

St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church: An Historical Outline

By

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for St. Clare's Fiftieth Anniversary, June 2003.

1940-2003: The First Fifty Years

The Beginning 1940-1942

- 1940 A personal chapel is built by Inez R. Wisdom, an Ann Arbor physician and communicant at St. Andrew's Church to the rear and side of her 1846 Greek revival house at 2301 Packard Road on township property SE of Ann Arbor; Ross Bittinger selected as the architect.
- 1941 On Whitmonday, the Chapel is dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, a saint admired by Dr. Wisdom, who was also a friend to animals.
- 1942 John Maxon, a UM Fine Arts graduate student, who eventually became the Director of the Rhode Island School of Design and then the Director of the Art Institute of Chicago, executes the mural of the Transfiguration behind the chapel altar.

The Founding Years as a Mission Church 1953-1964

- 1952 A meeting is held among The Rev. Henry Lewis of St. Andrews; The Rt. Rev. Richard Emrich, Bishop of Michigan; and Dr. Inez Wisdom, in which she commits part of her land on the SE side of Ann Arbor for the building of a Mission Church.

Thornton Zeigler, Sr., (parishioner) and Cecil Creal (father of parishioner Robert Creal) serve on St. Andrew's Vestry.

- 1953 May 12: The Missionary Committee of St. Andrew's meets to choose the name of St. Clare of Assisi for the mission church.

May 24 Whitsunday: A first service is held in the Chapel.

Summer: The mission church, composed mostly of members from St. Andrew's, meets in Dr. Wisdom's backyard and Chapel along with Ms. Gertrude Griffith, a professional nurse and companion.

While initially established as a Parochial Mission of St. Andrew's, St. Clare's shortly becomes a Diocesan Mission so as not to have to change the property title.

Fall: The very small congregation of 40 moves to Stone School by October when more space is needed and the cold weather demands.

November 1: First confirmation class (8 children and 4 adults) is confirmed by Bishop Emrich at Stone School.

Mrs. Robert M. Grimshaw, organist (1953-72)

- 1953 The Rev. Philip Schenk is appointed Priest-in-Charge and stays until 1957. As a retired UM Professor and Greek scholar as well as an ordained priest, he comes out of retirement to serve the mission without pay; dies 1/20/68 at age 89; Mrs. Schenk, daughter of Chief Justice of Michigan Supreme Court, joins the congregation as well; dies 1970, age 88.

- 1953 Throughout the year and into the next, under the leadership of The Rev. Schenk, a Bishop's Committee of laymen is formed. Plans are developed for the Mission Church building.

James Morison, church architect, is selected to design the St. Clare's Mission building.

- 1954** February: "Women's Auxiliary of the Mission" is organized; a representative from St. Andrew's assists. Altar Guild is part of the Auxiliary.
December: Stone School permits Mission to "come out of the cellar"; Parish uses downstairs for church school, main floor for service, and a "near-by home" for the Church nursery. 30 students and 8 teachers in Church School. (Public School classes are transferred to the "new school house" --Stone School) First Christmas Eve midnight service.

- 1955** May: On the 29th, Whitsunday, the Ground Breaking for the Mission building takes place. Diocese grants SC a loan for the building.

September: Construction begins. Volunteers saved building costs. "Better even than money saving has been fine fellowship that has grown up among the men who endured hardship together in inclement weather, as they toiled in the snow and dirt of the drain field or the wintry blasts on the roof. (The Rev. Philip Schenk, Annual Report 1955).

October 17: Laying of the Corner Stone.

- 1956** "A little white church" is erected on part of the donated lot next to the Chapel; offices in basement; volunteer labor for many building tasks.

February 5: First service in new but unfinished building; white pews, cushions & kneelers for 150 worshippers came from St. Barnabas, Bay Village, Ohio; St. Michael's Lincoln Park donated the altar; "good tables for use in the Church School and dining room" came from Christ Church Chapel, Gross Pointe; organ donated by the Salvation Army; and cassocks & hymnbooks were donated as well.

- 1957** August 23: The Rev. Albert Neilson, a young priest with wife and children, arrives to assist The Rev. Schenk.

- 1958** January: The Rev. Neilson becomes Vicar, the first to be salaried; assisted by The Rev. Schenk. Services were simple, conducted in manner of pre-medieval church.

May: 50th anniversary celebration of Dr. Schenk's ministry. Boy Scouts given space for meetings.

September: 59 students and 9 teachers in Church School (almost double from prior year). A Junior Altar Guild with membership of 3 girls, was under the leadership of Miss Mary Campbell.

- 1959** Congregation's stewardship produces 65 pledges for a total of \$7400.00. (The budget was \$10,587.00; the Vicar's salary was \$2366.)

Programs are slowly initiated over the next several years for the Sunday School, Adult Education, the Altar Guild, and several women's groups. A monthly parishioner's newsletter is published.

- 1960** Mission budget grows to \$11800. Anne H. Wing executes an etching of the chapel. This is used on the cover of some mission publications. Eventually it is used for note cards.

- 1961** All Saints Day: Communion vessels given in memory of James M. Plumer are dedicated to the Glory of God.

1962 Bishop's Committee includes Mary Campbell. Bishop Emrich begins a sabbatical. Bishop Crowley substitutes.

1963 January: The Rev. Neilson submits his resignation to Bishop's Committee and St. Andrew's Vestry. (Leaves to undertake research at UM on Conflict Resolution.) The Rev. Neilson served as Vicar for 5 1/2 years.

Under The Rev. Gordon Jones, Bishop's Committee searches for a new Vicar. Jack Morris is reappointed Choirmaster of the Mission and under direction of the Vicar is given authority to direct the music of the Mission.

Edith Brown (current parishioner) and Elginne Johnson (current AA resident) are elected to the Bishop's Committee.

Jan.-July: The Rev. Herbert Vandort (graduate of Western Michigan U and Kenyon College; service as director of Christian Education and Asst. to Bishop of Diocese of Erie, Pa; formerly parish administrator in Cleveland with Diocese of Ohio and finishing his doctoral dissertation at UM) appointed Interim-Priest-in-Charge. The June '63 issue of St. Andrew's *Cross Currents*, p.6, contains a picture and biographical sketch of The Rev. Vandort. P. 5 shows photo of the Mission's musical staff.

February -March: Bishop's Committee includes Jack Morris, Sec'y; Peg Patterson, Treas; Mary Campbell. Among its issues is to instigate first Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper with responsibility taken by "men of the Mission"; study feasibility of buying a residence for the Vicar; begin process to get City of Ann Arbor to annex Mission's property; plan an ice cream social and carnival; deal with budget of \$12, 629 on revenues of \$11,967. Lyle and Fannie Filkins transfer in from Plymouth.

April: Just before Easter, Bishop's Committee announces the choice of The Rev. Colin Campbell, Jr. (wife Mary-Nelson) as the next Vicar for whom a welcoming reception is held on April 18. (Born Detroit; raised in Birmingham; Graduate of Wayne State, U. Virginia Theological Seminary; Ordained '57; Vicar of 2 missions: Gaylord and Grayling.)

June: The Mission celebrates its Tenth Anniversary with a Choral Evensong; 6 clergy who participated in the history are present: The Rev. Dr. Henry Lewis and The Rev. Gordon Jones from St. Andrews; The Rev. Mr. Schenk; The Rev. A. Neilsen; The Rev. H. Vandort and The Rev. Colin Campbell. "A new bell for the Mission is presented as a gift from M/M John Bingley and dedicated."

August: Negotiations with Imperial Manor Apartments on the south of property to pay for and install a 5 ft. wooden fence and pay for 60 tall buck thorn hedge shrubs to be planted by mission members.

December: Annual Meeting held during severe snowstorm. Church School Report indicates 90 students enrolled pre Kdg.-grade 9.

1964 Budget is \$17,816; 83 pledge cards received for \$12,563.

Building Committee to consider new sanctuary; George Johnston, Chairman.

March Bishop's Committee learns that Mission Church not in compliance with Canon of Diocese that requires annual meetings to be held in January.

April Bishop's Committee discusses possible new church, as such. Decides to consult U-M School of Design and Architecture for the the possibility of the project being turned over to senior students. Other Committee issues focus on adult education and social action: Race Relations; Disarmament and Peace; National and Local Politics.

October 21 The Late Dr. Inez Wisdom gifts her property to St. Clare's but deeds all of it to the Executive Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the Diocese of Michigan upon the death of her house mate, Ms. Gertrude Griffith. (Recorded in the records of Washtenaw County May 7, 1965: "This property, a gift to St. Clare of Assisi Mission, was granted to the Diocese, since by our canons, a mission is not competent to hold property."

Resources---Mary Campbell (whose family owned and lived in what's now referred to as obblestone Farm, Peg Patterson (arrv. July 1955), Evelyn and John Griffith , Edith Brown (visited 1957), Mickey Compton, George and Norma Johnston ('59), Claude and Elginne Johnson ('58).

The Founding Years as a Parish 1965-1973

1965 Budget for 1965 is \$24,300. Before the year is out, it increases to \$27,364.

Church School enrollment is 101 children.

Dr. Inez Wisdom dies.

January-March: Building Committee presents a 16 page report (written by George Johnston) Recommendation is made to begin plans for a new building. Bishop's Committee authorizes Building Committee to enter negotiations with the firm of Wong and Chance. Discover that this firm is being dissolved. Then decide to negotiate with William Metcalf as architect.

