a small mortgage.

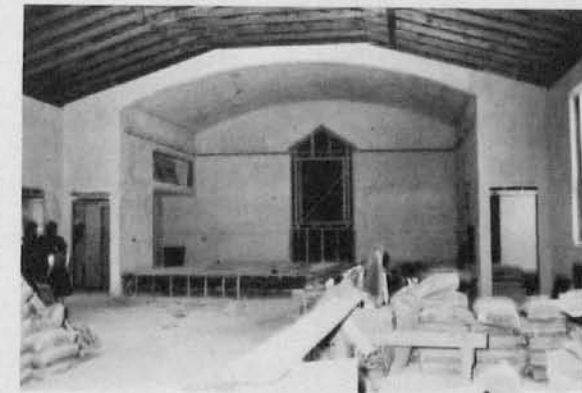
The last service in First United Presbyterian Church was on Easter Sunday, April 13, 1952. The first service in the basement of the unfinished new church took place Easter Sunday April 4, 1954. In between, the congregation worshiped at the Arnett Y.M.C.A.

*What to do with the money received from the city and state was a problem, reminisces Hazel Rugg, a member of First United and a charter member of Parkminster. Our little group had various ideas. We are glad some of us had faith to strike out in new pastures. How richly God has rewarded our faith.*

### "Parkminster"

*In a "contest without prizes" names were submitted for a vote at the congregational meeting January, 1954.*

*The first ballot eliminated "Northminster," leaving "Parkminster" and "Pixley Park" tied. The second ballot gave our church its name. Mrs. Catherine Morse submitted the winner.*







## Parkminster's First Minister

Herman W. King, D.D. (1954-1967)

"Take five!" was Dr. King's cheery greeting as he extended his hand to worshipers filing out the front door of the church after service.

He was a kind man with a warm, friendly manner. He loved people, especially children. "He had an uncanny memory for names," Jean Sexstone recalls. "Once introduced to Dr. King, a person's name was instantly recalled."

Herman W. King was called to lead Parkminster early in its development. He had been pastor of Riverside United Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, a thriving congregation of over 1,000 members. Yet he was attracted by the challenge of establishing a new church in a growing neighborhood in Chili. So he came when there were only a few persons holding services in the Arnett Y.M.C.A.

Under Dr. King's leadership, plans for building the new church progressed. The manse at 10 Cardinal Drive was erected first, providing a home for Herman, Katherine, and their daughters, Dorothy (Dolly) and Harriet (Heidi).

*One day as Herman looked out our kitchen window at the nearest back entrance to the church [still unpainted], he decided that the posts supporting the roof were "off" a little, not perfectly perpendicular. He reported it to the workmen who found the error less than an inch but they corrected it.*

*A small thing, but Herman felt responsible for this House of God. So David must have regarded the Temple.*  
 --Kae King

*At last, it came time for the first service in the new church, not in the unfinished sanctuary, but in the unfinished basement. It was Easter, April 4, 1954.*

*The excitement grew as it became time to have the first service in our new church. And how appropriate to have it on Easter Sunday.*

*It was in the days of Easter bonnets [it's hard to remember what hats are, now]. Picture, if you will, the ladies in their fine Easter bonnets, spike heels, suits, or dresses and coats, painstakingly making their way over planks, slipping and sliding in the mud, to get into the new church. Even the men found that walking this maze was rather tricky, and the children were subdued in their skipping.*

*The sanctuary was not completed, so the service was held in the basement of the new building. And it was a basement -- not the "lower floor" or "recreation room" -- for there were no curtains, there was nothing but concrete dust on the floor. The folding chairs had to be dusted before one could sit down. There were boxes for flowers to be perched on, a dusty old piano and a makeshift podium for Dr. King.*



Dr. King



Herman  
Dolly  
Heidi  
Kae

*However, there he stood with that magnificent smile watching his flock arrive. It was easy to see that he was smiling inwardly as well as outwardly. He had drawn all these people together to worship God, with no frills. His warmth filled the hearts of all present. When he gave the benediction it was as though he had his arms around each person.*

--Jean Sexstone

Herman Walter King was born in Latrobe, Pa., May 26, 1903. He was educated at Westminster (Pa.) College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Westminster.

Argyle, N.Y., was his first pastorate. From there he moved to Mayfair Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and then to Riverside in Buffalo. He was called to Rochester in 1952.

Herman King's character and faith are revealed in the letters he wrote to various persons on special occasions. A letter to George Evans, a newly ordained elder, contains the following prayer:

*Set apart, O Lord, this Thy servant, to the work whereunto he has been called by the voice of God and of His Church. Endue him plenteously with heavenly wisdom. Grant him grace, that he may be a good man, full of wisdom and of the Holy Ghost and of great faith, ruling in the fear of the Lord.*

*Give him that favor and influence with the people which come from following Christ. So fill him with the Spirit of Jesus that he may lead this congregation in the Service of the Lord. Make him faithful unto death; and when the chief Shepherd shall appear, bestow upon him that crown of glory which fadeth not away.*

Another letter responding to one received from Helen McClurg upon her joining Parkminster reveals some of the conflicts which beset God's chosen ministers. He wrote:

*No one knows more than I do how unworthy [of your letter] yours truly is. I only know it is most thoughtful and gracious of you to take time to share.*

*There are times, I am sure, when every minister feels like "chucking" the whole thing, going out and selling magazines, or hiding in some job in industry. Often the pressures are too great, and the ministry loses a constant flow of sky pilots.*

Another occasion was the baptism of Diane, infant daughter of Bob and Jan Thurling.

From a letter to Diane we read:

*November 20 was a wonderful day. I wish you could have felt the love of the congregation for you. Nothing as important can happen in all your girlhood as your parents' claiming for you Jesus as your Savior. Long ago Jesus received little children just like you into His Kingdom.*

*You understand what I am saying? You aren't your own, nor only your parents' child. You belong, like Samuel, to God. . . The prayer of the church your baptism day was that you come to know God's wonderful claim on your life. We hope you will grow like Jesus.*

Dr. King was a dedicated man. It was his practice personally to call on each family at least once and preferably twice a year. He did many helpful acts which were not generally known. For instance, one man deserted his wife and went to Cleveland. Dr. King drove to Cleveland, brought him back and patched up the difficulty. Many times he answered calls during the night to give service to his people.

Kae King shared another memory:

*There was the memorable day when we entertained Presbyterial for the first time. Albert Foss played the organ for the opening service of worship but at the end of the day was called upon to direct traffic as the women left the church.*

*Later he joked to Herman, "I started out as the organist, but I ended up as the traffic cop!"*

*The plumbing in the ladies' room had felt the strain of the unusual attendance in the building, and Herman said to Albert, "I did even better. I started out the day as the welcoming pastor and ended the day as the plumber."*

Others have shared their memories of Dr. King and the early days of Parkminster. A few of these follow:

*The children's stories from **Bird Life in Wington**, by J. Calvin Reid, read first by Dr. King and later by Laureen Benner.*

--Bette Causey

*Dr. King encouraged us to memorize Scripture [e.g. John 1:1-14 and Philippians 2:5-12] and taught us songs, such as "Everybody ought to know who Jesus is," and others.*

--Jane Wilson

*Herman on a ladder in the sanctuary changing a bulb in the chandelier, and his preciseness in arranging the communion table.*

--Martha Head

*As Dr. King entered the pulpit one Sunday morning, my three-year-old son, Lynn, loudly announced, "Mom, there's God!"*

--Helen Lee

*We saw the church being built piece by piece and have witnessed the immense growth in the congregation. We are charter members and have a certificate of church membership dated June 27, 1954, and signed by Rev. Herman W. King.*

--Gloria Mattice

*When the Edwin Backholm family arrived from Finland in December, 1961, it was cold and dark on the railroad station platform. Four persons waited with tons of baggage. In minutes Dr. King and several helpers appeared and loaded everything into cars and wagons.*

--Jane Wilson

*Herman spent some time riding the crane as my husband Jack performed his daily work. He would search people out to get to know them better.*

--Helen Lee

An opportunity to show love and appreciation to Herman King came in the spring of 1967, when members of the congregation shared in the gift to him of a trip to the Holy Land.

The trip began in July, just after the Six-Day War between Israel and Egypt. It was touch and go for several days in anticipation of the trip, and the itinerary was changed to avoid direct travel between the two nations.

Dr. King returned jubilant and enthusiastic. He anticipated sharing his slides with the congregation. But God called him home Aug. 8, 1967, just a week after his return. As Joy Barcus put it, "He had been in the Promised Land and wanted to stay there."

It was a sad and difficult time for Parkminster members and friends as well as many persons in the community who had grown to love him. When the Rev. Stanley Magill of Roberts Wesleyan College, the tour leader, narrated Dr. King's pictures one Sunday evening in the fall, the sanctuary was filled to overflowing.

A library has been established at Parkminster, called the Herman W. King Memorial Library. A large portrait of Herman King, painted by a talented local artist, adorns the wall. When Dr. Joseph Bishop, Rye, N.Y., came to preach the sermon at the installation of the Rev. William Showalter as senior minister, he remarked, "I can see why Parkminster has grown under the ministry of Dr. King. He just loved his people into the Kingdom."

Herman was laid to rest in Grove Place Cemetery, a short distance from the church, near the grave of his daughter Dorothy, who had preceded him in death.

Mrs. Katherine King is now living in Hemet, Calif. Their daughter Harriet is married to William French. Heidi and Bill and their two sons live in Ballwin, Mo.

