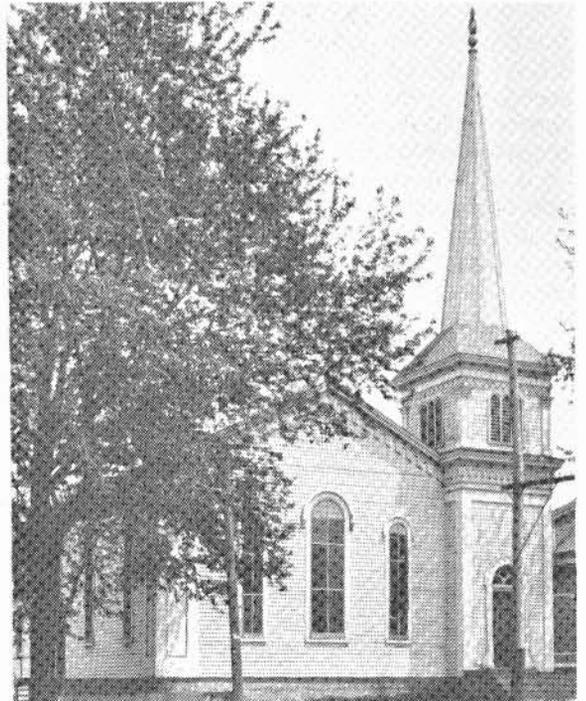


Church Life In



Rev. Steinke, Harvard's newest pastor, greets parishioners.

Episcopal Church, built in 1891. President Ford's mother was married in this church.



The first Presbyterian church in Harvard, built in 1869 and used until 1912.

The Harvard Area

Alden Methodist Church

The home of Asahel Disbrow was used for religious services in 1838. Nine members met regularly. About 1863 a church building costing \$1,600 was started. Before completion, a windstorm blew half of it down and the project was resumed leaving a debt of \$800.

Some \$500 was realized by staging a trip on the new Rockford and Kenosha Railroad. People along the way signed up for this novel ride. Grain box cars were rented at considerable saving.

A revival in 1862 increased by 100 the church membership. A total membership of about 200 has been maintained since. Big Foot church united with Alden in 1880 and doubled membership.

A centennial observance in 1963 was marked by many improvements such as new floor, seats, heating system, lights and sheds for hitching horses.

Attendance at Sunday school and evening prayer meetings increased. The Ladies Aid Society contributed much to church improvement with a new platform at the front of the church, kitchen cabinets, sinks and oil heater.