November: The Building Project budget submitted to the Diocese is rejected. In turn, the Diocese proposes \$100,000 for the sanctuary; \$15,000 for the furnishings; \$4,500 for landscaping for a total debt of \$140,000???? The Building Fund Canvass begins.

November 22 A special congregational meeting is held to change church status from a mission to a parish. (Sign Articles of Incorporation as a non-profit corporation in Michigan—mission church property and possessions were held by Diocese; elect 15 vestry members; vestry to call a Rector; congregation to adopt by-laws; canvass results for operating and building funds to be announced.)

As the Mission becomes a Parish, Bishop's Committee becomes the Vestry which calls Colin Campbell to be the first Rector. Dr. Josef Smith becomes Senior Warden; parishioners Lyle Filkins and Edith Brown are added.

Johnnie Higgins becomes church secretary.

The Rev. Donald Allen becomes assistant priest; also serves as Episcopal chaplain to medical community.

St. Clare's contributions and pledges for the Building Fund are \$70,000. St. Andrew's Church pledges \$35,000.

1966 Budget is \$24,300 with pledges of \$21,000.

The Vestry focuses on what it means to be a Parish. After much discussion and soul searching, the year is almost entirely given over to the Building Project. The thinking and planning continue regarding a larger facility to include a new sanctuary, office space, and Sunday School classrooms. Building contract is awarded to architect, David Osler.

The Vietnam War escalates. A large program is begun parish-wide: Christian Social Relations.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) reorganizes.

1967 January: Annual Meeting proposed budget of \$25,350 includes first time line item for Choir Director of \$250. Huge discussion follows and item is voted down.

ECW becomes more active. Activities include visiting committee, Poor Clare's (cleaning chores), ice-cream social, card parties, evening group for working women and stay-at-home mothers (turns into Odd Jobbers), and volunteer work at Ypsilanti State Mental Hospital.

February: Vestry chooses a name for the Monthly Newsletter. By vote from a field of 5 suggestions, The "St. Clarian" was chosen with the "o" in the proposed title changed to an "a".

Johnnie Higgins leaves St. Clare's and Mickey Compton becomes secretary.

Northside Episcopal Chapel seeks approval of the congregation to become a parochial mission of St. Andrew's. Vestry sends letter of approval.

Lyle Filkins resigns from the Vestry. Resignation not accepted.

August: Vestry begins discussion about the Detroit city riots.

Osler design plans are progressing with periodic checks with the Building Committee and Vestry. Big discussion of furnishings with chairs, as recommended by the architect, or with pews, nearly unanimously preferred by vestry members in a straw vote.

September-October: Bids coming in from builders at \$190,000 rather than expected \$150,000. Long discussions on how to bring the the costs to \$175,000 or less.

October 22: Ground breaking for second sanctuary and office wing. 7 shovels were used by the following: Mrs. Philip Schenk and Miss Gertrude Griffith; The Rev. John Hooper from Diocese of Michigan; The Rev. Henry Lewis, Rector Emeritus of St. Andrew's and Rector of St. Andrews when St. Clare's began; The Rev. Gordon Jones, Rector of St. Andrew's (St. Andrews' contributed \$35,000. to the SC Building Program); Mr. David Osler, architect and Mr. E. E. Kurtz, builder; Dr. Josef Smith, Sr. Warden and Mr. George Johnston, Building Committee Chair; and The Rev. Colin Campbell, Jr., Rector of SC. Daniel Long led "the band!"

November: Contract signed for \$173,575 for new facility. Work begins November 8. By January '68, the foundation is completed, plumbing and heating started, and majority of structural work completed.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church authorizes the lay administration of the chalice and the trial use of the "new" liturgy.

December: First Vestry discussion about needlepoint kneelers for new altar. Design requires curved kneeler and curved pews (which are expensive) so discussion rages over pews versus chairs.

Parish becomes member of Ann Arbor Inter-Church Blood Bank Association.

1968 Bob Creal elected to Vestry. Budget set at \$27,379. There are 180 communicants in good standing; 50 children in the church school.

February: St. Clarian adopts a purple design for its cover. Carol Plumer becomes the editor. The proposed new liturgy is anticipated.

Under chairmanship of Mary-Nelson Campbell, volunteer work with Project Transition at Ypsilanti State Hospital establishes a twice-monthly schedule.

Parishioner, John Griffith, chairs Inter Church Blood Bank.

June 2 Whitsunday: Formal cornerstone laying for new sanctuary.

Mabel Renz (Mrs. Elton) becomes Parish Secretary.

Mickey Compton becomes treasurer.

Dr. Josef Smith leaves and Dudley Sunoiloff becomes Sr. Warden.

1969 The operating budget is set for \$36,000; later raised to \$38,500.

January-December: While the main thrust of 1968 was the erection of the new buildings, 1969 becomes the year of settling into the new sanctuary and beginning the crucial business of renewed ministry and parish mission. Bob Creal is Sr. Warden.

Adult education continues with Spirit Images, Inc. as consultants to conduct courses in basic theology.

Black Manifesto is discussed at the Diocesan Convention.

February: Vestry votes to install chairs in the new sanctuary.

May 25 Whitsunday: Dedication of new building which attaches to the old building and is composed of office wing and a sanctuary-in-the-round. David Osler, Architect, eventually wins prize for the design.

April - June: Despite February Vestry vote, the matter of chairs versus pews is reopened. Chairs are again the majority choice. A special letter goes to the congregation to raise money for the chairs and proposed kneelers.

September 29: First service in new sanctuary, St. Michael and All Angels, Sunday.

1970 January: Proposed budget of \$42,175. Bob Creal, Senior Warden. Treasurer can't pay bills.

March: New cover and name for monthly bulletin designed by Carol Plumer. The monthly calendar and group reports were focus of the newsletter; no rector report and little creative writing.

Ars Musica begins weekly rehearsals in Sanctuary.

TBE Rabbi Bruce Warshal calls Rector asking if would be possible for the Temple to rent church space on Friday nights for Sabbath services. TBE “would like to rent for a 3 year period.” The Rev. Colin Campbell and Vestry consider making sanctuary space available to the small, local reform Jewish congregation; Allyn Kantor, president.

July 17: TBE holds the first Sabbath Eve service; Temple begins to rent space on Friday nights. and Weds. afternoons. The Temple has a membership of 117 families. TBE pays 1/7 of building utility expenses plus one month’s mortgage payment of the church’s per year.

August 13: 12:00 noon folk service started as an experiment. Congregation is growing.

August 28: SC voted to join Inter-Faith Coalition of Congregations—in response to Black Economic Development League.

October: George McCullough (parishioner with General Motors and a student at Whitaker School of Theology) begins assisting Colin Campbell with pastoral and worship services.

Reports of the Odd Jobbers (“an evening church women’s group whose purpose is to help the church and community”), Altar Guild, and Project Transition (an outreach effort to help mentally ill incarcerated at Milan State Hospital to begin transition to the community before they were discharged) were included in Annual Report.

Mr. David Osler, architect, wins the 1970 Award of Honor from the Michigan Society of Architects for St. Clare’s new building.

1971 February: Ars Musica, an early music group based in Ann Arbor, plays first performance in St. Clare’s sanctuary.

First Seder with TBE is held at St. Andrews.

Summer: Jean Lyon, member of the Parish, becomes Director of Christian Education.

12:00 Folk Service is started. With congregational growth, 3 services are established: 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00 folk service

1972 Colin Campbell resigns as Rector; departed late February for St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, CA.; served St. Clare’s for nine years.

Size of Parish is 214 families with 185 pledges.

February: Mrs. Grimshaw retires as organist after 20+ years. She is succeeded by Mrs. Francine Pendleton, organ doctoral student at UM School of Music.

March: The Rev. Ned Dougherty, a parishioner and UM Vice President, becomes interim Rector (served until Nov. 1973); Deacon The Rev. George McCullough; Chuck Hellie, Sr. Warden.

April: Ms. Gertrude Griffith moves out of Wisdom House to a hotel in York, PA; Church begins renting the house.

Francine (Pendleton) Mate, becomes first to live in Wisdom House.

November: The Rev. Douglas P. Evett, Rector (Nov.1973-Jan 2001) signs an agreement the end of September, to accept St. Clare's call. Coleman McGehee, Bishop.

In view of the continuing use of the Sanctuary by the Jewish congregation, the iron cross behind altar was engineered to rotate out of sight by Al Montalvo, a parishioner.

Annual Report, Worship Committee: Jack Morris ...”have attempted to expand & improve the musical offering at all 3 Sunday services. Congregational participation is fundamental to the worship of the Episcopal Church and the music should be designed to lead and bolster this kind of participation....Occasionally we have provided special musical offerings at 10:00 service.” (The start of adult choir.)

Sunday School consists of 50-60 children in 5 classes; 9 teachers and 4-5 assistants. Education is a top priority of the Vestry and new Rector.

1973 March: Women of the Church reorganizes into “Women of St. Clare's Service League” which included a variety of “service groups” i. e., Altar Guild, Friendly Clares, Poor Clares, Odd Jobbers.

May: St. Clare's purchases parsonage on Columbia Street for the Rector. In addition to a \$1000. gift, \$10,000. was borrowed from parish members, and a \$30,000. mortgage was secured.