--Walter O. Wilson

## 1954 Boards

Session: Douglas B. Benedict  
\*Charles J. DeGrave  
Howard A. Galton  
\*Domenic C. Mancini  
Raymond S. Miller  
\*C. Frederic Sickles  
Russell E. Warren  
Russell P. Weaver  
Walter O. Wilson  
  
\*Corporation Trustees

Deacons: Murray R. Belknap  
Genevieve Benedict  
June Fullerton  
Guilford H. Hondorf  
Donald E. Snyder  
Lyle M. Wallace



Sickles, Weaver  
Wallace, Snyder, Miller, Mancini  
Fullerton, Benedict, Benedict, Dinsmore

Elders Emeritus:

J. Sankey Mullan  
George R. Dinsmore



Mullan, Dinsmore





## Charter Members

The Charter Membership Roll of Parkminster United Presbyterian Church included the names of 209 persons. Of these, 66 are still on the membership roll of the church. They are:

Murray R. Belknap	Domenic C. Mancini
Mrs. Dorace M. Belknap	Mrs. Josephine Mancini
Douglas B. Benedict	Francis O. Matthews
Mrs. Lois Benedict	Robert Mattice
Mrs. Henry (Genevieve) Benedict	Mrs. Gloria Mattice
Mrs. Myron (Irene) Bray	Robert L. McDonald
Reid M. Copeland	Mrs. Edna McDonald
Mrs. Helen M. Copeland	Mrs. Ruth McLaud
William A. Davis	Mrs. Roger (Catherine) Morse
Mrs. Eleanor Davis	Raymond S. Miller
Charles J. DeGrave	Mrs. Isabelle J. Miller
Reynolds B. Dowe	Mrs. Robert (Linda) Murphy
Mrs. Lois Dowe	Kirk M. Neal
Reynelda Dowe	Mrs. Virginia D. Neal
Glen F. Flint	Mrs. Homer (Hazel) Rugg
Mrs. Betty H. Flint	David G. Rugg
Walter A. Fraser	Howard C. Schroth
Mrs. Helen B. Fraser	Mrs. Gertrude W. Schroth
Howard A. Galton	James F. Sexstone
Mrs. Alfred (Bertha) Gundry	Mrs. Jean G. Sexstone
Mrs. Rawling (Norma) Harmon	C. Frederic Sickles
Arthur D. Hauck	Mrs. Caroline B. Sickles
Mrs. Jean D. Hauck	Donald E. Snyder
Guilford H. Hondorf	Mrs. Geraldine C. Snyder
Mrs. Jessie H. Hondorf	Mrs. George (Ethel) Spiegel
Harold Paul Jones	John Stewart
Mrs. Gladys G. Jones	Mrs. Anna Stewart
Maude Kahler	Herbert C. Watts
Arthur S. Little	Mrs. Arline C. Watts
Mrs. Josephine Little	Paul B. White, Jr.
William H. Loudon	Mrs. Emily L. White
Mrs. Lorraine Loudon	Mrs. H. E. (Helen) Wilcox
	Walter O. Wilson
	Mrs. Jane G. Wilson

## Through the Years--The Ministers' View

### Part I

#### 1954-1967

In his report to the congregation on Parkminster's first full year of existence, Dr. King wrote: "God has been good. To Him we would ascribe the glory due His Name. Whatever gains we enjoy are of the Holy Spirit. Let it be engraved upon our hearts that except the Lord build, we labor in vain! Unless what has been accomplished has eternal value in somebody's soul, the following reports have questionable merit..."

"The way ahead must find every member loyal and serving. Spasmodic Christianity helps no soul and spells the shame of the Church before the world."

There were 337 members at the end of 1955.

#### 1957

Dr. King termed 1957 a year of realization. "The pastor has been engaged in far more personal counseling during 1957 than heretofore. He would share the realization that the chief business of the church is still the burden of human hearts. Far more troubles abound than the casual one thinks. Your minister is convinced that the world's ills are dealt with only in the Christ of the Cross..."

"1957 has been a year of realization in finances. Parkminster ends the year with her first deficit..." The membership totaled 507.

#### 1958

At the end of 1958, the year of union with the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Dr. King reported: "Perhaps immaturity shows in some areas of our personality (but) we were 'grown' enough to take our place alongside a life partner..."

"It may well be that, because of new horizons and associations, a period of kingdom maturity has been thrust upon us, by this union. Of necessity, we have been 'thrown' into deep waters, especially in national missions and our mission abroad. This national and international vista may well be the prospect of deepening experiences in the local strata of youth, women's and men's work.

"Parkminster dare not be lost in these wider kingdom interests, lest we die. We must rise to a challenge and Christian responsibility which cannot but make us strong, if not great!"

**1961**

At the end of 1961, membership had climbed to 593. A new word had been added to our vocabulary: Koinonia. "It described the fellowship of the early disciples, a fellowship of sharing doctrine, problems, prayer, witness, and even confession.

"Along with many in the Presbyterian Church, Parkminster is experiencing a degree of early church koinonia. This has sweetened the church, opened to some the deeper things of the Holy Spirit, confirmed our Christian mission, thwarted our jealousies, and matched our lives with what Holy Scripture says we should be. This bodes well for a powerful people!"

**1962**

Looking back on 1962, the pastor noted, "The seven deadly sins (Proverbs 6:16-19) disrupt the Spirit's power. Yet... there is a very evident and firm foundation being laid in Christian knowledge, grace and service...

"Vision is limited not by size, enrollment, money. It is limited only by those who claim to be the church. Let us dare to be witnesses. Only the constraining love of Christ can make us a church in being and mission. God has chosen us. Are we choosing His way?"

**1964**

A more positive note was sounded at the end of 1964. "A pastor can directly point to men, women, youth who are becoming four-dimensional: knowing the breadth and length and depth and height of the love and purposes of Christ."

Communicant membership was 633.

**1965**

"A church is a personality, for the church is people." Thus begins the pastor's report for 1965. "A congregation, then, is a cross-section of personalities, and its 'report' strikes a median, some of its people on one side of a line in Christian life and witness, and some on the other. It is the median that becomes our image of the Kingdom of God...

"Our hands have been set to the plow. What of the furrow? We can tell how straight the spiritual soil has been cut; we can tell how many rocks the plowshare has hit; we can tell from where we are now, whether our sweat in the hot sun came because we plowed the way we chose, or the way the Lord wished."

With membership at 682, "we face a quandary...Parkminster needs greater provision for her people."

**1966**

1966 was a year of crisis, to quote Dr. King: "Whether or not hopes were fully, financially, realized, one fact stands above all others: Our spiritual life has been brought into question! Whatever response any member has made, God measures that response by the yardstick of sacrifice. The year of crisis has brought with it some reactions, discussion, temper that are unsavory; but it, also, has faced us with the genuineness of one's commitment to Almighty God!"

Membership had decreased to 673. A fund-raising drive for expansion had failed miserably.

The assistant minister reinforced Dr. King's exhortation. "Having an assistant does not solve membership and facility problems but means even more that we must move forward. To have an enlarged program means expansion in the very near future."

**1967**

Parkminster bade farewell to Herman King Aug. 8, 1967. His death came suddenly a week after he returned from a trip to the Holy Land, that had been a love-gift from the congregation.

The Rev. Robert Barcus, assistant minister, shouldered the responsibilities of pastor for about a year. At the end of 1967 he wrote, "God has indeed 'set before us an open door' through which we shall move to the future but we base our faith upon what God has made possible in the past and the spirit of our people in the present.

"Retrospect is fun and helpful but let us look to the future. There is, of course, the concern of space and one congregation instead of two for the new year. The planning committee...has some impressive plans to present to the congregation. No one likes to embark on such a project, no one likes to become bigger, and yet, as the Church of Christ we CANNOT stand still."

Communicant membership had increased to 698.

# **Part II**

## ***The Spirit Changes Parkminster***





## The Spirit Changes Parkminster

Dr. Herman W. King's vision for Parkminster was one of deep spiritual renewal, a concept foreign to many in the young congregation.

The early dinners, fun nights and meetings were punctuated with enthusiasm, bringing fulfillment to the social life of Parkminster. But God's plan for the church was more than the new congregation as a whole was experiencing.

In the late 1950s stirrings of the Spirit were beginning. Conversation was centered on the purposes of the church. Men were traveling to New York City to regional meetings of Presbyterian men. Some were meeting weekly for prayer. A number of women experienced a new spiritual awareness, a relationship to God, and they shared it.

At one meaningful meeting Dr. King exclaimed, "I didn't know how God was going to bring forth spiritual renewal in our congregation. Now I see evidence of the life we need!"

In the 1960s the Holy Spirit began to change the direction of the church. It was during this crucial period that the loss of Herman King brought uncertainty and some fear as to the future of the church.

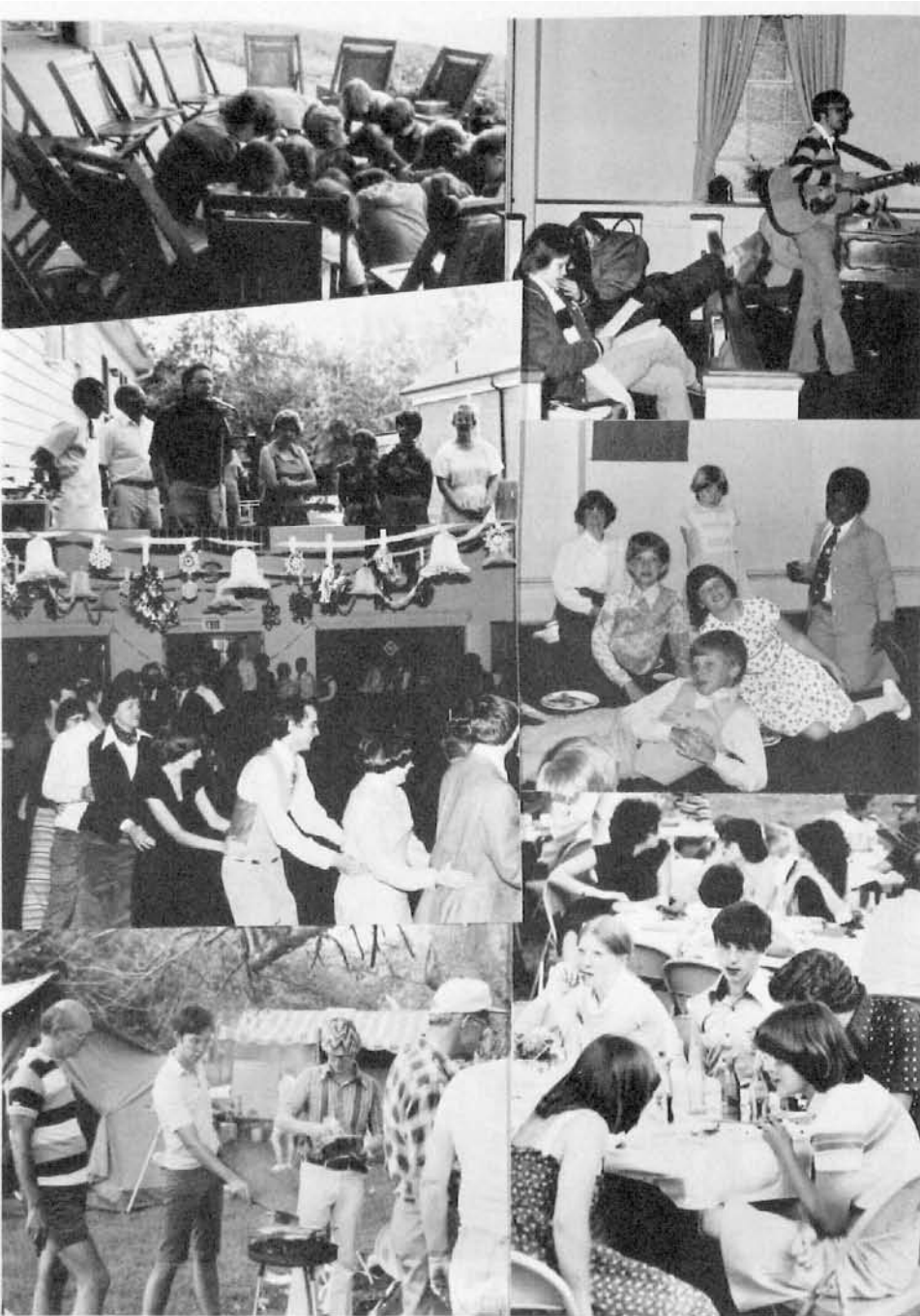
For the period of one year, as the pulpit committee combed through numerous dossiers, a group of persons met every Sunday evening to pray that God would send the right person to lead the congregation.