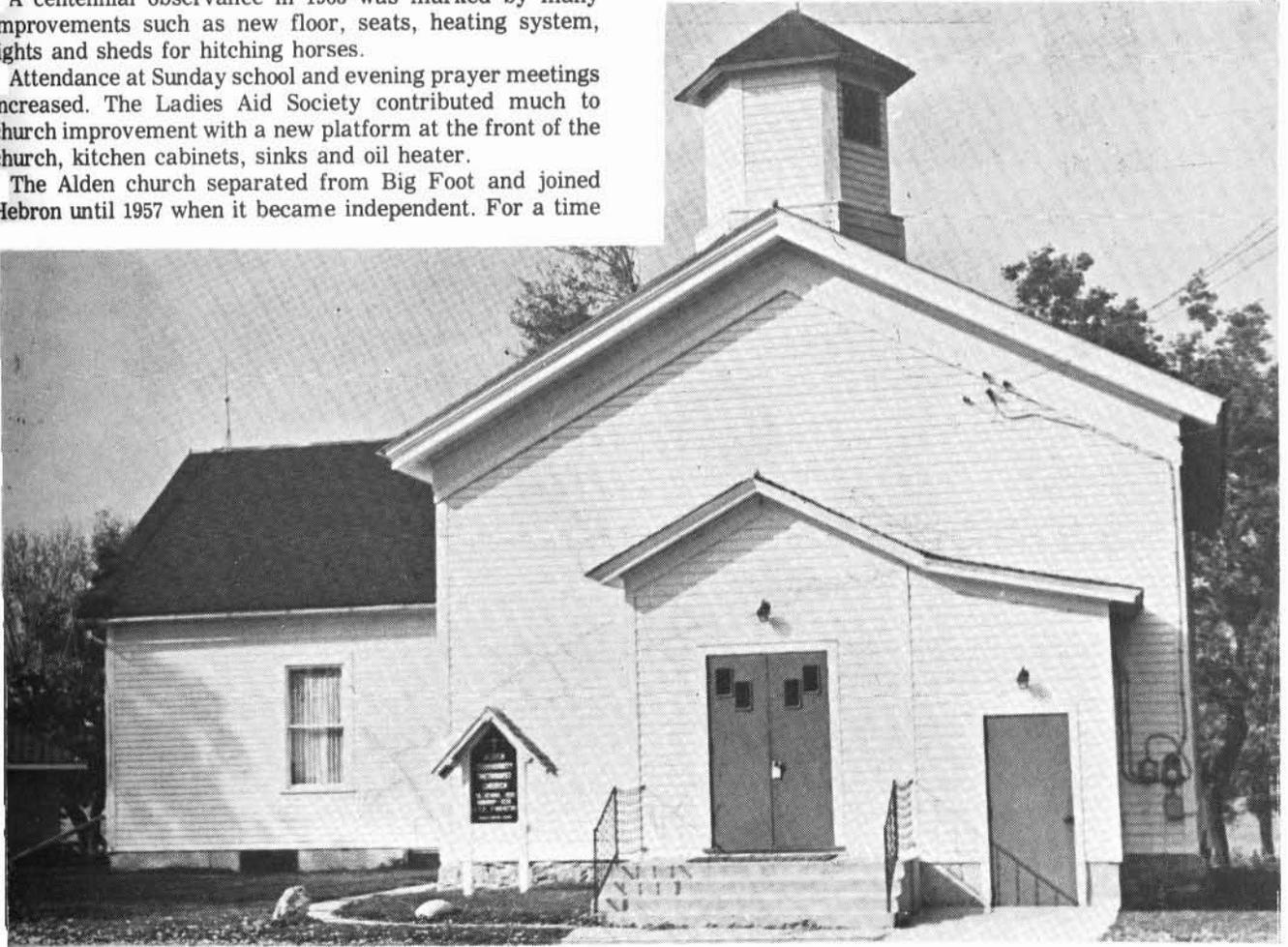
The Alden church separated from Big Foot and joined Hebron until 1957 when it became independent. For a time

the pastor lived in a trailer which was parked next to the church. A parsonage was purchased later.

As is the case with smaller churches, student or part time pastors were chosen. This has been most beneficial since it allowed a student to finish his college and seminary course and get practical experience in the field at the same time.

The Rev. Louise Mahan is the present pastor. Church school is at 9:15 a.m. and church service at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. The Youth group meets the first and third Sundays at 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Women meet the second and fourth Thursdays at 8 p.m.

The women's group is noted for its annual bazaar and dinner every fall.



Alden Methodist church.



Assembly of God, one of Harvard's new churches.



The first Assembly of God church.

Assembly of God Church

An odd set of circumstances led to the first services of the Assembly of God church.

Two Pentecostal evangelists stopped in 1929 to change a flat tire in Harvard and the thought occurred that it would be a good place to hold a service. The evangelists were the Rev. Alvin Anderson and the Rev. James Keller of Beloit.

They were asked to hold a series of revival meetings at the Park St. Mission church on S. Ayer St. by Silas Kirshner. The meetings emphasized healing and were successful. Services were continued in homes of members until Nov. 1937 when the Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Dean held regular meetings in a building on Front St. called Bethel Mission. Tent meetings were also held and a bus was used to bring out of town children to Sunday school.

A lot was purchased in 1941 for \$120 and was fully paid in six months. The next year the Rev. and Mrs. Dale DeGarmo answered the call for a pastor. The building fund continued to grow while meetings were held in Washington school. A few years later they had to vacate.

The present site of the church on W. Brainard St. was purchased in 1946 for \$1,000 as the other property had been sold the year before. A 50 by 100 ft. storage building was purchased near Hebron for \$1,000 and the building torn down. The roof was split in small sections to be used later on the church building.

Ground was broken on Brainard St. in 1946 and a church built. Much of the actual construction work was done by DeGarmo himself with church people. The church is sovereign and has its own government. Trustees, who serve for four years, are responsible to the people. A board of deacons is responsible for business affairs and work with the pastor who is chairman of committees.