June 10, Whitsunday: 20th anniversary of Parish and the 32nd anniversary of the consecration of the Chapel. Also 10th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Douglas Evett to the Diaconate. One service held, followed by a family picnic and ice cream social on the grounds.

The Rev. George McCullough leaves to become Rector of the parish in Hamburg, MI.

Fall: Worship Committee forms a sub-committee to investigate the feasibility of installing a pipe organ.
*Resources for this period----*C. W. Hellie, Sr. Warden 1972, Frankie Simonds, Jim Downward, Judie Erb, Warren & Zerilda Palmer, Judy Avery, Richard Bailey, Phil Beach, H. Bowen—Secretary 1973, Mercer Patriarche (interim treasurer), Joyce Smith, Jack Morris, Dan & Kay Long, George Johnston (Bldg. chr. when sanctuary built); Sr. Wardens----1967 Dr. Josef Smith, 1968 Dudley Sunoilff, 1969 CW Hellie, 1970 Robert Creal, 1971 ?? , 1972 CW Hellie, 1973 Richard Sonntag

The Parish and the Formation Of Genesis 1974-1978

1974 April: St. Clare's receives a letter from TBE's governing body indicating an interest in “a joint study of the feasibility of joint-ownership of the existing building and a potential classroom-social hall facility addition.” Up to now, there had only been informal conversations between The Rev. Doug Evett and Rabbi Bruce Warshal. Each congregation has about 180 families.

June 9: Special Parish meeting to vote on concept of joint ownership of church properties and facilities with TBE; Parish approves by 85% of those voting; TBE approves concept same month.

Under the leadership of Robert Creal, St. Clare's Senior Warden, a Joint committee creates a partnership plan with a set of bylaws.

August: TBE approves of joint ownership agreement in 58-0 vote, with 4 abstaining.

Marjean Bailey appointed DCE at St. Clare's (1974-1981). Curriculum written by Ms. Bailey.

October 21: SC Vestry formally approves the property merger. Calls for special parish meeting.

November 24: Congregation approves of joint ownership agreement in 89-8 vote.

December 17: The agreement is signed creating Genesis of Ann Arbor, Inc. It provides that all property except the Wisdom house and Chapel is to be under supervision of Genesis. Leaders of the negotiations were, The Rev. Doug Evett, Rabbi Bruce Warshal, Robert Creal Sr. Warden (and lawyer), and Steven Young (TBE).

The first Genesis Board of Directors: Bob Creal, president., Sheldon Berry, vice-president, Allyn Kantor, secretary, Stephen Bostwick, treasurer, Alida (Peg) Patterson, and Malverne Reinhart.

Agreement also provides that TBE will finance an expansion of the "old building" with a social hall, a modernized kitchen, and classrooms. The Diocese of Michigan loans the Temple money at below bank rates.

Began early to consider combined events: Sedars, Erev Thanksgiving service, "Bruce & Doug Show"--periodic adult education sessions; child care exchange for services; pulpit exchanges.

1975 January: Early Learning Center becomes a tenant of Genesis.

February: Vestry enters into a one-year lease for use of parking lot across Eastover Place belonging to McNamee, Porter, & Seeley -- \$1,999 plus cost of snow removal with money paid to Genesis.

March: Social Concerns Committee establishes goals: educate congregation and raise money for two organizations: IFCC and CESA.

Milt Kemnitz, Ann Arbor artist, commissioned by Genesis to do drawing of the church/Temple.

April: Design for Star of David to stand next to cross on west side of the church is approved.

At The Rev. Douglas Evett's request, a small Vestry committee is formed to evaluate his performance and to review his salary.

May 1: D. Evett and B. Warshall team up for first time to do a session on the *Book of Genesis*.

May 28: The Star of David is placed next to the cross on Packard Road. NBC News records.

May 31: Formal dedication of Genesis with 2 p.m. ceremony followed by a reception. Speakers at the dedication were Rabbi Bruce Warshal, The Rev. Douglas Evett, Rabbi David Hachenm, Regional Director, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Rev. Daniel Burke, Dean, Representative of the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, Ann Arbor Mayor Albert Wheeler, and Robert Creal, President of Genesis. Carol Plumer wrote a prayer in honor of the formation of Genesis. Day's activities culminated with a dinner at Ann Arbor Town Club.

June: June 1, NBC National News attends 10 a.m. service in conjunction with coverage of Genesis dedication.

Parishioner, Mayme Hayes Smith, celebrates her 100th birthday with communion service at Lurie Terrace. She was the daughter of a slave who migrated from Georgia when the Civil War began to Ypsilanti where Mayme was born.

July: Special meeting of Vestry is called to discuss whether to sponsor a Vietnamese family. Arguments pro and con revolved around parish's role in what some perceived as political matters.

August: Repairs and upgrading of Wisdom House for Francine Mate, now in residence.

Fall: Rabbi Warshall leaves for situation in New Orleans. Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger is hired as TBE's second rabbi. The Rector is invited to interview finalists for the position.

September: Attendance continues to be poor at Vestry meetings. Rector writes to each member. Subsequently, Vestry establishes firmer guidelines for attendance.

John Coleman, parishioner, is appointed lay hospital chaplain with support from both the church and the Diocese.

October: Special Vestry meeting with Bishop McGehee regarding the Rector's employment package of \$16,000 plus house, which, although it is within the minimum standards of the diocese, may not be meeting the family's needs. Further information and discussion focused on the importance of the Rector's family and the parish's need to be sensitive to the personal needs of family members.

Regular vestry meeting: Passed motion to establish an Organ Fund. Need to explore whether to repair present one or buy a new one.

Announced the beginning of a prayer and Bible study group for senior members of the parish.

November: Thanksgiving Eve a joint service is held with TBE.

December: Vestry decision to request parish at Annual Meeting to change by-laws to provide for 12 rather than 15 members of the vestry. It was hoped that this might help to alleviate the governance problems plaguing the parish.

1976 Parish budget at \$41,140. 143 pledges total \$39,192.

January: Congregation votes to change by-laws so that the Vestry will number 12. Each year 4 new members will be elected.

Lyle Filkins succeeds Mercer Patriarche as treasurer.

Newcomers' coffee hours are held in congregants' homes.

Vestry writes a letter to TBE indicating "our relationship . . . is a happy one and we wish to continue it." (Bill Hall-vestryperson)

April: Vestry's Social Concerns committee sets up ongoing food collection in conjunction with Catholic Social Services.

Vestry submits The Rev. Douglas Evett's name for Executive Council of the Diocese.

Sixth annual Seder held with TBE.

August: Vestry sets up an Organ Committee after receiving a sizeable pledge to start a pipe organ fund.

September: Fellowship Committee holds wine and cheese party----"a complete success!"

October: Odd Jobbers group is revised.

November: Congregation approves building plans for the new educational, social hall, and office addition which TBE is financing. All Montalvo, parishioner, is the architect.

Vestry Social Concerns Committee plans for a Talent Show with proceeds to go to Rector's Discretionary Fund.

1977 Budget is \$45,740.

Ground breaking for expansion of educational wing that TBE had pledged to build.

February: Bob Weikart is ordained by Bishop McGehee. Four priests are now in the Parish: The Reverends Evett, Dougherty, Jack Bailey, and Robert Weikert.

Outreach becomes known as Social Concerns Committee.

Gloria Cain leaves Vestry to become Genesis and St. Clare's secretary in place of Sue Spellicy who is expecting.

March: "Bob Creal's Filth Committee has met to discuss state of the Church." A House Committee is initiated with Rodger Piehl as SC representative. Woody Zeilgler will be key "Maintenance Person."

Vestry favors a candle for the Eternal Light. Al Montalvo (SC) and Paul Vaneck (TBE) agree.

April: Debbie Semon requests the Vestry to sponsor her as a candidate for the Holy Orders. She works at Ypsilanti Regional Psychiatric Hospital in clinical pastoral education.

Mike Moran begins work on a Parish Directory based on a parish questionnaire of "privileged info!"

Easter Egg Hunt is held.

The Eternal Light must be an electric light "tastefully, we presume."

First Easter Vigil service is held. It is "most successful of all Easter services." Gabe Villasurda, parishioner, initiates the service and takes part as the first Cantor.

Rector wants to reactivate the Organ Committee. Dan Long and Phil Beach selected to co-chair and come up with rationale for supporting a new pipe organ.

May: Ross Campbell applies to the Vestry for Endorsement of Postulancy for Holy Orders.

June: Marjean Bailey makes formal application to Bishop for Episcopal Diaconate.

Dan Long prepares a parish questionnaire soliciting support for new organ.

September: Phil Beach assumes duties of Sr. Warden through rest of year. Brad McCombs will remain on Vestry through Jan. 1979.

Treasurer J. Hume asks Vestry to designate one person only to fulfill treasurer's duties. Presently Rita Lancaster acts as bookkeeper.

Vestry hears complaints concerning children traffic in the entry hallway and sanctuary during the 10:00 service. (Doors are eventually built and installed.)

A valid construction permit for the building addition is dependent upon 1) a fire hydrant being installed within 200' of the property; 2) a storm sewer and water line added; and 3) since the "township owns the land on which Wisdom House sits, St. Clare's must get city to annex the property to obtain site approval for Genesis."

Genesis secures a mortgage of \$175,000. from Huron Valley National Bank. (\$125,000. is new money). SC will pay 1/2 of this expense.