God answered the prayer. One of the pulpit committee members who happened to be at a breakfast meeting in a local restaurant met the Rev. Everett Fullam, an Episcopal minister from the New England area. Mr. Fullam suggested the name of William P. Showalter.

The Sunday night prayer meetings continued. One evening a Presbyterian minister, Robert Rice, of Literacy and Evangelism, formerly of Korea, joined the group. He prayed a prayer of deep faith:

*"Lord, we trust that You will send the man You want to Parkminster and block anyone else who should not be there."*

William Showalter came. Slowly but surely the spiritual life began to grow and take shape.



A number of small groups began to emerge. In one group, as eight persons were seated thanking God, four of them began to exercise the gifts of the Spirit. More groups were formed.

Individuals were beginning to ask about Jesus. One by one each would seek counseling and then receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. As lives were changed, persons came together in groups and a deep caring for one another began to develop.

In its 25th year Parkminster is at a new stage of spiritual development. The call to commitment envelops the total ministry of the congregation. What lies ahead? If parkminster remains faithful to the call, it will experience depths of divine love that will bring total healing to all who enter its doors.

--Domenic Mancini

## William P. Showalter, D. Min.

Senior Minister, 1968--

God's call to Parkminster first came to Bill Showalter in the spring of 1968. It was then confirmed in a vision. However, the call was developed in a unique way.

Parkminster came to Bill's attention when he received a letter from Walter Wilson, chairman of the pastoral nominating committee, inquiring about Bill's availability. Even at that early stage Bill somehow knew he would be coming to Rochester. He sent the requested tape, indicating his interest in the post.

After what seemed an interminable period, he received word from the committee that it had offered the position to another candidate who had accepted. Then, about a month later, another letter informed him that the other candidate had heard the voice of the Lord telling him Parkminster was not part of God's plan for him. This letter contained an invitation to the Showalters to visit Rochester.

Before coming, Bill confided in Cay Anderson and Judy Sorenson at the Community of Jesus in Orleans, Mass. Cay responded by sharing a vision of a clump of trees surrounded by a wheat field. The vision took on special meaning for Bill on his trip to Rochester.

Adjacent to the church, on the site of the current sanctuary, stood a clump of tall cottonwood trees. As members of the committee accompanied him on a tour of the community, he saw the several new housing developments near the church as the wheat field in the vision.

On June 9, 1968, Bill preached his first sermon before the congregation, in the original sanctuary, and the congregation voted to extend the Showalters a call to the pastorate of Parkminster.

William Price Showalter was born in West Chester, Pa., near Philadelphia, where he lived the first six years of his life. Later childhood and adolescence were spent in Atlanta, Ga., and Washington, D.C. At the age of 8 Bill was led to the Lord by his mother.

Feeling an early call to the ministry, Bill attended some of the nation's foremost Christian colleges and seminaries. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. After two years at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., he

matriculated at the Temple University School of Theology in Philadelphia, where he received the master of divinity degree. Later he earned the master of sacred theology degree from Princeton Seminary and the doctor of ministry degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School-Bexley Hall-Crozer in Rochester.

Bill was ordained in 1955 in the Philadelphia Presbytery. He first served as assistant pastor at Manoa Presbyterian Church, Havertown, Pa., from 1955 to 1958. His next pastorate was at Whitinsville Presbyterian Church, Whitinsville, Mass., where he met his wife, Carol Davidson. Bill and Carol served Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bridgeport, Conn., from 1963 until 1968, when they accepted the call to Parkminster.

It has been exciting to see how Bill has been used by God in the development of congregational life here at Parkminster. Some organizational behaviorists believe that an organization takes on the characteristics of its leadership. This can be observed at Parkminster, for as Bill has responded to the leading and working of God in his own life, he has changed--and so has the congregation. As he became less confident in himself and more needy and dependent on Christ and others, the Lord became more real and his personal commitment deepened.

A similar change soon began in the life of the congregation. The strong emphasis on community activity, program development and structure began to give way to a new openness and honesty which fostered the development of real and caring relationships among the membership.

Bill admits that he came to Parkminster with the notion that pastoral success was measured by accomplishments and activities that can be quantified. His blueprint called for certain achievements within seven years, after which he hoped to move on to "greater and better" things in a new pastorate.

But God's blueprint was different. After much struggle and giving up his own way, Bill accepted God's new call to continue at Parkminster. His testimony is that these last four years were much more meaningful than the first seven; what he originally set out to accomplish pales in importance, compared to the deepening commitment, the greater sense of family and the genuine healing God has brought to the congregation in the past four years.

Bill's aspirations for Parkminster include a solution to the current space problems, continuing development of the music program, the provision of a pipe organ in God's time and, most of all, that the church will become known as place where hurting people can come for healing.

The congregation is grateful to the Showalters for their unselfish service these past 11 years. When a church calls a minister, the family is called as well, and all have benefited from the dedication of Carol and the children.

Looking to the next quarter-century of Parkminster's history, Bill would admonish his flock in the words of the Apostle Paul: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, press on toward the goal to win the supreme and heavenly prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward." (Philippians 3:13-14, Amplified)

Like Paul, Bill desires that each member come to know Jesus intimately and discover the power that comes from Him, and so be continually transformed in spirit into His likeness.

Further, that as the congregation works to build up the Body of Christ here (the church), there might be a unity in the faith that will produce maturity and completeness in Jesus.

--Philip B. Price

## William G. Thompson, M. Div.

### Associate Minister

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

That call of Jesus, the Rev. William G. Thompson believes, is the key to still greater spiritual growth for Parkminster as it begins its second 25 years. "As discipline becomes more lived out in us, we'll experience more of the life of Jesus and the fruit of the Spirit. We'll be going into more freedom," Bill declares.

The 48-year-old associate minister also envisions the congregation as "more of a community where healing takes place," and he says that "we'll become more equipped to do this while we work together as the Body of Christ."

Bill knows of the fruit of denying self to follow the Lord. It is at the heart of his own testimony.

The Dayton, Ohio, native accepted Jesus as Savior in the summer of 1952 while serving with the Air Force in Japan--but not without the determined witness of a Christian Army buddy. "I kept telling him I knew ABOUT Jesus," Bill recalls. "Yet I knew Jesus wasn't a part of my life."

The conversion experience sparked a yearning in Bill to find and fulfill God's purpose for his life. After leaving the service, he worked a year at the Colorado Springs headquarters of the Navigators, a worldwide, interdenominational Christian missionary organization he learned about in Japan. The Navigators' emphasis was on the discipline required for spiritual development.

Bill earned a bachelor's degree in education from Boston University and then enrolled in a Lutheran seminary in Ohio. But in his final year of studies he dropped out. "I wasn't really ready to assume the role of a pastor," he explained.

Instead, he became a teacher of ancient history at a high school in South Yarmouth on Cape Cod. In 1966, the year he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Bill married a junior high social studies teacher, Dorcas Boardman. Their daughter, Becky, was born two years later.

Partly because of finances, Bill left teaching after four years and turned to selling



The Showalters

Timothy      Helen  
Betsy      Bill  
Peter      Carol



insurance—a "disaster," as he calls it, that ended a year later.

What was the Lord's will now? The ex-insurance salesman and his wife prayed one night for the answer. Next morning, two weeks before school was to reopen for the fall, Bill was offered his old teaching job again.

He never did go back to the schoolroom, though. In those closing days of summer, 1970, the Rev. William P. Showalter was vacationing on the Cape. Parkminster's pastor had been looking for an assistant and had written about that need to a number of ministers, including the Rev. Peter Marshall of East Dennis Community Church, where the Thompsons worshipped.

Peter and the pastor from Rochester both counseled Bill not to take the easy way out if he truly felt the call to the ministry. Bill came to Rochester to be interviewed for the position and was named assistant to the minister Nov. 1, 1970. He was ordained and installed as assistant minister in 1972 after completing studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School-Bexley Hall-Crozer, and became associate minister in 1973.

God knew, however, that pruning must be done if Bill was to bear more of the fruit of a disciple. He took a six-month leave of absence early in 1977—a retreat at the Community of Jesus "to see who I really was as a pastor."

