

1963: The Education Center

From the Booklet for the "Dedication of the Educational Fellowship Hall of the Genesee Congregational Church and One Hundred Twentieth Anniversary of the Founding of the Church, May 7, 1843 – Sunday December 15, 1963," page 7 we read the following excerpt: *"In May of 1962 ground-breaking ceremonies took place after great measures to secure the adjoining property. Through legal maneuvers the property was secured and the ground broken. Then one thing after another stalled our program. Sickness and an accident in which our architect was involved made us wonder at times if we were ever going to realize our dream. But the persistency of our membership won out and through all our endeavors we have seen the Hand of God. Even when delays took place – delays we saw no reason for – we discovered later that 'God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform' and each delay worked to our advantage. Throughout it all God was watching over us.*

The completed building will cost about \$90,000.00, which will include land, fixtures, construction and furnishings through faithful fulfillment of pledges, leaving about \$15,000.00 or less as a debt.

This means that the building, including all land, furnishings and all extras costs only \$12.50 per sq. ft., well below general construction costs.

We have only crossed the Jordan. We must realize that the building is not the end result, only a step toward the creation of a Christian community and world. Our minister, Robert W. Kauffman, has led our church to the completion of this milestone in her illustrious history. The consecration and sacrifices of many people have made this day possible. The door opens into tomorrow."

The primary driving force behind creating an Education Center was that our Sunday School had outgrown the church basement – and the basement of the parsonage. The Sunday School enrollment was 125, with classes in the furnace room, vestibule and the corners of the sanctuary. The cost of the Education Unit was \$90,000. The church itself was also redecorated in 1962.

In June, 1971, the Educational Center mortgage was burned during a ceremony. [A photo album with photos taken during that ceremony is available in the Genesee Church archives.]