Vestry discusses future of the 12:00 folk service. Musicians want to terminate or move to an alternate 10:00 AM service. The Rev. Douglas Evett notes that 12:00 is the only "folk service" in the city and a 12:00 service anywhere is rare.

D. Long reports that the questionnaire showed sufficient support to start a search for a pipe organ.

October: Vestry agrees to replacing the new construction's elevator with ramps. Original plan was too costly. Vestry questions placement of restrooms on lower level.

Planning begins for the Parish's 25th anniversary event to be held May 14, 1978. Photo history, one service, refreshments, & possible adult party on preceeding evening.

SC participates in Hunger Walk. Judie Erb promotes the event.

The Rev. Doug Evett is elected Dean of the Huron Valley Convocation for 2 years.

December: Lack of a program for teens is growing problem.

1978 January: Vestry amends employment agreement with The Rev. D. Evett so that when he leaves the employment of SC, the rectory shall become 1/2 property of Mr. Evett and 1/2 property of St. Clare's.

Organ Committee chaired by the Rev. N. Daugherty recommends that 1) the congregation enter into a contract with Steiner Organ Co. of Louisville, Ky. not to exceed \$35,000, 2) begin a pledge campaign to raise \$10,000, and 3) use \$10,000. from TBE merger, and \$10,000. in bank notes. The contract with Steiner not to exceed \$35,000.

March: Vestry endorses MJ Bailey and D. Semon for postulancy.

May 14 Whitsunday: Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the church and dedication of the needlepoint kneelers designed to go around the circular altar space with each cushion made by a woman of the church. "The cushions were given in memory of Adelia M. Beeuwkes, a concerned and much loved member of St. Clare's Church," by her friend Vivian Visscher.

Letter to Parish from the Rt. Rev. Coleman McGehee: Greetings and best wishes on the Parish Anniversary. Complimentary of St. Clare's "dedication to the special relationship with Temple Beth Emeth." St. Clare's provide the "Diocese and entire Christian community with inspiration and a glimpse of what the future might be for people of faith and good will."

September: Organ Fund has \$8291. in bank and \$13,000. in unpaid pledges.

October: Jim Schairbaum becomes Financial Secretary replacing Skip Weymouth.

Diocesan Convention struggles with opposition to prayer book reform and ordination of women.

November: The classroom, social hall and office addition is dedicated Nov. 11, 8:00 PM with a champagne reception.

Erv Thanksgiving service held with TBE.

Senior Care Center uses space.

Proposed 1979 budget has \$8000. increase. F. Simonds writes Vestry letter to congregation asking for a \$40.00 per capitat increase.

3 November Sundays identified as "Outreach Sundays." Loose offerings to be designated for a charity.

December: Canvass is very successful. Reasons given for success: 1) a specific minimum amount was suggested for per capita increase; 2) list of past pledged amounts was provided; 3) no loss of strong contributors during past year; and 4) Frankie Simonds' letter.

Vestry decides to form Canvass committee to keep congregation informed of the financial status throughout the year.

Resources for this period: Sr. Wardens: 1974 Bob Creal, 1975 Richard Magee (d. 1994), 1976 Stephen Bostwick, 1977 Brad McCombs (d. 1985) & Phil Beach Jr. Warden, 1978 Dan Long; among those active in the parish: Jack Livesay, Judie Erb, Harry Bowen, Mickey Compton, Frankie Simonds, Warren Palmer

The Parish Continues to Grow 1979-1987

1979 January: Budget is \$54,705. 1978 ended with all bills paid and a \$400.00 surplus.

Rector's Annual Report for 1978:

"Our roots are deep, our sense of home and family strong."

"Our weakness is "immaturity about money."

“I believe the only real hope for the faith in the future emerges out of the willingness of the church to surrender authority and power, except for the authority of love lived out.”

“We are after all called to minister, each of us. To minister is not to control or to manipulate or to overpower. It is to surrender to another, to trust, to embrace, to welcome, to take that other with the deepest seriousness. And ministry is only in part the business of the ordained minister. We are all, as the people of God, called to it.”

Susan Neds, Parishioner, appointed as new Youth Director.

Senior Warden Simonds requests that a Long Range Planning Committee be established. The committee will include the Rev. Douglas Evett, Sr. Warden Simonds, M. Moran, and the Rev. Ned Daugherty.

April: MJ Bailey requests Vestry's support for her application for the Holy Orders.

May: Diocese offers consultant to work with Vestry to improve funds and membership. Summer pledges fall behind.

June: Organ is delivered June 4th.

Rodger and Anne Piehl leave for Barstow, CA. K. Long appointed to his Vestry position.

August: The organ is paid for.

St. Stephen's in Hamburg, the Rev. George McCullough, rector (ex-St. Clarian), offers to buy the old "Helen Hammond" electric organ for \$1500.

Stewardship & Finance Committee present a "bare bones" \$60,000 budget. Need to survey a sampling of parish with questions of stewardship and expansion of membership. Ideas emerging are a "Welcome to St. Clare's" booklet, long range planning sessions, and "better social events."

A Genesis Small Gifts Committee is formed. Kitchen is being furnished by donations.

Sr. Warden and TBE President meet. Organ dedication in October to include both congregations.

Need for better communication with Genesis. Sr. Warden suggest rotational attendance at Genesis meetings.

September: 1928 Prayer Books sent to St, Johns, Howell. They have become part of the Anglican Catholic Church.

Ad Hoc committee, Pete Andrews, chair, established to look at all staff jobs and create written job descriptions for Rector, DCE, etc.

Washtenaw Intermediate School District cancels their Wisdom House lease.

October: The pipe organ is dedicated. Steiner Organs built and installed 11 pipe ranks and 637 pipes. SC sponsors a series of free organ recitals from October 25 - December 8. Organists are Francine Mate, Marilyn Mason, Donald Williams, John David Peterson, and Thomas Strode.

New Wisdom House tenant is Washtenaw County Council on Aging.

Diocese commits itself to Venture in Mission. 50-50 giving proposed: 50% of what is received will go to the National Church and overseas projects and 50% to Diocese.

Working draft of Policy Principles Regarding Responsibilities for Director of Christian Education is presented to Vestry. Discussion scheduled Dec.

November: Rabbi Mecklenburger and The Rev. Douglas Evett present 4 classes on "Perspectives on the Family."

New ad design in script is created by Susan Le Van. (continues to be our signature)

Choir started growing under Dr. Mate.

1980 Assisting Clergy include The Rev. Ned Dougherty, The Rev. John A. Bailey, and The Rev. Robert Weikert.

Mrs. Marian Sprague is parish secretary.

January: Budget is \$59,810.

Vestry commissions local architectural firm specializing in historic preservation to undertake an assessment of the Wisdom House to determine its status for needed repairs, maintenance, historical preservation, and private or commercial occupancy.

St. Clarian evolves to present format and content policy with Judy Avery as editor until mid 90's.

VIM (Venture in Mission--a cooperative missionary effort of the national church and Diocese) adopted by Vestry with a goal of \$21,900. to be raised over three years.

Inter-Faith Food Coop (non-profit cooperative interested in obtaining additive free food at fair prices and promoting cooperation) uses building for order delivery. A number of parish families participate.

February: Judie Erb becomes chair person of the Diocesan Committee on Church and Society.

Richard Bailey (RWB), Jr. Warden, begins writing a column in the St. Clarian.

May: St. Clare's and TBE sponsor a Vietnamese boat family.

September: Wit Stodgill hired to develop a high school program.

October 5: First Visitor's Sunday, a new practice adopted by the Vestry. First brochure describing St. Clare's is published; written by Ms. Frankie Simonds.

1981 March: Ross Campbell, parishioner and Circuit Court Judge, becomes a candidate for ordination.

June: Odd Jobbers sponsor a rummage sale. Peg Patterson, Pauline Bowen, and Pat Levinick co-chairs.

August: Marjean Bailey resigns as DCE. Serves 7 years, (1974-81)

September: Marcia Dutton, parishioner, hired as DCE (1981-85).

1982 May: Old English Fair is sponsored by Odd Jobbers. JoAnn Riley was the “kissing wench,” and Carol Plumer the Fortune Teller and Palm Reader.

Special parish meeting to support Capital Campaign to repair roof over sanctuary, build approach road to front of the building, and to pave and improve the parking lot. St. Clare’s goal was \$20 K; pledges slightly exceed goal.

May 29 Marjean Bailey ordained at St. Clare’s; the first woman from AA ordained into Episcopal priesthood.

St. Clare’s joins Hunger Coalition to serve meals.

July: Preservation Urban Design firm recommends commercial use of Wisdom House. House is leased to Old Town Hall Realty. Francine Mate has to move.

August: Wisdom House entered in National Register of Historic Places.

November: Parish celebrates the 10th Anniversary of Doug Evett’s rectorship. Parish sends the Evetts on a trip to England.

Contact made to restore mural in the Chapel.

December: Emileigh Curtin is first female baby Jesus in Christmas Pageant. Her mother, Kate, is Mary, and her Grandfather, Jackson Morris, is Joseph.

1983 January: Carol Plumer’s retirement as Altar Guild president after 30 years is announced in the Rector’s Annual Report.

May: 30th anniversary of parish.

Old English Market repeated as fund raiser.

Evetts embark on 5 week trip. Members of congregation preach in The Rev. Douglas Evett’s absence.

August: Rabbi Mecklenburger leaves TBE. The Rev. Douglas Evett participates in subsequent search interviews for next Rabbi Robert Levy.