He discovered he was "much farther from Jesus" than he realized and "that nothing in my old nature really wanted to follow Christ." He realized he had wanted "to exalt myself to a place of high position."

Bill's ministry has become more pastoral the past few years—counseling, visiting homes and hospitals, becoming more involved with Cephas-Attica's outreach to the inmates at Attica Correctional Facility.

"People relate to him very easily," observes Domenic Mancini, a former elder. "He's much more informal and relaxed in sharing the message of the Gospel. He seems to be able to inject humor into some very serious situations."

Bill's "discernment of what's going on with people" is noteworthy, says the Rev. Robert M. Barcus. "I suppose he wouldn't want me to say this," Bob adds, "but so is his gift for giving children's sermons."

Bob and Bill have led recent series of the weekly evening Bible study. "His knowledge

of the Bible is striking," Bob says of his associate. "He doesn't need a concordance most of the time."

For his part, Bill believes that relaying the Bible's truth in terms of one's own experience makes that truth become life for someone else. "Otherwise," he says, "I just pass on Biblical knowledge to you, not life."

--Michael P. Zavadil

--Herbert C. Schmalzriedt, Jr.



The Thompsons

Rebecca      Bill  
Dorcas

## The Rev. Robert M. Barcus, M. Div.

### Associate Minister

Everyone, given the facts, would agree. Parkminster's Bob Barcus has had an irregular career. A minister rarely moves from assistant to associate to senior pastor, and then returns to assistant.

But "God moves in mysterious ways." And over the years Bob feels he has been drawn closer to the man God wants him to be.

Robert Morris Barcus, 38, was born in Philadelphia, to a railroad family. Both his paternal and maternal grandparents were connected with railroading, and his father, Robert W. Barcus, worked for Penn Central.

Bob's mother, A. Elizabeth Barcus, is an artist. She taught art while Bob was in high school and later drew designs for jewelry making. A younger sister, Barbara Barcus Casner, was a business teacher prior to her marriage.

Bob, however, took steps in another direction. As early as the ninth grade he felt called to the Christian ministry. In his senior year, the presbytery took Bob under its care; encouraged by his pastor, Bob committed his career to its direction.

The next year Bob entered Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., where he earned his bachelor of arts degree. He majored in psychology and joined a student preministerial organization led by the college chaplain. During his final two college years, Bob worked with the youth of two small churches.

Bob's studies and activities were all important, but a top-rated event at Westminster was meeting Joy Heath. Bob and Joy were married by their Bible professor the day after her last final exam.

In 1963 Bob and Joy moved to the campus of Colgate Rochester Divinity School. For the next three years Bob's seminary studies were interspersed with various field assignments.

While a student assistant at Brighton Presbyterian Church, he and Joy survived their first retreat with young people...finding themselves chasing kids at 3 a.m. In the summer of 1965 Bob assisted at Gaines Congregational Church, where Joy served as organist. During his senior year Bob preached at Himrod and Crosby, two Baptist churches near

Penn Yan.

Following graduation in June, 1966, Bob accepted a call as assistant pastor at Parkminster. He was ordained and installed June 29. In the fall of that year his first son, Timothy, was born.

At Parkminster, Bob's major responsibility was Christian education. Additionally however, he preached every third Sunday. Easter 1967 fell on his Sunday, and Bob felt privileged when senior minister Dr. Herman W. King stepped aside to let Bob preach. Their relationship was warm and respectful.

But Dr. King died in August. Only a year out of school, Bob was left with a whole church to lead. Despite church financial problems, he led Parkminster for 13 months with strong support from Session and the music staff. In January, 1968 he was made associate minister.

His tenure as church leader was fruitful. Eventually money was obtained through presbytery for a new sanctuary, and a small Bible study group was formed--the forerunner of today's discovery groups.

And his family continued to multiply. Second son John came into the world in July, 1968.

That September Bob's reign ended. Bill Showalter arrived as the new senior minister, and Bob served as associate with Bill for the next two years.

During that time some good things happened. Six out of a possible 21 attended the first elder-deacon retreat. And visitors from Bethlehem (Pa.) Presbyterian Church helped Parkminster start a small group program.

But Bob's internal conflict was intense. He had lost his leadership role. Says Bob, "I wanted to keep my kingdom and expand it. I didn't want to submit to anyone."

In June, 1970 the Barcuses left for First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, Ohio, where they served two years. At this large, rich, inner-city church with only two ministers, Bob again concentrated on Christian education.

Meanwhile, something was happening! Through some Rochester visitors, Bob and Joy learned of a new spiritual life developing at Parkminster. Talk of the Holy Spirit made them wonder what they might be missing.

Then the Showalters, traveling through Ohio, stopped for a visit and a new relationship started between Bill and Bob. Encouraged by Bill, Bob began attending weekly breakfast Bible study sessions with the Rev. Leonard Evans, a strong spiritual leader in the Youngstown area. This fellowship supported and nurtured Bob through a time when he felt surrounded by deadness.

From there Bob returned to church leadership. In 1972 he accepted a call as pastor to a small rural church, First Presbyterian in Caledonia, N.Y. That year daughter Karen was born in November.

Bob feels his Caledonia days were a learning time, that God intended them more for his benefit than the church's.

A dinner date with the Showalters, Domenic and Josephine Mancini was a turning point for the Barcuses. They detected the beginning of spiritual healing and attitudinal changes in themselves. This led to regular meetings with the Showalters and Bill and Dorcas Thompson, and a relational openness started with each other and God.

It was January of 1976, at dinner with the Showalters, when Bob learned of Parkminster's new staff opening. Carol Showalter's bantering, "What about you, Bob?" brought laughter, but caused Bob a sleepless night. Finding the suggestion was serious, Bob prayed. He felt led to come under Bill's authority, and for the first time freely chose to obey someone other than himself. He rejoined Parkminster's staff on May 1, 1976, stepping down to assistant.

At Parkminster, now an associate, Bob devotes half his time to Christian education and half to administration, with some preaching and counseling. He is especially suited for these tasks. His 13 years experience in Christian education gave him useful knowledge and training for that field, and his love of detail and paper work make him a natural for administration.

Bob has many talents and gifts. He's precise. He has an ability to remember and organize. He is disciplined in a singleness of purpose, attacks and completes a job.

But just as significant, Bob feels, are his attitudinal changes growing out of close ties with Christian brothers and sisters. They've had a humbling effect, he claims. He's letting go of his need to control his destiny. He's using his God-given talents to com-

plement the total church effort. And in the process he's discovering a genuine love for Bill Showalter and Parkminster.

On his desk, suggests Bob, is tangible evidence of God's work in his family. Restrained expressions greet the viewer of a 1976 Barcus family photo. But freedom and vitality exude from a 1978 photo.

True, his was an irregular career. But surely he's becoming a man more like God wants Bob Barcus to be.

--Mary Jane Preston

--Shirley J. Barnum



The Barcus Family

Timothy

John

Bob

Joy

Karen

## Through the Years--The Ministers' View

### Part II

#### 1968-1978

In December, 1968 William Showalter, senior minister, reporting to the Parkminster congregation for the first time, wrote, "Since coming to Parkminster I have been impressed by several things. One is the sense of expectancy about what God will accomplish among us.

"There is no question that the 'best is yet to come' for us, not only numerically, but spiritually, and as it concerns the total life of the congregation... I have been struck by the wide open opportunities before us as a people of God. There is no question that 'God has given us every place we can walk upon.'

"There is no limit to the ministry that this congregation can accomplish in the community, among the newcomers, the influence in the lives of our children. Beyond that, God has blessed Parkminster with a super-abundance of talented, skilled and dedicated people as well as the financial resources to accomplish any kind of ministry we set out to do."

At the same time, Mr. Barcus chided the congregation for its lack of response to the stewardship campaign for the year 1969, and for the "apparent unconcern exhibited by you for the activities, or lack of, for our young people... It is impossible to provide a program without a few of you, namely two or three couples, being willing to become involved."

#### 1969

At the end of 1969 Mr. Showalter reported that "We have been turned to look outward toward a sense of mission in the community and city. We haven't 'arrived' yet, but we are beginning to sense a responsibility to act out God's love in meaningful ways. The garbage-can project symbolizes this new sense of social responsibility. Even the highly successful preschool reflects this desire to serve the community..."

"Apart from the statistics, perhaps the greatest thing I see from the past year is the increase in commitment, honesty, openness, and spiritual depth among so many people."



"Behold, I make all things new." Thus begins Bob Barcus' report. "This has truly been the joy of Parkminster in 1969. The new sanctuary and social hall have increased our facilities to minister... to each other and to the community. The discovery groups are making new the commitment and responsibility of many to their Christ."

#### 1970

Bill Showalter quoted the words of a hymn to describe his feelings about the year 1970: "To God be the Glory, great things He has done." "Obviously the Spirit of God has been doing something through the congregation over the past year. Outsiders tell me they sense it when they visit here. I see it in the vital experiences in individual lives, and I sense it in the whole sweep in the church program..."

"The great sign of God's work at Parkminster during 1970 has been in stewardship... By the year's end we had increased giving over last year, exceeded expenditures, paid mission commitments in full... All this in the face of a business recession, with unemployment and tight money. Only God could do all of that."

"There seems to be a spirit of love among the people here... Perhaps it was symbolized best through the New Year's eve service..."

Bill recalled the contribution of the Rev. Clifford Frost in his visitation, and the "vigorous prodding" of the Church in Society committee to keep us concerned about the needs of our community.

Membership at the end of 1970 was 761.

Among the changes that occurred in 1970 was the call of the Rev. Robert M. Barcus to the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, Ohio. The Barcus family left Rochester in June. Effective Nov. 1, William G. Thompson was hired as assistant to the minister.

#### 1971

"What has God wrought!" Bill Showalter quoted from Numbers 23:23, the quotation used at the discovery of the telephone, to sum up the year 1971...

"I rejoice at the overall sign of God's blessings (in the growing attendance at church events). There seems to be an expanding ministry for Parkminster that goes beyond the immediate community..."

"The increased stewardship on the part of the congregation has been an evidence of

God's blessing... The increased commitment... reflects the increased commitment of individual lives to Christ...