Several group organizations were organized. Services are provided on the first Sunday of the month for Valley Hi Nursing Home and calls are made in McHenry County jail, Woodstock.

Membership has grown and present facilities were overcrowded. Land was purchased on E. Klamon St. near the parsonage. Recently a new addition to the church was completed to serve for Sunday school and other needs on land available there.

The Rev. Dale DeGarmo recently retired and was succeeded by his son, Leon, who lives next door.



Chemung Methodist church and parishioners, Dorothy Domato, Elizabeth Orr, Kitty Jones, Alta Rector, Harriet

Thomas, Ethel Hoey, Margaret Conley, and Mrs. Wm. Conley with their pastor, Rev. Obed Hanson.

Chemung United Methodist Church

Two years after the village of Chemung was laid out in 1844 the first religious service was held by a Mr. Lewis in a log cabin he built on the present church site on Rte. 173.

The Methodist Episcopal Society formed in 1846 met in homes and was served by circuit riders. For a time the Harvard minister served in Chemung also. The present building was constructed in 1873 through the efforts of Rev. William Clark. The membership was 20 persons.

Rural electrification came in 1918. Previously remodeling of the church was undertaken, a basement dug and a furnace installed.

Many student ministers served the church staying only a few years. Since a fire in the late '20's destroyed church records, history of the church depends on memories of the older members.

A ladies society, The W.S.C.S. grew strong in the '20's and their chicken dinners and bazaars were well attended. The men's group was organized in 1958 during the pastorate of Rev. Philip Richardson. A youth group sang at every Sunday morning service, bought their own robes and entertained groups in Capron and Harvard.

Improvements continue to be made in the church, some by memorials and others by fund raising events of the congregation. The church now has a lowered ceiling, new lights, gas heating, grill for the kitchen, an organ, new well, kitchen cabinets, new roof and painting, carpeting, telephone and paneling. In 1970 and 71 new windows and storms, and a new piano added to the building. New pews and altar rail were the latest improvements in 1972.

The church has grown all ways, spiritually, financially and in membership.

The Rev. Obed Henson is pastor and conducts Sunday service at 9:15 a.m. and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. The Youth group meets at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays.



Chemung Methodist church, built in 1873.



The new Christ Episcopal church on Old Orchard Road.

Christ Episcopal Church

No organized Episcopal church existed in McHenry County until the early 1870's when the Rev. Peter Arvedson was appointed missionary-at-large for several northern Illinois counties.

As he traveled his route he formed small groups of worshippers. One of these became the nucleus of Christ Episcopal Church.

The congregation grew slowly and steadily. It petitioned Chicago Bishop McLaren for a resident priest. The Rev. A. A. Fiske responded and held his services in the old Congregational church which was leased.

Land was purchased in 1880 on Highway 14 at Sumner Street and the church was built in 1881, an incentive to new members. The church debt was paid off in 1885 and on May 8 of that year the building, valued at \$30,000, was consecrated by Bishop McLaren.

A rectory was purchased in 1908 and five years later the parish house was built. This is used for parish social functions and was the polling place for 3rd Chemung precinct voters for many years.

Church records show that Florence Benson and Frederick H. Coe were the first couple to be married in the new church. Their daughter returned to become Mrs. Arthur J. Ebert there and is still an active church member.

Church membership never was large compared to other churches but in spite of this, Christ Church was the one which had a men's club of over 100 members and was a meeting place for many area activities.

Church rectors visited Woodstock and Crystal Lake conducting services until they established their own churches. One ordination to the priesthood was that of James G. Plankey, a native of Harvard, in 1939. He was placed in charge of the Harvard church and remained in that office until 1941.

The administration of the church is vested in a Bishop's committee consisting of Richard Montgomery, Ken Luckow, Floyd Alt, Ernest Weter, Duncan Lanum, Roland Brown, Doug Shanks, Pat Alt, Mrs. Lillian Carrington.

Dick Montgomery is warden; Mrs. Carrington, clerk; Pat Alt, treasurer; with Mrs. Everett Johnson, Altar Guild; and Mrs. Cherry McFarlin, organist.

The Rev. William A. Glade is Vicar and was preceded by the Rev. Richard Bennett under whose term a new church and parsonage was built at 602 Old Orchard Road, considered to be one of the most modern and functional edifices in the city.



Father Glade talks with his parishioners, young and —not so young?