September: Vestry supports Donna and Jim Wessel Walker’s proposal to organize a junior choir (1st children’s choir) with parishioner Lois Johnson as conductor.

Vestry approves need for financial audit.

October: Patty Creal is honored for 15 years of service to church school.

November: Vestry supports Jim Stacey, parishioner, for ordination. No record that he achieves postulancy.

December: First time in parish history St. Clare's makes its canvass goal: 153 units pledge \$78,000. Budget for 1984 will be \$89,725.

1984 January: Vestry discovers that Treasurer embezzled over \$12,000.

Parishioners Tom Bingham and Richard Levenick become new Treasurer and Financial Secretary respectfully.

February: Vestry supports postulancies of Gabi Weinreich, a parishioner and UM Professor of Physics, and Elizabeth Wigg, who came to St. Clare's because her home state of Wisconsin had "an aversion to the ordination of women."

Auditors hired and an ad hoc Vestry committee is formed to investigate the most appropriate way to deal with the embezzlement.

March: Penny Griffith and Jim Schairbaum, both parishioners, recommend to the Vestry that the Youth Group be reactivated.

April: Robert Levy arrives as third rabbi for TBE.

June: Vestry supports Ross Campbell, parishioner and Ann Arbor judge, as candidate for ordination.

August: Francine Mate, organist, resigns to move to Washington DC. Music Director Search committee is formed.

Genesis and St. Clare's share new secretary, Amanda Brendon.

September: Agreement reached with past treasurer. Restitution received for missing funds and monthly payments scheduled for lost interest and auditor's fees.

October: Julia Huttar, second year Master's student at UM School of Music, and organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville, is hired to start 1st Sunday in November.

November: Marsha Dutton (Stuckey) announces resignation as DEC effective September 1985.

December: Canvass is successful raising \$87,000 in pledges. Budget for 1985 will be \$100,600.

1985 January: Rector reports in his Annual Report for 1984 that "...we have now for some time been in a time of growth in terms of members and money."

Donna Wessel Walker, parishioner, applies for Director of Christian Education.

Michael Moran resigns as chairman of Hospitality Committee after 8 years. ???Pat Levenick replaced him as chair.???

Judy Avery on Board of Diocesan Record.

March: Vestry hires Donna Wessel Walker as DCE (1985-1990), effective July 1.

June: 10th anniversary of Genesis.

Gabi Weinreich ordained as Deacon. He assists at the altar.

September 9th: The Rev. Colin Campbell dies.

December: New 1982 hymnals arrive. (no more “amens!”)

Donna Wessel Walker begins directing Christmas pageant.

1986 January: Gabi Weinreich ordained to priesthood. Becomes “adjunct minister” at salary of \$1.00 per annum.

Tom Bingham resigns as Treasurer and Kathe Bowen, parishioner, is appointed to replace him.

October: Campaign initiated to raise money for stained glassed Chapel windows to be dedicated to Carol Plumer.

December: Richard Levenick resigns as Financial Secretary and Peg Patterson appointed to replace him.

1987 February: Elizabeth Wigg Maxwell ordained in New Jersey.

Peggy Crandell, a “founding member” (90 years old), moves to Ohio. She embroidered many altar linens.

Donna Wessel Walker requests leave until September. A committee takes over leadership of Childrens’ Christian Education.

The Rev. Douglas Evett becomes president of the Diocesan Standing Committee.

May: Gertrude Griffith dies May 4. (1892-1987) She spent her last year in a nursing home.

The Rev. Douglas Evett & Judie Erb (parishioner) selected to nominating committee for Bishop of Michigan. The Rt. Rev. Stewart Wood elected to follow The Rt. Rev. Coleman McGhee.

August: Old Town Realty announces their plan to move out of Wisdom House in October. Vestry faces shortage of funds and regrets not being able to begin a second junior choir or increase the music director’s salary upon completion of her masters degree.

Fall: Central American Refugee Committee formed with SC and TBE to sponsor a family from Honduras

November: To raise funds for supported organizations, Outreach Committee sponsors a “Roast the Rector” party; raises \$2000.

Resources for this period---Sr. Wardens: 1979 & 1980 Frankie Simonds, 1981 Richard Bailey, 1982 Jim Schairbaum, 1983 Peter Dodge, 1984 Macdonald Dick, 1985 Judi Kleinman, 1986 John Sampsele, 1987 Nancy Moncrief; J. Erb—active roles in Diocese.

The Parish Matures 1988-1995

1988 Temple membership now outpaces the church. Recognition begins to grow that the sanctuary is no longer large enough to accommodate TBE during High Holy days and is very crowded during Easter and Christmas church services.

Julia Huttar appointed to the Diocesan Commission for Liturgy and Music.

Yvonne Tumblin serves as parish secretary.

January: Rector’s Annual Report for 1987: (I) ”have decided....not to seek another way to express my ministry.”

Vestry proposes that income from the Wisdom House be directed to Outreach. Wisdom House will have its own budget, separated from Parish operating budget. Profits from Wisdom House to be divided 20% to maintain house and 80% to Outreach and Diocesan assessment.

February: Genesis creates a task force to consider making sanctuary walls movable so to create more space for Temple’s High Holy days.

St. Clare’s and TBE sponsor the arrival of Mario Vasquez family from Honduras.

March: First Vestry exchange with TBE Board about facility expansion.

April: Rector announces that a Gospel reading and writing class will be offered on Thursday nights; “will be at least four weeks long.”

Space Planning Committee formed to consider parish’s needs. Stan Robinson, chairperson.

May: Episcopal Church begins using inclusive language in services.

The Rev. Gabi Weinreich requests a six month leave of absence.

August: Vestry begins to talk about need for part-time woman priest.

September: A new children’s choir, St. Gregory’s, is formed for grades 1-3; St. Cecilia’s choir is for grades 4-8.

November: TBE shares their space deliberations with Vestry. Parish committee will share St. Clare’s status with TBE Board in December. Both congregational committees desire to meet together to discuss progress.

December: Vestry supports the development of a phased plan to meet space needs of both congregations.

Canvass pledge goal exceeded: 166 pledges of \$126,500. Budget for 1989 will be \$133,275.

Sr. Warden Larry Grace sends the parish a letter with the proposed budget and a request that at the Annual Meeting the parish consider how to provide for an assisting priest.

1989 January: Annual meeting discussion identified 3 areas a part-time priest could assist: newcomers, families with young children, and people who are lonely.

February: Ad Hoc Vestry committee is formed to explore process of hiring a part-time assistant priest.

March: Boy Scout troop disbands after 30 years. Parishioner Bob Man served as liaison during this long period of church sponsorship.

Anderson-Jacobs, a consulting architect firm, is retained for the joint space needs committee. Many open congregational meetings are held for discussions.

April: Key space needs are identified: 18 classrooms, 400-600 seating sanctuary, and social hall to accommodate 250.

May: A position description for an assistant to the Rector is drafted.

June: Vestry sends letter requesting support from the congregation for the assistant priest. \$11,000 already pledged.

August: The Rev. Susan Bock accepts half time position as assistant priest.
Beth Frumkin hired as parish secretary.

September: Sue Sullivan, parishioner, receives Vestry support for her application for postulancy.

Space Planning Committee forms financial sub committee.

October: Donna Wessel Walker resigns as DCE effective January 1990.

Barbara Hopper hired as new church secretary and Genesis Administrator.

November: The Rev. Susan Bock begins her tenure at St. Clare's. She is the first woman to preach and serve at St. Clare's altar on a regular basis.

Greeters for newcomers and prayer group organize.

Space Planning Committee selects theme "Building for the Future." Sub-committees include finance, design, and legal plans.

December: Space Planning Committee consults with professional fund raisers; Vestry recommends that the congregation commit “to implementing the plan as it deems possible in cooperation with the Temple.”

The Rev. Susan Bock agrees to assume leadership of Church School program for a year.

Vestry agrees to increase Julia Huttar’s time and increase her salary.

Morning Prayer is held in Chapel on weekdays. Sandy Buley & Sue Sullivan initiate the services.

1990 Annual budget \$168,965; 168 pledges of \$143,134. exceeded the pledge goal. A budget shortfall caused by increased staffing costs (assistant priest and music director salary increases) were made-up by additional contributions.

The Rev. Gabi Weinreich resigns as Adjunct Minister.

January: The Rev. Douglas Evett becomes an Archdeacon of the Diocese for the next three years. He is known as the Venerable Reverend Evett.

February: The Vestry recognizes the congregation’s concerns about the space plans and the funding of the new expansion. Controversy focuses not only on enlarging the sanctuary, but also building a separate new social hall which many parishioners don’t want to support. Some feel they are being “railroaded by the Vestry.” Stalemate is eventually broken when parishioner Phil Bowen proposes to the Joint SC--TBE Building Committee that a new sanctuary be built and the old sanctuary be remodeled as a social hall.

Barbara Duncan, parishioner, is appointed treasurer.

March: Vestry calls special parish meeting to get views of congregation. “Ministry, Sunday School program, music, outreach and worship” are identified as what defines St. Clare’s.

April-May: Special parish meetings, facilitated by parishioner Sally Wacker, are held to further discuss how to achieve goals with the space needs.

June 30: Special parish meeting approves resolution to 1) reaffirm St. Clare’s relationship with the Temple as a “vital expression of our personal and collective ministry,” and 2) resolve that “governance shall be on an equal basis with the Temple, operating expenses shall be shared equally, and that the capital cost for expansion need not be shared on an equal basis.”