"People from the outside consistently remark on the love and warmth and dynamic spirit they feel among Parkminster people... I feel a sense of unity and oneness within the congregation..."

"And the best thing is that it will not stop now..."

"In this past year we have seen the wonderful ways in which God has... poured out His love for us and revealed Himself as a God who changes things," Bill Thompson wrote.

"Through visitation of shut-ins and elder members of our fellowship I have become aware of the careful concern of many at this church for these people. They testify of experiencing God's love through the very practical help given them by their brothers and sisters in times of need..."

"Within our community at Parkminster, 1971 has shown me the miraculous way God can fill activities with His presence and help us move ahead toward His perfect will for us."

#### 1972

At the end of 1972 Bill Showalter quoted God's promise to Moses, "Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours," which was repeated to Joshua as the people prepared to enter the Promised Land. "Each time this promise was predicated upon the obedience of the people to God's will."

"I feel that this past year has been one other proof of God's absolute faithfulness and the fulfilling of His promise to the people of God at Parkminster. For as we have sought to obey God and to follow His direction He has poured out His blessings upon us in a way that has been even greater than in any previous year..."

"The Session and Deacons this past year have taken more seriously than ever before their responsibility to concern themselves about the members of the church who have been assigned to their care."

"Again in 1972 there were other indications of a deepening and broadening ministry from Parkminster." Bill cited the stewardship commitment and the support of the congregation in the Leighton Ford Reachout.

Bill expressed gratitude for the assistance of Dick Seawright and Stan Voth. A highlight of the year had been Bill Thompson's ordination. "He has become a valuable brother in the Lord and an excellent partner in the ministry that God has given us here."

Bill concluded, "As we enter this year as the people of God gathered in this congregation, I see both a spirit of joy and of responsibility operating. There is no question that Parkminster is known throughout this area and therefore carries responsibility and leadership... I believe as well as expanding the growth of our membership and in our programs, we need to deepen our study of God's word and our obedience to His will. As we expand outwardly, we need to deepen inwardly. I believe we need to continue to strive to maintain a balance between personal spiritual growth and outward concern and action toward others in need and to the society around us..."

Bill Thompson had been involved in the spring and fall retreats for the women of the church. He had been camp director with the high school and college students at Camp Whitman. "I saw first hand the tremendous fruit that the church program has borne in the lives of these young people," he said. Referring to the Sunday school curriculum which was then being evaluated, he added, "I see a growing desire on the part of many of us here for a deeper commitment to one another and a more serious involvement in the needs of the world at our doorstep."

Stanley Voth, assistant to the minister, echoed this thought: "At Parkminster this year we see evidences of healthy growth in individuals," he reported, "with a corresponding interest in reaching out to others..."

"The high school leaders have been inspiring. Their dedication, under the leadership of Cork Rosenberger, has resulted in a growing discipleship of many in the group. The newly instituted Bible study on Sunday nights has seen consistent growth..."

"Working with the Couples Club has been fun and productive. New members find fellowship and acceptance in our church through these functions..."

### 1973

"1973 has been the best year yet in the life of the Parkminster congregation." That was Mr. Showalter's opening statement in reflecting on the year... Bill went on to cite the growing membership, the increased pledges and the good attendance at worship ser-

vices.

"But," he continued, "the real measure of the development of the congregation is not to be found in the statistics, but in the more intangible and less measurable things. There is a spirit of love and caring which goes on among the members here, which reflects God's call on us to be a loving, caring community..."

"We seem to be centering more on the Word of God. We are seeking more to obey that Word, and learning what obedience means in our daily Christian lives..."

"For me, I can only praise God for the past year. I continue to stand in amazement of what He has done. With the permission of the Session, I have begun to complete my doctorate in pastoral counseling..."

"This year for us as a people of God will be no less rewarding and full of the power and presence of God as we allow Him to direct us and control us. As we expect Him to do great works among us, so He will..."

Bill Thompson, ordained June 23, 1972, and installed as associate minister, referred to 1973 as one of the most important years of his life. He had become aware of the demands God placed upon his life in his calling to be a pastor. He had seen evidences of God's life at work in the congregation.

"God brought a variety of brothers and sisters to fellowship with us," he wrote, "who are anxious to participate in what God is building in this particular church. In the time spent together in membership classes, there was a stress on the relationship we all have together as a family..."

"No one should be excluded from our fellowship who is united with Christ by faith. This means a deeper commitment to love each member of the Body by sharing our homes, money, and time with any who are in need..."

Recalling 1973 as a year of expansion for many new thrusts of Parkminster, Stan Voth said, "Our job is to get into the stream of God's will. The continued growth is one indication that God is leading us into His plans for our lives and His church..."

Special emphases for young people had included a college night where senior highs could talk with representatives of Christian colleges. A college-age class had developed into a Young Adults group meeting Sunday evenings.

## 1974

Bill Showalter summed up 1974 with the thought that "Every year at Parkminster seems to exceed the previous one, and 1974 was no exception. God appears to have something more always ahead for us..."

"The real growth last year was seen in changed lives, and persons whose own walk with the Lord was deepened. In every gathering, whether committees, or rap sessions or informal gatherings of any type, there is a prevailing interest in the person, in what is happening below the surface of the individual. And there is a deep commitment to ministry to the person by prayer, caring and sharing.

"Certainly the highlights to me of this style of congregational life have been the developing Discipleship, Discipline and Diet program, the revitalized Discovery Group program, the men's morning and noon rap groups, various retreats, and the increased honesty with each other in various church gatherings.

"I am praising God continually for the elders and deacons of this church. Their desire to fulfill their ministry in the congregation, and their dedication to share together as brothers and sisters in Christ provided God with a channel into the congregation as a whole, for the church leaders set the tone for the depth of commitment, that elders and deacons will minister to, and should lead, the people of God..."

Bill Thompson's remarks assented to the senior minister's observations. He added, "We have noticed a kind of renewal in the desire of many at Parkminster to learn to die to their own selves and follow Christ as disciples... My feeling is that God is showing His glory in this place and we are the recipients of all that His presence brings..."

Stanley Voth was ordained June 16, 1974, and installed as assistant minister. This, of course, was the highlight of the year for him. "I felt that going through the examinations and the various interviews was helpful," he wrote, "in reviewing my understanding of Presbyterian law and the theological questions faced by every minister..."

## 1975

Dr. Showalter quoted Paul's letter to Titus as Parkminster began the year 1976. Jesus "gave Himself on our behalf that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people... to be particularly His own... eager and enthusiastic about living a life

that is good and filled with beneficial deeds." Bill felt that was what God had been doing during 1975 at Parkminster.

He elaborated on it this way: "The caring and commitment of the elders and deacons continues to deepen. I firmly believe that the congregation will develop and grow in the same way the leaders of the church do. We need to care more than we do now..."

"The outreach of this church continues to be larger than we imagine. Wherever I go to speak, I hear persons who have heard us on one of the radio programs we produce. Others hear about the programs of the church and inquire about them for their own congregations. God has blessed us and we should 'give ourselves away' in this manner..."

Bill mentioned the coming of Dr. Myron Augsburg, to "provide us with another opportunity to proclaim the good news of the Gospel--that God forgives and changes persons." The emphasis would be on evangelism.

"For me personally," he said, "the past year has been one of decision and deepening. Through an agonizing process I decided God was calling me to stay at Parkminster for some indefinite time. By the grace of God I was able to finish my degree, and yet learned that I was only at the beginning of learning what it means to walk with the Lord daily, 'denying myself, taking up my cross and following Him.'..."

Beginning in 1975, the minister's wives shared with their husbands in the ministry of counseling. Bill Thompson wrote of this, "We found it to be enriching for us personally and we believe it gave added strength to the situations, primarily because we believed it to be God's plan."

As moderator of the deacons, Bill saw their ministry increase as more and more needs were presented to them, "and God abundantly supplied to the deacons, through the church, the resources required to meet these needs."

Bill's hospital visitation increased, and this was shared with others in the church including his wife, Dorcas. "Due to some serious illnesses and deaths in the church, God has made clearer to me His power and grace to redeem all experiences. I have seen the church grow in its healing ministry to others..."

Bill shared God's strong call on his life and a feeling of new life along with others in the congregation. "I have never been more aware of God's grace and care, His needed mercy,



and His protection of those who turn to Him..."

Stan Voth expressed his satisfaction with the growth of the Young Adult group and the beginning of a group for singles. He was encouraged by his work with the senior highs and the Fun and Fellowship leadership.

#### 1976

As Parkminster moved from 1976 to 1977, Dr. Showalter quoted from Luke's Gospel the words of Jesus to His disciples after they had fished all night, "Launch out into the deep and lower your nets for a haul."

"I believe that this is what has been happening at Parkminster during 1976," Bill wrote. "We have obeyed the word of our Lord to some degree, and chosen to go deeper in our lives as Christians. We have tried to take seriously our commitment to follow Jesus as His disciples. This is not the ordinary way a congregation goes, but I believe it is the way He is calling us..."

"Over and over again, individuals share with the session that they have been attracted here because of the 'life' they sense among us, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. For this we can be grateful, for it is a gift of God..."

"But... the life lived in Jesus is the most important call we have. The activity--whether singing, or teaching, or socializing, or planning--is only the occasion and opportunity to exercise and live out our life in Christ together..."

"My greatest joy this past year has been in the deep shared relationship I have had with Bill Thompson and Bob Barcus and our wives. God has graced us to live in a deep, honest relationship with each other, which has ministered to me, and corrected me, and helped me greatly... This same relationship has been evident in the session. Never have I had such a close, trusting, supportive, shared life with a session. I have submitted to the elders for personal decisions on engagements of ministry, often taking some of them with me when I go. Our session meetings, though long, are filled with life. I trust the session as God acts through it..."

Bill Thompson, as moderator of the deacons, sensed the same sort of life in the "growing unity among the deacons as they have met and shared ministry together..."

"The Western Monroe Caucus of our Presbytery asked me to develop some training for

the deacons of the 15 churches in our Caucus. As a result some of my time this year was directed toward that. In November Parkminster hosted a training conference for officers of the Presbyterian churches in this part of the Presbytery. Personally, I benefited greatly from this involvement with Christians from other churches and from my participation with the Caucus..."