Another of Harvard's new churches, the First Baptist, at 4th and Northfield.

First Baptist Church

The first full-time pastor of Harvard's youngest church was the Rev. Jerry Ford who came in January 1967. He was preceded by mission pastors, Orville Richardson in 1956 and Tom Reiff a few months later.

After a humble beginning, some interested people gathered under a shade tree at the home of Earle Thornburg and heard that a survey had been made warranting a mission. The organizational meeting was held in February 1965 in the Masonic Temple.

A budget of \$50.14 a week was adopted. Pastor Tom Reiff applied to the Woodstock church for a constitution in September 1966 and investigation for a site started. The church grew from ten to 34 by this date. Several area Baptist churches subsidized pioneer work and four acres were purchased at 4th and Northfield Streets. The land was annexed to the city and ground was broken in July, 1969 with Bauman Builders, general contractors. Much of the work was done by volunteer labor and the congregation occupied the building in October.

A parsonage was purchased at 1104 N. Hayes Street in 1968. The pastor and congregation did most of the work. Equipment for Sunday school and a 28 passenger bus was acquired to pick up children from Capron and Chemung and later a larger later model was purchased.

The church started a ministry to Latin-Americans in the area called the Twin Garden Migrant Mission with the cooperation of the George Ahrens family. Services are held Friday evenings at the farm during the summer and are mostly in Spanish.

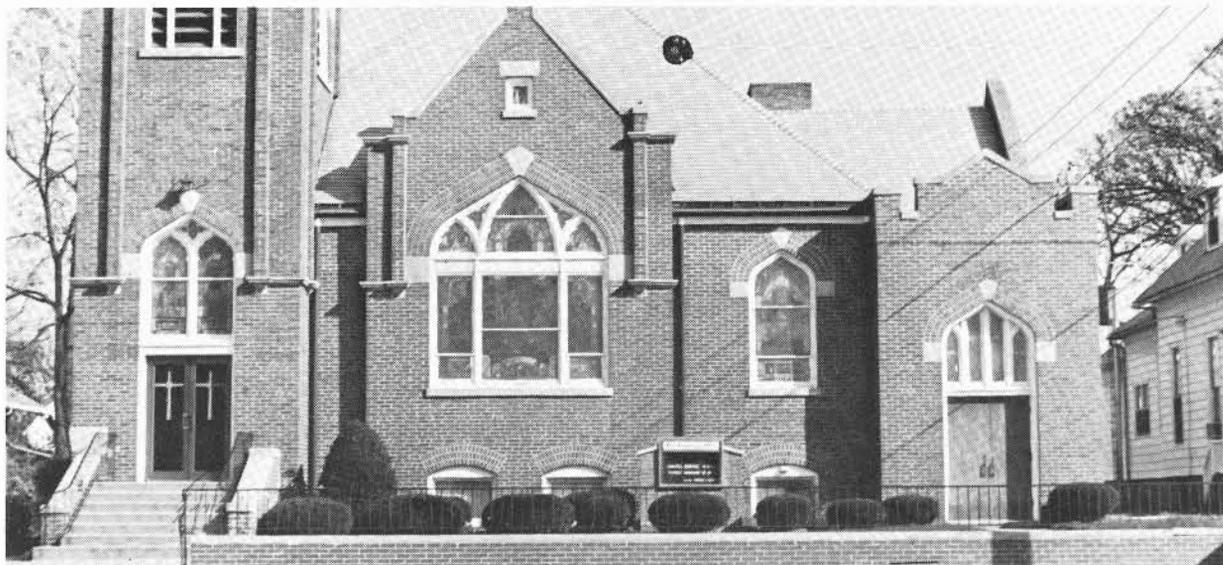
A Harvard Rest Home Bible class in the Harvard Nursing Home was also conducted during the Sunday school hour as an outreach ministry. This was a joint project with Assembly of God church, who now conducts this service with an enrollment of 15 in the class. Vacation Bible school is also being held each summer with 80 enrolled last summer.

Under the Rev. Jerry Ford some 75 members have been added and the weekly budget is \$383. Physical properties amount to \$125,000 including land, church, furnishings and parsonage. The church debt is \$75,000 with assets of \$50,000.