ReGenesis formed to facilitate the coming together of the leadership boards in order to promote a broader dialogue.

July: Julia Huttar and Richard Bailey are married at St. Clare’s.

September: Rector asks Vestry to consider establishment of an endowed fund.

“Newcomers” coffee hours are held for the first time.

A prayer group is formed with Marsha Giegler, parishioner, as leader.

The Rev. Susan Bock organizes two women's groups that meet regularly for study, prayer, and support.

November: Jackie Friedman is hired as Genesis & St. Clare's secretary.

1991 February: Parishioners Kevin Forrester and Don Dersnah meet with Vestry to discuss their aspirations for ordination. Vestry supports both.

March: The Rev. Douglas Evett begins a four month sabbatical leave. Ms. Bock's time is increased by one day per week.

April: Parish celebrates Carol Plumer's 90th birthday.

May: First Annual Talent Show is produced. Miss Manners, parishioner Kathy Daly, makes her first appearance.

June: Christian Education Committee, Fred Neidhardt chair, recommends the 4 Sundays of Advent be used to introduce an experimental ADVENTure Sunday morning schedule: 9:00--10:00 various educational and experiential activities and 10:00--11:00 worship service.

July: The Rev. Douglas Evett returns from sabbatical.

August: Joint Building Committee formed with TBE. Plans are made to invite selected architectural firms to submit proposals. Clive Francis, Julie Dodge, Tom Annesley, Judie Erb, and Kathy Daly (chair) are St. Clare's committee.

Vestry supports the applications of parishioners Sue Sullivan and Don Dersnah for the Deaconate.

October: Worship Committee recommends that Prayers of the People will be read by a parishioner from the congregation each Sunday.

The Rev. Susan Bock's title is changed to Associate Rector.

November: Last 12:00 folk service is held. Congregational interest has faded.

Jr. Warden Julie Dodge succeeds Sr. Warden Rodger Piehl who moves out of state.

John Hilberry firm is retained as the architect for the building expansion.

SC and TBE choirs combine for Erv Thanksgiving service.

December: TBE contacts St. Clare's to propose joining together to host families in the shelter program of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Vestry supports and directs Outreach Committee to prepare a plan with TBE.

First ADVENTure takes place; very successful.

1992 January: Penny Griffith & Jim Schairbaum become co-chairs for St. Clare's of the First Joint Capital Campaign. St. Clare's fund goal is \$525,000.

February-March: Frankie Simonds and Laurie Wucherer prepare and publish the Campaign literature.

April: Congregation is sent Campaign literature after early canvassing has been completed.

May: 2nd Annual Talent Show showcases kazoo playing Vestry and Miss Manners.

June: Parishioner Judy Avery is elected to the Diocesan Standing Committee.

September: A new Youth Group is started with Martha Daniels and James Hilton as leaders. Senior high students will no longer have Sunday School class.

October: A series of parish meetings are held to discuss the cost of the building project. The cost estimates exceed the amounts pledged to date.

The first Interfaith Hospitality Network families are hosted by St. Clare's and TBE. Bill Feiser, parishioner, is coordinator.

November: The Capital Campaign goal for St. Clare's is changed to \$680,000.

December: ADVENTure is repeated.

1993 January: Vestry decides to fund Associate Rector's position as full-time, phasing it in over two years.

Kathy Daly resigns (and eventually moves from MI) from Building Committee because of professional responsibilities. Members now include: Tom Annesley, Lori Blair, Don Dersnah, Dennis Dimoff, Julie & Pete Dodge, Judie Erb, Clive Francis, Mary Ann Hayes, Joanne Heaton, and Jim Medendorp.

At the annual meeting, the Rector made it known that the Parish would have to look for another rector, if it did not approve the new building plans.

The congregation passes a resolution which 1) approves the construction plans provided they not exceed \$2,750,000., 2) authorizes a mortgage, and 3) agrees that St. Clare's and the Temple will assume financial responsibility for the mortgage debt after five years either through long-term debt service or a second capital campaign.

May: Construction loan is secured by St. Clare's from First of America.

Third Annual Talent Show not as well attended as in past years!

July: Clive Francis, Building Committee chair, reports to Vestry that construction bids came in over budget and the current sanctuary is in need of a new roof and brick repair. After much deliberation, the joint Building Committee decides on items to be altered or deleted in the new construction. Vestry authorizes Genesis to proceed with contract negotiations as does TBE Board.

August: Delcor Construction submits low bid which exceeds building budget by \$300,000.

Genesis President Peter Dodge (parishioner) suggests 3 options: 1) ask congregations to raise an additional \$300,000. St. Clare's portion would be \$100,000; 2) erect a building with the original budget of \$2,750,000; or 3) discontinue the project. Vestry selects option one to be recommended to the congregation.

September: Vestry is informed that the new construction's financing cost and residual debt have raised total cost to \$3.05 million.

Parish votes to reaffirm St. Clare's participation in the \$3.05M building project, but with a contribution limited to "its proportionate share of the residual debt associated with a \$2.75M building project," with TBE free to assume responsibility for any excess cost.

Church School has a new format. Sandy Norton and Julia Miller are serving as coordinators.

Doug Carson, candidate for priesthood, starts a practicum at St. Clare's, primarily as an observer.

October: Vestry retreat, held at the Emrich Center, focuses on anti-racism. Plans are being made for congregational discussions on racism, as suggested by the recent Michigan Diocesan Convention.

Ground breaking ceremony for the new building is held on Oct. 17. Clive Francis (SC) and Alan Cotzin (TBE) assume roles of volunteer overseers of the construction.

Construction begins with drive-way and parking lot.

The Rev. Douglas Evett reminds Vestry that we all must be "sensitive, caring, and loving with one another" as St. Clare's changes and the new building emerges. Some in the parish are finding the changes to be unsettling and frightening.

November: The Rev. Gabi Weinreich becomes rector of St. Stephens in Hamburg.

Ad hoc committee Facing Racism is chaired by Richard Bailey, parishioner.

Communications committee is working on Newcomers booklet.

Vestry moves to establish a non-voting Youth Group representative to the Vestry.

Excavation for the new sanctuary takes place.

Capital Campaign reports pledges of \$676,026.

December: ADVENTure sessions are well attended.

1994 The Diocese reorganizes into 3 dioceses. St. Clare's is now in the Diocese of Michigan. There is no longer an office of Archdeacon.

January: Rector reports that "the place is changing and becoming something different." "Volunteering has never been higher, nor easier. . . . We have had the most successful canvass in our history...and almost half or even more than half of the money pledged by St. Clarians for the first phase of the building payment has already been paid."

Budget includes full time salary for The Rev. Bock.

March: Sandy Weiner, Vestryman, suggests that St. Clare's initiate a Prayer Chain.

Facing Racism Committee surveys congregation.

Vestry allows "a few minutes" as "ample" rehearsal time for their Talent Show performance.

April: Construction is approximately 35% completed.

Ad Hoc Organ Committee (composed of representatives of SC & TBE) hopes to raise funds for 2 new organ ranks.

Vestry forms committees to 1) support staff (John Pugsley, chair) and 2) review the committee structure of the Vestry (John Manczak, chair).

May: Parish Life Committee recommends a "Committee Sunday" in early fall.

The Rev. Susan Bock suggests and the Vestry approves changing the Sunday morning schedule to include a 9:15 education hour for all ages and a 10:15 worship hour for all, effective in September. There is a concern of a teacher shortage and a need for adult education.

Jackie Friedman resigns as Genesis/SC secretary. Kelly Clark is hired as temporary replacement.

July: Because of construction July 31 church service held outside on driveway .

August: The building is "on time and under budget."---Clive Francis and Alan Cotzin, building overseers.

Church's membership database is installed in office computer by Laurie (Wucherer) Kantner, parishioner.

September: Final building inspection occurs September 1.

Temple holds Rosh Hashanah services in new sanctuary September 5.

St. Clare's dedicates the new sanctuary September 11. The Rt. Rev. R. Stewart Wood leads the procession from the old sanctuary to the new. 400 attend the service.

Plans are made to remodel and furnish The Rev. Douglas Evett's office. Parishioner Duncan Steele will make new bookcases. Wood from the old sanctuary walls will be used for wall paneling.

October: Stephanie Tetzloff is hired as Genesis administrator and St. Clare's secretary.

Linda Annesley, parishioner, succeeds Kathe Bowen as treasurer.

The new kitchen is completed and parishioners' sweat equity work (painting, sanding, etc.) is in progress.

Vestry accepts the offer of architectural student Susan Brain to research and write a history on the Anderson-Wisdom House.

The Rector reports that the Prayer Chain has made a difference in the life of the Parish.

November: The congregation honors Clive and Gloria Francis for Clive's time and efforts spent on the construction project.

Genesis lays the cornerstone for the new sanctuary at Erev Thanksgiving service.

The Vestry establishes the Rich Magee Outreach Endowment fund at the suggestion of Frankie Simonds.

December: Vestry establishes a new Christian Education committee.

1995 January: Church School classes return to 10:15, at same time as worship service. Teaching teams of 4 teachers are created so that teachers can participate in worship service when not scheduled to teach. Emily Meuleman assists the Rev. Susan Bockas Church School Coordinator. The Rev. Susan Bock writes the curricular materials.