"Jesus Christ is moving in and through Parkminster in a way that is impossible for any person or persons to do on their own. It is a joy and a privilege to be called to be a part of the leadership team of the body of Christ at Parkminster..." Thus Bob Barcus began his comments.

Bob cited the love toward him and his family which had been displayed in the warm acceptance of them and in the giving of persons in the congregation for the new manse. "This has been a year of decision and commitment and I have never felt or known God more alive and real than I have during 1976..."

#### 1977

Bill Showalter opened his remarks at the end of 1977 with, "God's faithfulness is really the theme that speaks to me about the past year at Parkminster. God has poured out His blessings to us as a people and proved Himself faithful to us."

"I see Parkminster becoming more of a family than ever before during this year. I see more of a love and concern for each other than previously. Not that we have arrived, but I see our desire to be more caring and committed to each other..."

"In the past year I believe we also moved deeper in our commitment to Jesus. I have seen the growth and change in many, many members of the congregation, and they sincerely try to follow Jesus with total commitment. Others are on the way to that place..."

"The ministry of Parkminster reaches out far beyond the outreach budget items. Weekly elders and deacons minister to those in need after the worship services. Many go in teams for visitation or counseling to those who are sick or in trouble. Many individuals who are helped are not of this congregation."

"The life of the congregation for 1977 has not been without conflict. Some members have not felt their needs met. And being an imperfect family of God, some needs were



not met. But as a family, we need to learn how to live with each other even through conflict. And I think God has given us grace to do that.

"For me this year has been better than any other. More and more I find the elders to be my brothers and sisters, who encourage, correct, support and listen to me. God has forged a deep and loving bond among us. The same is true for the deacons as well...

"God has called us to live together beginning with the church staff and officers, and I believe it is happening. For more important than running a successful program, or a smooth church operation, is the life that Jesus calls us to, and it is that life which I see developing here...

"I have no idea what God will do with us as a congregation during this year. But I know He will be faithful, and I know it will be good for us."

Mr. Thompson reported on his six-month stay at the Community of Jesus where, he said, "I learned more about what in my own nature hinders God's love from being shown through me... I experienced (loving) care and as a result of dealing with some of the 'stones' (among the raisins) I discovered more of the love of Jesus for me. As a result, I believe I am more able to hear where I am wrong, and more able to choose God's will over my own. I sense, too, a lessening of my own personal demands and a greater willingness to give up what I want..."

"I have been going out with the Evangelism Committee on calls on both new residents and people visiting the church, and am responsible to help develop that phase of our church's ministry. Every third week I have been spending a morning visiting the "Lifers" group at Attica Prison..."

"The reality of John 17 strikes me as I think of 1977," wrote Bob Barcus. "The Lord is truly working a unity in the Spirit in Parkminster. This is evident in the session meetings as they minister in a real unity in the Spirit with those who come to them and with the items that are presented. It is seen in the deacons, which I moderate, as they deal sensitively with many various needs..."

"This is also seen in the 'Family' developing within the body of Parkminster. The feeling of care and love expressed in many ways through many areas not seen by everyone... show the way God is moving and drawing the body together in a unity in the Spirit.

"The opportunity to work together in this particular staff relationship shows the work of the Spirit toward a true unity found in Jesus. All of this shows the mighty hand of God upon Parkminster, the moving of the Spirit, and the life and love of Jesus drawing us together in Him and together with Him to minister and receive from one another..."

#### 1978

"No words can adequately express my feeling of gratitude and joy for what God has done in the Parkminster family this past year." Bill Showalter used a passage from Paul's letter to the Ephesians to try to describe his feelings at the end of 1978. "To Him who by the action of His power that is at work within us, is able to carry out His purpose and do **superabundantly**, far over and above all that we dare ask or think--infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes or dreams--to Him be glory in the church."

A highlight of the year for him was the love shown to him on his return from Europe. "I felt the love and care of so many in the Parkminster family. That same love overwhelmed me at the tenth anniversary celebration (of his installation as senior minister)..."

"I also see that God has blessed us as a congregation as we have tried to be obedient to His will and His leading during the year. Doing what we know in our hearts was God's will has blessed the whole body here..."

"This year I have been blessed by the close relationship with Bill and Bob and their wives... To the depth of my being I am grateful to the session who have been brothers and sisters to me personally. They have given me their time, truth, love and support. They lovingly care about the church through long session meetings and have become intercessors for the flock of God here. Their commitment is shared by the deacons, the committees of the church, the Sunday school staff and the music group members. Commitment is a gift from God, and He has blessed us with it in abundance..."

"Carol and I hope to finish a book this summer on Christian marriage. We have been blessed by the number of church families who have chosen to live with us for several weeks this year. We love our life here and thank God daily. Praise Him!"

Much of Bill Thompson's time in 1978 was spent in visiting members and non-members in their homes or in hospitals, sometimes accompanied by Dorcas or with

others. "It is an exciting and faith-building experience to see God meet people in times of great need when only He can help," Bill wrote...

"I continue to become excited about the work God is doing in me and in so many people whom I have had contact with in 1978. I have seen my own need to 'set my affections on things above' and to let God supply what I think I should have... I can testify from my own experience with people during the last year that God is healing people and changing lives. I believe that He intends to do greater works in this year ahead of us if we continue to rely on His Spirit and abide in Christ through our obedience to God's will for us..."

Bob Barcus wrote that the New Year's Eve theme, "Gifts from God," expressed 1978 for him. "It has been the most exciting and invigorating year that I have lived. In the church, the combination of new events and opportunities with the regular activities has made this tremendously exciting. The "Gifts from God" are seen in the blessing of every aspect of the church's life--financial, education and all else--receiving blessings of life in Jesus..."

"The 'Gifts from God' continue to be ours in 1979 as we hear His Word and respond to His will in obedience."



## Session Leads the Way

Change is an important aspect of the Christian life, not so much as a result of man-made plans, but to the extent that it reveals willingness to submit to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Changes in program and direction of Parkminster church are reflected in the Session, or perhaps are the result of the Session's willingness to change according to the Lord's guidance.

The responsibility of Session is to govern the operation of the church. But it is in dealing with its own deep spiritual needs, in the acceptance of its rule of leadership, that a tremendous change has occurred in the Session.

In the past several years the Session has recognized that its effectiveness in ministering to the body depends largely upon its acting out its own faith in its daily walk. It must set an example of "living in Jesus" by its actions, not just by pointing the way.

The Session's response in the area of outreach was an example of this commitment to lead the congregation. Several years ago funds were lacking to meet the outreach budget. The elders examined their own attitudes toward giving and setting priorities and realized that their own commitments were unsound. The Lord blessed their decision to tithe funds for outreach and trust Him.

When the Session felt the need for a third minister, a manse was needed and money was tight. The elders re-examined their own pledges and collectively raised \$2,000 toward this project.

A year later, with total giving lagging, the trustees recommended a five percent cut in staff salaries. Instead of judging the congregation, Session members looked first to their own giving patterns. Some increased their pledges, others became more disciplined in meeting existing obligations.

Through all these times of re-examination and re-commitment the elders dealt openly and honestly with each other. Leaning on the Lord for guidance and direction, they were able to live the life they sought to offer the congregation.

Session's monthly breakfasts, lengthy monthly meetings, frequent special meetings, retreats, and even social gatherings have formed a bond unifying the group.

The spiritual needs of the elders have taken priority over the necessary business of the Session. Caring for one another means taking the time to make sure each elder is "in the Lord" for every decision or discussion.

The commitment of time and care required of a Parkminster elder cannot be defined or limited. Long meetings, late hours, sharing of lives cannot be measured either. The Lord is leading the Session. The elders are conscious of continued growth in their increased commitment and strong reliance on the Lord.

--W. G. (Jerry) Fuhrman

## Elders 1954-1979

Ronald Ardizzone  
Donald Avery

Murray Belknap  
Philip Bender  
Douglas Benedict  
Abram Blanken  
James Bradley  
Frederick Brule  
Norman Burgess  
Wendell Burtner

Edward Carey  
Calvin Carney  
James Causey  
William Christopher  
Alton Colling  
Norman Coombs

Robert Davis  
Charles DeGrave  
Harris DeKruyter  
Thomas Doughty

George Evans

Albert Foss  
Diane Frazier  
Gerald Frazier  
William Fuhrman

Howard Galton  
Walter Garnham

Richard Haines  
Sheila Harp  
Myrta Harrington

Eugene Jelensperger  
Harold Jones

Donald Knoche

George Letson  
Daniel Levering  
Jean Leyland  
Elsa Logan

Domenic Mancini  
Josephine Mancini

John McClurg  
Richard McKibben  
George McWilliams  
Lloyd Merrill  
Raymond Miller  
Edward Morse

Kirk Neal

James Odmark  
Duncan O'Dwyer

Rose Pinneo  
John Preston  
Philip Price  
Walter J. Priestley

Ralph Rebert  
George Reynolds  
Harold Rosenberger  
Hazel Rugg

Fred Schuman  
Gordon Scott  
Donald Shepardson  
Robert Shewan  
Frederic Sickles  
Edwin Smith  
Robert Snaith  
Thomas Steckel  
Floyd Sterner

Kenneth Tanger  
Robert Thurling

Russell Warren  
John Waugh  
Russell Weaver  
Walter Wilson

### Elders Emeritus

J. Sankey Mullan  
George R. Dinsmore

## Deacons 1954-1979

Ronald Ardizzone  
Kenneth Avery

Murray Belknap  
Genevieve Benedict  
James Bradley  
Ross Bridenbaugh  
Edward Brooks  
Frederick Brule

Carolyn Chizk  
William Christopher

C. Robert Davis  
Robert DeLapp  
Richard Dintruff  
Thomas Doughty

Ronald Earle

Helen French  
June Fullerton

David Gardner  
Candice Garnham  
Richard Garth  
Ronald Gibbs  
Paul Goettel

Elaine Hager  
Norma Harmon  
Myrta Harrington  
Guilford Hondorf  
John F. Horn  
Raymond Howell  
Bert Husband, Jr.