The resignation of Pastor Ralph Mayes was accepted August 3, 1974 due to ill health. He had been with the church since August 1971. The church added 51 new members, 41 by baptism and ten by church letter.

Outstanding debts were paid and members voted to pay 5 percent of funds available each month to the Southern Baptist program. Pastor Mayes and his wife reside in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

The Rev. David Crownover is the present pastor and conducts regular Sunday services.



First Presbyterian, a fine example of a local builder's art, it was erected by W. H. Ward & Son.

First Presbyterian Church

Like many Harvard churches, the First Presbyterian church had a very humble beginning and has reached its present standing because of the high aspirations of many members and friends.

Seven members organized officially February 16, 1868. In a few months membership was 37. The group agreed to raise funds for a church and \$500 was pledged for a site.

A wooden building was erected on the present site at 309 North Division Street. The cost of this structure was \$3,741 and was dedicated in 1869. The sum of \$844 was paid and the balance was raised by various church societies, among which was the Ladies Aid. About 1875 the church united with the Congregational Church, but separated after a few years.

The "Every Other Woman" society, popularly known as the EOW, was organized in 1917 and the Ladies Missionary Society was organized about 1889. In 1910 a campaign was begun to build a new church and the final service in the old church was July 30, 1911. The new building started in August 1911 and was dedicated in June 1912 with \$8,000 being pledged.

The JU :Just Us; society was organized for ladies of the church in 1908.

Cost of the new church was \$21,000 with \$12,968 being paid at time of dedication. The present manse, next door to the church, was built in 1924. The indebtedness on the church was paid off quickly with the hard work of various societies and individual members.

Membership in 1919 increased from 150 to 300 persons. First to occupy the new manse was the Rev. W. H. Taylor and family. The cost of the manse, \$10,000, was paid off by "A Mile of Dimes" directed by Herbert Megran and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Neidhold.

Mr. Taylor organized the Junior church in 1927 and the same year Farmers' Fellowship was formed.

Concerts were given by the choir in 1927 to raise funds for robes. Church groups were well organized and functioning for the growth of the church. Soon it became obvious that more room was needed and in 1955 it was decided to build an addition to house the educational section.

A building committee was appointed to handle details of fund raising and planning. The project cost \$150,000 and included also a complete remodeling of the church building.

The cornerstone ceremony was held Children's Day, June 10, 1962 when the church was host to about 100 ministers and elders of the area.

The Rev. Harold Demus is present pastor and succeeded the Rev. David H. Pfleiderer.



Rev. Demus visits with Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Kleckner. Immediately behind the pastor, Albert Jones, lay minister of the church, stands smiling.



The first Methodist church, completed in 1860.

First United Methodist Church

The history of this church dates back to 1857 when five charter members organized as the Methodist Episcopal church under the direction of the Rev. H. W. Richardson.

The first church building was erected in 1860 at 300 North Eastman Street and was later found to be inadequate. A new building on the same site was completed and dedicated in 1899 at a cost of \$25,000. A community house consisting of a gymnasium, stage, dining room and Sunday school rooms was built on an adjoining lot at a cost of \$140,000 in the early 1920's.

A basement 50 ft. square was started in 1951 to provide space for five new Sunday school rooms and a kitchenette arranged around a large assembly hall. Nearly all labor was donated and the project was valued at \$25,000.

In the fall of the same year extensive interior and exterior improvements were made and a \$40,000 organ installed. A centennial celebration was held.

The following year, the most devastating fire in the city's history destroyed the church but records were saved and firemen prevented the spread to the parsonage. Services were held in the Masonic Temple until a new church could be built three years later. Sunday school classes were held in Central school with junior and senior classes in the Episcopal parish house.