March: The Vestry converts St. Clare's original construction loan of \$2,400,000 secured from First of America to Genesis of Ann Arbor.

March 13 Carol Plumer, one of SC's long term parishioners, dies.

April: The Vestry sets priorities at a retreat: 1) membership, 2) stewardship, and 3) staff support.

Susie Hernandez and Emma White are appointed to Diocesan Council as Youth Representatives.

May: A comprehensive vision for Children's Christian Education is developed by the Christian Education committee. A designated Youth Clergy person will have the responsibility to provide theological and pastoral support to DCE and to the church school program.

Vestry establishes a Christian Education Advisory Committee, Emily Meuleman, chair.

Claire Hickman, a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, and Meigan Thiel seek and receive Vestry support for their candidacies for ordination.

Vestry moves to have the Rich Magee Endowment Fund administered by the Ann Arbor Community Foundation Fund with St. Clare's Vestry as agent. The fund grows to over \$10,000.

June: The Rev. Douglas Evett becomes Dean of the Huron Valley Area Council.

The Rev. Susan Bock takes leave for the summer.

July: Fred Neidhardt presents a plan to the Vestry for the development and execution of the Long Range Planning Committee. This grows to be the Vision (We Don't Do Mission Statements) Task Force.

Don Dersnah is endorsed as a Candidate for Holy Orders by the Vestry.

Genesis Board approves a donor recognition project, "Tree of Life." Vestry and TBE Board approve. Don Dersnah and Joanne Heaton represented SC on the Genesis committee.

September: The Rev. Susan Bockis now working 3/4 time for St. Clare's.

Adult Ed now scheduled regular Sunday morning 9:00-10:15. Sue Rigot and Sandy Weiner, co-chair.

Vestry adopts notion of a parish survey.

October: Early Learning Center leaves Genesis facility after many years as lessee.

November: Tish Dersnah, parishioner, is hired 3 afternoons per week as congregational secretary.

Sheryl Serwer is hired as the Director of Children's Christian Education.

December: For the first time in parish history, received pledges exceed 200 .

Mission for the 21st. Century (or Vision of the Future) 1996-2003

1996 January: In his Annual Report, the Rector states the "we have moved from a small and struggling mission to one of the hallmark congregations of the Diocese of Michigan."

The budget is \$297,248. with \$266,072. pledged by 196 parishioners.

St. Clare's Sexual Misconduct Policy is presented and approved at the annual meeting.

Vision Task Force, Fred Neidhardt, chair, prepares to interview every member of the parish regarding their feelings, thoughts, and dreams for the Parish.

Two Education For Ministry (later Seekers) groups are formed. Sandy Buley and the Rev. Susan Bock are leaders.

February: A formal agreement between SC and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation establishes the Rich Magee Outreach Endowment Fund.

March: Judy Avery is elected to the Publications Board of the Diocese. The Rev. Douglas Evett is elected trustee of the Diocese.

Vision Process materials prepared and 60 interviewers trained.

6th Annual Variety Show

April: Julia Huttar-Bailey seeks excess in Organ Fund to purchase SC's share of a piano for Genesis.

May: Joanne Heaton, SC representative to Genesis Design Committee, seeks a written agreement between the church and TBE regarding recognition plaques.

The Rev. Douglas Evett writes a letter to Rabbi Levy to confirm the plaque agreement with the Temple. There will be only be a few designated areas in the building for recognitions.

Rector reports that "St. Clare's is in excellent shape!"

June: VisionProcess interviews are completed.

July: Stephanie Tetzloff leaves Genesis.

August: The Rev. Susan Bock requests full time as associate rector beginning in Jan. 1997.

Vestry supports Meigan Thiel's and Clare Hickman's candidacy for postulancy.

September: Mike Moran assumes leadership of II Capital Campaign.

Vestry increases Tish Dersnah, secretary, to 5 afternoons.

October: Vestry votes to improve rectory.

November: Genesis administrator, Jennifer La Pointer, is released. Tish Dersnah acts as Genesis administrator and St. Clare's secretary.

Vestry receives the Vision Task Force final report.

December: Laying-on-of Hands Healing service and the Young and Restless Eucharist are initiated by The Rev. Bock.

1997 Budget is \$310,427. There are 198 pledges for a total of \$292,630.

January: Jackie Moore is hired as Genesis Administrator. Tish Dersnah only parish secretary.

Vestry supports Don Dersnah's application to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

February: Newcomer's Committee is established to welcome newcomers and help them feel a part of SC. Sunday Greeters, Newcomer Coffee Hours, and Newcomers' Dinners are being planned. A new St. Clare's brochure is planned.

March: Vestry sets goal of \$650,00 and July 1997 completion for II Capital Campaign.

April: Vestry delays II Capital Campaign until next year

July: The Rev. Susan Bock leaves. An Ad Hoc Priest Search Committee is formed to hire a new associate rector.

Jane Foote takes over the Young and Restless service and Mary Beth King assumes responsibility for the Healing Service.

October: Parishioner Don Dersnah ordained as Deacon and is assigned to St. Clare's.

Annual Variety Show (last one held until 2003).

Kay Long is recruited to co-chair the II Capital Campaign

November: The Rev. Doug Evett's 25th anniversary as rector. He is awarded the First Annual Genesis Humanitarian Award.

1998 Hospitality Committee includes Joyce Smith, Pat Levenick, and Tish Dersnah. Events include coffee hours, picnics, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Epicurian Dinners, and Special Sunday celebrations.

Julia Huttar Bailey participates in planning the National Conference on Children's Ministries.

January: The Rev. D. Dersnah begins practice of inviting 10:15 parishioners who are not lay-readers to administer the chalice.

Barbara Beaton, parishioner, takes over St. Clarian and chairs Communications Committee. Wardens begin writing articles in St. Clarian to disseminate Vestry news and to discuss issues before the congregation.

February: Celebration of The Rev. Douglas Evett's 25 years at St. Clare's.

The Rev. Devon Anderson is hired as full-time Associate Rector. Bishop offers to subsidize part of her salary for 2 years.

II Capital Campaign begins first phase. Goal is \$595,000.

March: Vestry supports the Rev. Devon Anderson's application for ordination to the priesthood.

April: The Rev. Devon Anderson introduces the Vestry to Journey to Adulthood program.

May 14th: The Rev. Devon Anderson is ordained to the priesthood at St. Clare's.

Capital Campaign has received \$489,000. in pledges.

June: Sheryl Serwer resigns as DCCE after 2 1/2 years.

July: The Rev. Devon Anderson and Michael McNally are married at SC.

The first meeting of the St. Clare's Book Club held Geri Chipault, Emily Meuleman, and Mary Margaret Hatt who read Toni Morrison's Paradise.

August: Parishioner Lisa Reifert becomes DCCE.

September: Tish Dersnah's secretarial time is increased to 30 hours.

Fall Festival of Ministries, Sara Freeland, chair, introduces congregation to committees and activities of the church during coffee hour.

Journey to Adulthood and Rite 13 begin. Rite 13 (grades 6-7) is led by Chuck and Vickie Hatt, and Seth Palmer; J2A (grades 8-9) is led by Birgitte Hill, Emily Meuleman, and Ed Reynolds. Donna Wessel Walker is the coordinator along with The Rev. Devon Anderson.

October: II Capital Campaign concludes with \$661,601. pledged (142 total) over a 5 year period.

November: Silent prayer meetings started on Wednesday evenings by the Rev. Devon Anderson.

Vestry committee to begin looking at "Planned Giving."

1999 Budget is \$374,589 with 218 pledges received for \$314,286.

January: In an effort to include all members in the Annual Meeting, a single service is scheduled for 9:15 AM.

Rector reports that in 1998, S. Clare's received over \$1 million of pledges for Capital Campaign and the general operating expenses and that \$700,000. had already been received.

Congregation votes to increase Vestry to 13 members. The four nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. The fifth highest shall be designated as the alternate.

Susie Hernandez is the youngest St. Clarian ever elected to the Vestry. She is 19!!!

Genesis begins preparations for the 25th Anniversary. Together SC and TBE will build a Habitat House for Humanity. A financial appeal is made to the parish.

February: Newcomers' Dinners are revived by the Newcomers Committee.

Claire Hickman is ordained to the priesthood and working at Christ Church Dearborn.

Vestry initiates a staff salary review and an internal audit was begun.

March: Vestry establishes the first Adult Education Visioning Committee.

The Rev. Don Dersnah becomes co-instructor of the Hospital Chaplain program.

April: Mary Barber and Sallie Churchill become Hospital Lay Chaplins.

June: Vestry selects delegates to the Diocesan Bishop Election Convention: Richard Bailey, Julia Huttar Biley, and Judy Avery. Alternates are Tish Dersnah, Edith Brown, and Emily Meuleman.

September: Fund raising begins for the J2A pilgrimage to Ireland in summer of 2000

November: Altar Guild presents plan for wall hangings to be hung in the niches of the altar wall.

Rabbi Levy receives Genesis Humanitarian Award.

December: The downstairs' Core project is completed. Stan Robinson memorial funds are used to furnish the room.

The Genesis mortgage has been refinanced with SC and TBE having separate payment schedules.

Adult Education is under the leadership of Kit Flynn, Sara Freeland, Marybeth King, Mary McIver, and Carol Packard.

Newcomers' brochure is completed under leadership of Geri Chipault.