Robert Jackson  
Marion Jermyn

Audrey Klick  
Joseph Kloba  
Betty Kreutter

Robert LeRoy  
John Lish  
William Loudon

Lois Metzger  
Richard Miller  
Roger Morse  
Harold Munger

Kirk Neal

Sharon Oppedisano  
William Owens

Marjorie Palmer  
Lois Pappa  
John Preston  
Mary Jane Preston  
Walter J. Priestley  
Helen Putnam

George Reynolds  
Harold Rosenberger  
Clifton Ryan

Fred Schuman  
Margaret Scott  
James Sexstone  
Shirley Shaw  
Donald Snyder  
Floyd Sterner  
Frank Swierkos  
Mariam Sylvester

Ruth Vincent

Lyle Wallace  
Robert Wallace  
Shirley Wimer

### Deacons Emeritus

Albert H. Glennon



## Others Who Served

Parkminster recognizes the contribution of many other persons who have been called to serve the congregation in various ways since 1954. Among them are the following:

### Ministerial Assistants

Larry Coppard  
Ronald Starkweather  
Nancy Middleton Lama

Rev. Richard Seawright  
Stanley Voth

Jane Glassbrook  
David Chase

Director of Education  
Youth assistant  
Director of Christian education

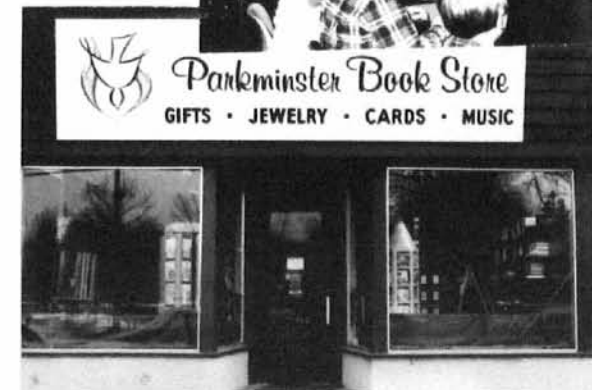
Assistant to the minister  
Assistant to the minister,  
ordained in 1974 and installed  
as assistant minister  
Student interne  
Assistant to the minister

### Organists

Harrison Winters  
Kenneth Robinson  
Mabel Ross  
David Berger  
Ralph Morey  
Johannes de Groote  
Grace Dennison  
Jeanne Houpt

### Choir Directors

Carl Knitter  
Edward Pettengill  
Gregory and Betty Goida  
Elmore Jones  
Robert Shewan  
Lura Morey



**Part III**  
***“In Jerusalem . . . Judea . . .  
and to the End of the Earth”***

## **The Importance of Family**

Is there a trend among young married couples to settle down close to their parents and to their church?

Walter J. Priestley believes so. A Parkminster member and senior high school student in the 1950's, Walt notes that few of his classmates are still at Parkminster. Most have moved from the Rochester area.

He contrasts this with the situation in the 1970s. Several of Parkminster's "young marrieds," having grown up in the church, have established homes in the community. They are active members of the church, entering into its life and accepting God's call to a deeper commitment.

In the past, Walt believes, an individual would accept a position anywhere if offered enough salary. Now, however, the church--and especially the will of God--is more important than any opportunity for financial gain.

Confirming this belief, he cites the case of a young woman whose employer expects her to move out of Rochester. She believes it is God's will for her to remain in the Parkminster family, though it may cost her job.

A young father, who moved his family from Rochester because of a better business prospect, later found that he had made the wrong decision. The family returned to Chili and Parkminster, even without his being assured of a job. They now know this was the right move.

Two young couples, newlyweds, heard about the life at Parkminster and felt God's call to come to Rochester. They came, in obedience to that call, with no job, no money, no home, but are now well-established here.

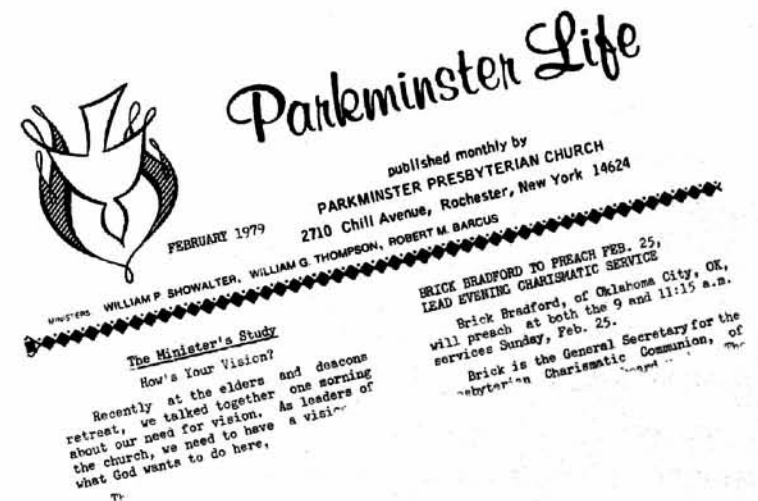
Can this be God's way of calling Parkminster to its dedication to the family--the church family, as well as the natural family?

## Communication

Life is what is happening at Parkminster Church. And Parkminster Life reflects that life, in reporting the activities of the church and in personal profiles, witnesses and letters to the editor.

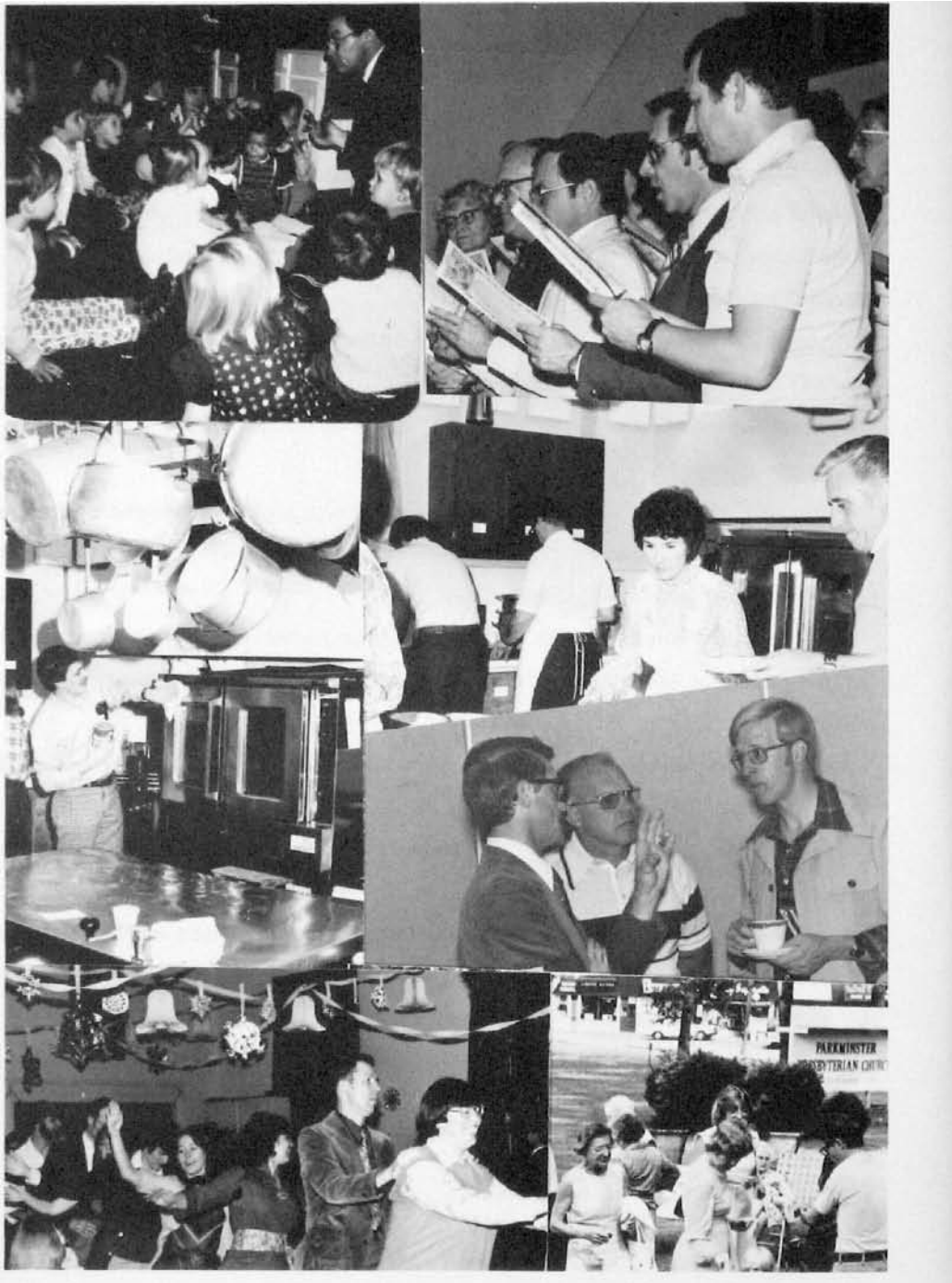
At one time communication was easy. A notice in the Sunday bulletin, read by those in attendance, was repeated by word of mouth until the entire congregation knew of it.

As the church grew this was no longer a reliable means of communication. In 1958 a monthly newspaper began to carry the word to everyone.



Dr. King was editor-in-chief of the two-page paper. He was assisted by the late Paul Goettel. Paul suggested the name, Parkminster Life, which was adopted beginning in 1963.

Parkminster Life is now mailed to over 600 homes. It averages 12 pages each issue.





## 3D

### Diet, Discipline and Discipleship, Inc.

3D began in 1974 with 10 women who came together with various needs to seek God's answer to their individual problems. As usual, God did much more. Yes, I lost weight, and others found God's answer to their personal needs, but God's plan for 3D was far more outreaching.

He saw the needs of Christians all over the country to get their lives centered in Him.

The Community of Jesus, Orleans, Mass., demonstrated to me that discipline was a tremendous aid in commitment and a freeing aspect of the Christian life. As I grew to understand myself and my own personal needs, through retreats at the Community, I was able to see more clearly the needs of others. God's vision of 3D became clearer and more exciting.