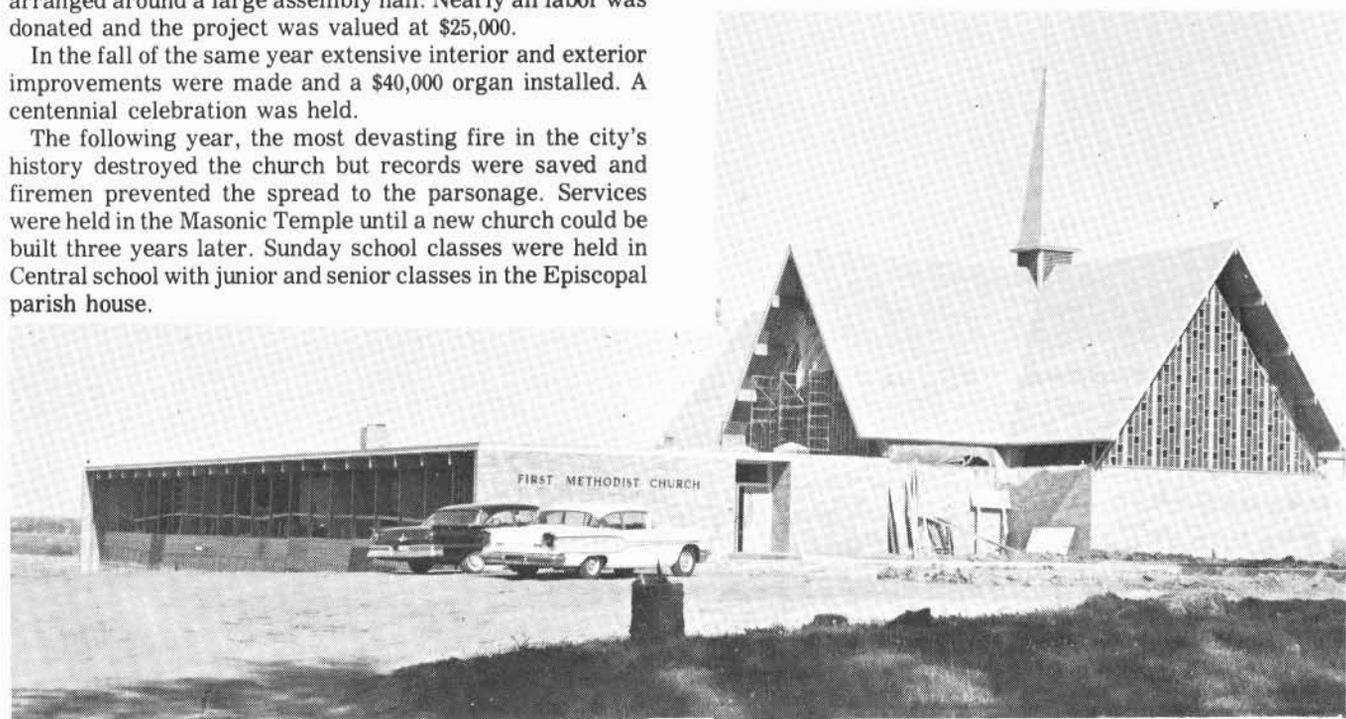
A seven acre site was purchased at a cost of \$16,000. The building, unfurnished, was to cost \$327,000 and includes a sanctuary seating 324, social hall, 15 classrooms, choir room, Sunday school offices, pastor's office and main office, kitchen, Boy Scout room, church parlor, conference library, a balcony and parking for 150 cars.

The cornerstone of the old church contained copies of current magazines, newspaper, official board members and building committee. These with current magazines, newspapers and names of church officials were placed in the new cornerstone. Pastor at this time was the Rev. Russell Koenig who came to Harvard in 1962 from a Chicago suburb.

The new church was dedicated November 26, 1961 and the next May a final detail of landscaping was completed. An "International Garden" consisting of trees which were gifts from foreign countries was planted.

A few years later a parsonage was built on land to the east of the church on North Second Street and the former parsonage sold. The present minister is the Rev. Fred Tozer.

The First Methodist church. This building replaces the one which burned in 1958, which had served the congregation since 1898.





St. Joseph's church, the only building serving the same congregation for more than seventy years, in Harvard.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

It was only ten years after the City of Harvard was founded and streets laid out that St. Joseph's Catholic church was organized. It has enjoyed a steady growth since then.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad had brought to the city a number of Catholic families who had been going to St. Patrick's in Hartland where a church had been built in 1856. The first local service was held in a store on Ayer Street and the pastor, Father Terrance Fitzsimmons, had been serving Hartland.

A log church was erected in 1866 on the site of what is the present rectory but was then the Cottage Hospital. Shortly after, land was purchased for a cemetery. Previously, parishoners buried their dead in Hartland.

Cornerstone for the present church was laid July 4, 1891 by the Rev. James E. Hogan, who, it is said worked along with bricklayers and wore out several pairs of gloves.