2000 Budget is \$378,214.00. Pledges total \$334,708.00.

January: The St. Clare's Endowment Fund is approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Plans are underway for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Genesis. SC & TBE will build a Habitat House; a family picnic, Genesis service, and Gemini concert will be held May 21st; a rededication board to be eventually hung in the building, will be signed by members of both congregations; and a commemorative history of Genesis will be published. Penny Griffith and Jim Schairbaum represent SC on the Genesis Anniversary Steering Committee.

Julia Huttar Bailey and sisters receive a grant to work on a CD of Church Songs for Children.

February: Joint St. Clare's and TBE Choir Concert. Bob Levy and Doug Evett solo in Stand By Me.

Ordination and Consecration of Wendall Gibbs as Bishop takes place in Detroit. Julia Huttar Bailey participated in the planning and in the service.

March: Science and Faith series of discussions is sponsored by Adult Education Committee.

The Vestry grants the Rev. Devon Anderson a 3 month maternity leave. Svea Anderson McNally is born March 22.

Ms. Lisa Reifert, DCCE, reports to the Vestry that 102 children are registered in Sunday School. 55-60 attend weekly.

Julia Huttar Bailey co-edits a liturgical booklet for the National Office of Children's Ministries.

April: Lot is cleared for the Genesis Habitat House. St. Clarians on the Steering Committee: Jim Schairbaum, House Leader; Clark Malcolm, Chairperson; Pete and Peg Ross, Publicity; Kathe and Phil Bowen, Finance; Kay Long, Volunteer Recruiting.

A TBE member offers a major gift to complete the Genesis library. Each congregation is asked to consider a commitment of \$25,000. The Vestry supports the project.

May: The Vestry establishes a "In-Reach" task force to reach the needs within the parish: newcomers, senior parishioners, mentally disabled etc.

May 21: the Genesis 25th Anniversary Celebration with a picnic, service (with Rabbi Warshal as guest speaker), and Gemini concert is held on the Genesis grounds.

July: J2A first pilgrimage to the Center for Celtic Spirituality in County Wicklow, Ireland. Pilgrims were: Brendan Curtis, Ian Canary King, Jimmy Freeland, Brendan Hatt, Nathan Hatt, Eric

Wucherer, Nell Wiener, Mary Wessel Walker, Angel Nurse, Katie Jones, and Matt Daniels. Adult leaders included: Ed Reynolds, Birgitte Hill, and Emily Meuleman.

September 24: The Genesis House is dedicated. 250 Genesis volunteers participated in the project, in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Genesis.

October: The Parish votes to transfer St. Clare's equity in the rectory to the Evetts when the Rev. Douglas Evett ceases to be SC's full time rector.

A Genesis House Celebration concludes the outreach project of Genesis.

November: Lyle Filkins is appointed as Treasurer of the Endowment Board of Trustees.

The Vestry decides to use Capital Campaign funds for the Genesis Library project after St. Clare's portion of the mortgage debt has been paid in full.

2001 Budget is \$400,491. Pledges total \$359,428.

January 14: The Rev. Doug Evett resigns as rector of St. Clare's because of misconduct.

Peter Creal appointed Treasurer, replacing Linda Annesley who served for 6 years as treasurer.

Sarah Wiener & Sara Freeland lead Adult Education/Christian Formation Committee.

February: Vestry selects the Rev. Gary Goldacker as interim rector. Rev. Goldacker begins his interim ministry on Ash Wednesday.

Healing service temporarily discontinued.

March: The Diocesan Convention is held at Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor. The Rev. Anderson and Julia Huttar Bailey participate in the planning.

John Little, parishioner, appointed to Genesis Board to take place of Clark Malcolm.

The Rev. Devon Anderson announces her resignation (effective July 1) in order to follow her husband to a position in Minnesota.

Vestry begins posting outside the church office 1) Vestry meeting agenda the Sunday before meetings, and 2) meeting minutes before the second Sunday following the meeting.

April: The Rev. Don Dersnah, Deacon, becomes a member of the Commission on Ministry.

Altar Guild selects new brass candlesticks. They were used for first time on Palm Sunday.

June: Patti Nurse, parishioner, replaces Peter Creal as Treasurer, who moves out of state.

Donna Wessel Walker will coordinate the J2A program during the interim period.

July 1: Celebration of the Rev. Devon Anderson's tenure at St. Clare's.

The Rev. Marilyn Sanders hired as Interim Assistant Rector.

Vestry makes plans for a parish-wide meeting to discuss search process in September.

Pete Ross, parishioner, replaces John Little as Genesis representative from SC.

Genesis library construction begins.

Vestry established an ad hoc committee to form guidelines for the new rector search.

August : St. Clare's makes final payment for the Genesis Library. Funds come from Capital Campaign funds.

Next J2A pilgrimage (summer 2002) will be to England.

September: Ministry Fair ("Sign-up Sunday") is a success.

Adult Choir as almost 50 members; 18 in St. Cecilia's Choir; and 15 in St. Gregory's.

Two Genesis services held following the events of September 11. The local Muslim community joins the congregations for the second service.

Effective December, the Rev. Don Dersnah is reassigned to St. John's, Howell by Bishop Gibbs.

All-parish meeting held with Canon Scott Hunter to discuss Don Dersnah's reassignment and the rector's search.

Dave Meuleman, parishioner, asks to be replaced as chief counter for health reasons.

Church School has 100+ children enrolled and 39 teachers.

Rite-13 has 18 students and 4 adult leaders, J2A has 13 teens and 8 adult leaders. Donna Wessel Walker serves as coordinator.

October: Rodger Piehl, Jr. Warden, is organizing an "Appreciative Inquiry" activity to gather input from the congregation which will be used in the parish profile for the rector search.

November: Julia Huttar Bailey, music director, is granted a 12 week maternity leave, effective mid-November. Oceana Yi Huttar Bailey's new parents will travel to China to welcome her into their family.

Linda Annesley substitutes as organist for Julia Huttar Bailey.

A new approach to the annual canvass campaign is introduced. Canvass packets will be circulated through the parish and monitored by team leaders. Final pledges will be known when the packets are turned in.

Bishop Gibbs wants Lay Readers re-licensed every 3 years. Lectors who read Scripture on Sundays do not need this training. Chalice Bearers must also be trained.

Congregational celebration of The Rev. Don Dersnah's tenure at St. Clare's.

Genesis Library is completed.

December 19: The Rev. Marilyn Sanders ordained to the priesthood at St. Clare's.

\$16,478 of Outreach Funds are distributed to 32 different organizations.

Appreciative Inquiry sessions are held.

Barbara Kilbourn creates Advent altar set and stoles.

Capital Campaign has raised approximately \$525K. Remaining balance is \$40,000.

Endowment Fund balance is \$15,715.

2002 Budget is \$376,797 with \$347,899 in pledges (196 pledges)

January: Vestry begins to plan for a Rector's Search Committee.

February: Vestry invites congregants to apply for Search Committee.

March: Search Committee is announced: Judi Kleinman, chr., Martha Daniels, Judy Avery, John Little, Terri Torko, Matt Evett, Judie Erb, Kathy Daly, Jack Livesay, Anne Putullaz, Sarah Freeland, and Matt Ranville.

April: The Rev. Goldacker and the Rev. Sanders announce their plans to resign as interim ministers at the end of May.

May: Congregation celebrates the Church School ministries of Patty Creal and Mary Lu Barth who are retiring after many years of teaching.

June: The Rev. Bryant Dennison is welcomed as St. Clare's new Interim Rector.

October 27: The 8:00 & 10:15 services combine for a joint Listening Service held in the Sanctuary.

November: Search committee surveys the congregation for the Parish Profile

2003 Budget is \$ 389,150. with \$347,000. in pledges.

January: Congregational meeting to hear the results of the parish survey. Focus meetings and small group conversations are held.

March: Search committee announces that the Diocese and National Church have officially been notified of the vacancy. The Committee has started to receive applications for rector.

June 8 Pentecost: St. Clare's celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The Rt. Rev. R. Stewart Wood presides.

Sr. Wardens:

1965 Dr. Josef Smith
1966 Dr. Josef Smith
1967 Dr. Josef Smith
1968 Dudley Sunoiloff
1969 Bob Creal
1970 Bob Creal
1971
1972 Chuck Hellie
1973 Richard Sonntag
1974 Bob Creal
1975 Richard Magee
1976 Stephen Bostwick
1977 Brad McCombs & Phil Beach
1978 Dan Long
1979 Frankie Simonds
1980 Frankie Simonds
1981 Richard Bailey
1982 Jim Schairbaum
1983 Peter Dodge
1984 Macdonald Dick
1985 Judie Kleinman
1986 John Sampelle
1987 Nancy Moncrief
1988 Larry Grace
1989 Dallas Forshew
1990 Stan Robinson (d. 1997)
1991 Rodger Piehl/ Julie Dodge
1992 Phil lip Bowen
1993 Fred Neidhardt
1994 Kay Long
1995 John Pugsley
1996 John Manczak
1997 Emily Meuleman
1998 Jack Petersen
1999 Mary White
2000 Ann Putullaz
2001 Linda Elise Turner
2002 Rodger Piehl
2003 Thomas Annesley
Clive Francis, Bldg. Chair for SC;
Jim Schairbaum, Genesis Habitat House Leader

This document was prepared by Frankie Simonds and Kay Long in celebration of St. Clare's Fiftieth Anniversary, June 2003.