The vision caught fire and now there are thousands of men and women involved in 3D groups in every state and in foreign countries.

The office is staffed five days a week by volunteers as well as paid employees. The first four months of 1979 have surpassed the entire year of 1978 in sales and the trend continues upward.

3D began its life within the overall ministry of Parkminster and it is the desire of the board of directors and the Session to keep it functioning within its walls. We look forward to years ahead of reaching out to people--calling them to a deeper commitment and a more challenging and exciting life in Jesus Christ. With His blessing and in His power, we will.

—Carol Showalter



## The Community of Jesus

In the lifestyle to which God is calling His people in Parkminster Church, one of the greatest influences has been that of the Community of Jesus, Orleans, Cape Cod, Mass.

The disciplined life of commitment, self-denial and obedience to the will of God, is the central theme of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This life is being lived out among the members of the Community. It is a life of loving service to one another in grateful response to God's love for His children.

Living out this life is allowing the Spirit of God to work in each person, revealing sins and darkness, and bringing an awareness of one's need for the Savior, so that confession and repentance follow, with healing, through His righteousness and forgiveness.

In the last several years Cay Anderson and Judy Sorenson, founders of the Community of Jesus, have conducted teaching missions at Parkminster. In addition, many persons have attended retreats at the Community for varying periods of time.

The call to follow Jesus Christ in a disciplined lifestyle has been well received by most Parkminster members. This life is being lived out through 3D and the discovery groups, indeed, through each organization of the church beginning with the clergy families and the Session.

To a great extent this lifestyle has been fostered by Cay and Judy at the Community of Jesus.

## "In Jerusalem . . . Judea . . . and to the End of the Earth..."

(Acts 1:8)

God has been working out Parkminster's dedication to the community in diverse ways. The Session has responded to the needs of many organizations.

Early in the church's history, Chili School District No. 11 needed space for second graders while an addition was built on the school. Classrooms used only on Sundays were made available to the school district weekdays.

When Lake Avenue Baptist Church in the city was destroyed by fire, Parkminster offered its facilities. However, more suitable accommodations for that congregation were found in the Downtown Church.

Later, a group of Christians who felt it necessary to leave their church needed a place to worship and hold meetings. This group, which became the Grace Covenant Church, used Parkminster facilities for over a year.

Parkminster entered into a partnership with Grace Presbyterian Church to build senior citizen housing on property owned by Grace on Maltby Street. Plans for this endeavor were finally abandoned because of lack of federal funds for the project.

When the congregation voted to purchase the property at 2704 Chili Ave. for a second manse, it felt a sense of responsibility to the Town of Chili. While taking property off the tax rolls it would be placing more children in the school district. Session agreed with the suggestion that Parkminster pay a fee to the town in lieu of taxes.

Several organizations have used Parkminster's facilities, including "Y" Wives, Weight Watchers, the Chili Garden Club, and various neighborhood organizations. The church has become a popular meeting place for committees of presbytery.

Parkminster's involvement in the community has sometimes caused conflict among members. Hard feelings sometimes arose over the position taken by the church, and sometimes members left in anger.

The race riots of 1964 brought the development of the FIGHT organization. Since the Presbytery of Genesee Valley gave funds to this organization and Parkminster paid its assessment to presbytery, some members felt that we were funding FIGHT.

In 1969-70 the General Assembly made funds available to black militant Angela Davis to pay for her defense. This angered some church members and some withdrew their support, refusing to pay any part of Miss Davis' defense.

This latter involvement by the church came into question when the General Assembly met in Rochester in 1970. It was hotly debated on the floor of the Assembly.

On the other hand, the following year the Leighton Ford Greater Rochester Reach-Out was held at the War Memorial. This was a city-wide thrust and was supported by many churches of all denominations, including Parkminster. The Rev. Larry Selig, representing the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association which sponsored the Reach-Out, spent the better part of a year in Rochester, using Parkminster as his base of operations.

Out of this crusade the organization called BRIDGE evolved. This was a program of volunteers who worked with prisoners at Attica Correctional Facility to prepare them for parole. Bill Showalter was personally involved in this effort.

In 1976 Parkminster took on an evangelistic crusade without the help of area churches. Dr. Myron Augsburg, of Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisburg, Va., was invited to be the principal evangelist. It was called PRO 76, which stood for Parkminster Reach-Out in the bicentennial year.

This was a time of renewal for Parkminster members and friends, even though there was little support from the community.

Another evangelistic effort was that of Campus Crusade for Christ in 1977. Parkminster supported the "I Found It" campaign, along with many other area churches. Campus Crusade held similar campaigns in other cities throughout the United States, with considerable success.

Parkminster Church has sponsored several families who came to America because of the political situations in their native lands. Most have spent some time in refugee camps.

	Date	From
Edwin Backholm Mrs. Idel Backholm Monica and Eivor	1961	Finland
Lubos Sudek Mrs. Helena Sudek Jacqueline	1969	Czechoslovakia
Stephen Nagy Mrs. Eva Nagy Gabor	1969	Hungary
Vinod Gadhia Mrs. Gadhia Rooma and Ravi	1972	Uganda
Stephen Por	1973	Hungary
Josef Estergalyos	1973	Hungary
Alexander Pillar Mrs. Elizabeth Pillar	1973	Hungary
Tibor Berencsi Mrs. Josephine Berencsi	1973	Hungary
Margaret Dimitrova Ivan Tadin	1974	Bulgaria
Ambrose Batiz Mrs. Mary Batiz Monica	1974	Hungary
Tai Van Hong family	1975	Viet Nam
Hector Monsalves Mrs. Hayde Monsalves Violeta	1976	Chile

## Missionaries

In its outreach program over the years, Parkminster has been privileged to aid in the support of several missionaries. Among them are:

Miss Hazel McGarry	Ethiopia
Dr. Ernest Lall	Pakistan
Miss Elaine Bound	Ganado, Arizona
Dr. David Barnhouse	India
Rev. Ernest Campbell	India

Others whom the church is supporting at the present time are:

Dr. & Mrs. Norval Christy	Pakistan
Mr. & Mrs. George Boggs	Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)
Mr. & Mrs. William Lubkemann	MAF, Brazil
Dr. & Mrs. John Guyer	Thailand
Rev. & Mrs. Norman Friberg	Iran
Rev. & Mrs. John Miller	Brazil
Miss Lily Pinneo	Nigeria
Rev. & Mrs. Ransom Rice	Korea
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Truesdale	TEAM, Venezuela
Rev. Stanley Wicks	Guatemala
Mr. Mark Harrington	Inter-Varsity Fellowship, Rochester
Miss Carol Lankes	Nurses Christian Fellowship, Western New York
Rev. Roger Kemp	Tonawanda Indians, Basom, N.Y.
Mr. Robert Rice	Literacy and Evangelism
Miss Sue Sanders	Campus Crusade for Christ
Rev. Stanley Voth	Young Life, Rochester
Mr. Bruce Wallace	Campus Crusade for Christ

## Ministerial Students

Among those from Parkminster who have dedicated their lives to the Gospel ministry are:

	Ordained	
	Date	Church
Ronald Mancini	1969 1979	Philadelphia Evangelical Covenant
Kenneth Blair	1971	Parkminster Presbyterian
Wade Nye	1971	Princeton Seminary
Russell Crabtree	1977	Barre Center Presbyterian
Robert Shannon	1977	Cambridge, Mass. Presbyterian
Harold Rosenberger	1978	Parkminster Presbyterian
Barry Belknap	Student	
Scott Flaherty	Student	
Thomas Lynn	Student	
Robert Metzger	Student	



## His Church at Parkminster: A Well-Watered Garden

Parkminster's membership has grown from 209 on the charter roll to 1043 at the beginning of 1979, almost five times as many.

Likewise the value of the land and original buildings has increased almost ten times, partly due to inflation and partly to the expansion of facilities, purchase of a manse and erection of another.

In 1958 the educational wing was added.  
In 1969 the new sanctuary was dedicated.  
In 1972 the congregation purchased 2704 Chili Avenue.  
In 1976 the manse at 8 Cardinal Drive was built.

Membership continues to grow. The physical plant is used to capacity. Still there is not enough room for all the life of the church. Presently plans are being considered which if adopted will extend all three levels of the church structure northward toward the parking lot and provide an additional 14,000 square feet of space.

Bill Thompson recently referred to Parkminster as a well-watered garden (Isaiah 58:11). As a garden receives showers of rain we have received from the Lord showers of blessings. As the garden produces fruit in season, so must the fruits of the Spirit be manifested in our lives.

The garden produces in proportion to the sun and rain it receives. So the church, having received such abundance from the Lord, is expected to produce much fruit for Him.

Parkminster's goal for the future is to be that well-watered garden, that persons coming into our fellowship will be blessed and touched with the love of Jesus, and that God may be pleased with His Church at Parkminster.

## Acknowledgements

The anniversary booklet committee gratefully acknowledges the contributions of members of the congregation who have shared their memories to make this booklet possible.

Special recognition is made of the contribution of the late Earle M. Dennison. It was through Earle that God gave the inspiration and design for a booklet which would become a keepsake for all to receive. His enthusiasm for the project was never overshadowed by his illness.

Earle's favorite hymn was "Amazing Grace" and this was his choice for the inside back cover of the book.

The committee expresses appreciation to Homer W. King, who has placed before it a goal of excellence. His experience together with his willingness to criticize, correct and suggest have been invaluable helps.

The committee also thanks the following persons for their help in writing portions of the booklet, including the interviews of the ministers, preparation and revision of the profiles: Shirley Barnum, W. G. (Jerry) Fuhrman, Domenic Mancini, Mary Jane Preston, Philip Price, Herbert Schmalzriedt, Carol Showalter, Walter Wilson and Michael Zavadil.

The 25th Anniversary Booklet Committee,

Jane Wilson, chairman, Doris Carey,  
Eugenie Percy, Walter J. Priestley and  
Janeth Thurling

# **Benediction**

**Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

# **"Amazing Grace"**

--John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

Amen.