St. Joseph's became a part of the Rockford diocese in 1908. A modern heating system was installed in 1912, making the church complete.

A parochial school was started in 1915 on Rte. 14 east of the church. Property, including a house for a convent for the teaching nuns was bought. A pipe organ was donated by Paul V. Galvin in memory of his parents. The present priest, the Rev. Msgr. Joseph Healey, came in 1950 and elevated to the title of monsignor in 1963.

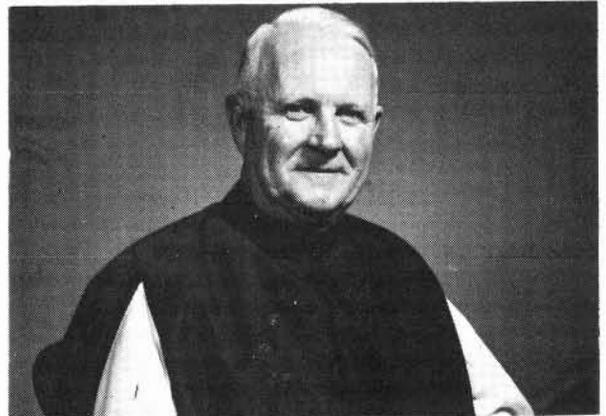
Under his supervision a new convent was built, complete remodeling of the school including a kitchen in the basement, replacing floor and ceilings, a public address system and new heating facilities. More land was bought and three old homes in the area razed for parking.

The playground area was blacktopped and complete modernizing of the church followed, a six month project costing \$30,000. Air conditioning, new roof and landscaping came next.

A new rectory was built in 1964 to replace the one formerly the site of the Cottage Hospital and believed to be over 100 years old. A new convent for the teaching nuns was also started with a cost for both of \$100,000.

The rectory, two stories high, is in modern colonial style of light grey brick and stone trim. It faces south on Front Street and occupies a space of 50 by 32 feet plus a two-car attached garage. The basement has a large meeting hall, kitchenette, work room and boiler room.

Church groups include the Mother's Club, Altar and Rosary Society, Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella and youth groups.



Monsignor Joseph Healey has served Harvard longest of all the town's present pastors.



St. Patrick's Church, Hartland. Although the church has been replaced several times, this was the first Christian

church in a very large section of northern Illinois.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

The origin of this church dates back to 1836 when Andrew Donnelley and his sister and her husband, Katherine and Francis Short, with a group of friends arrived in Hartland by horse and wagon from Lowell, Massachusetts. He met Father John St. Cyr in Chicago who became the first pastor.

A temporary altar was arranged on a family table for Sunday Mass. People came by horseback, wagon or walking. In 1845, 21 persons were confirmed. A log church was built where the cemetery stands. When it burned to the ground in 1913, a new church was built and again destroyed by fire on April 10, 1941.

A new church was built in 1942 of brick and still stands. A four acre cemetery across the road served surrounding areas. The earliest legible inscription on a tombstone is dated 1844.

Each year in August a homecoming dinner is held on church grounds with former and present parishioners and friends coming to spend the day and visit with their Hartland friends.

Organizations now functioning in this church out in the country are the Altar and Rosary Society for the ladies and the Holy Name Society for the men.

About 80 families are now served by the church and come from the surrounding farm area. The church is run by an administrator, the Rev. Michael J. Tierney.

Sunday Mass is at 8 and 10 a.m. and on Holy Days at 7 p.m.

Whereas the first pastor came from Chicago guided by an Indian, present day pastors ride in automobiles; and parishioners, whose number is increasing steadily, don't even walk a mile to Mass.



St. Paul's Lutheran. This building was dedicated as a Congregational church in 1867. The Lutherans have remodeled and repaired until they have a most attractive church.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Although Lutheran services were conducted by Missouri synod pastors from neighboring towns since early in the 1880's, no resident pastor was available until 1889 when the Rev. F. Caemmerer came to serve a growing congregation. Three years later the group built its own church.

Difference over membership in secret organizations split the group and 18 families withdrew. They rented the church building formerly occupied by the Congregational church, built in 1866, on Hart Boulevard and obtained a pastor from Sharon to conduct church services.

In 1905, ten members organized St. Paul's Lutheran. Pastors from Marengo, Crystal Lake and Alden came to conduct worship for the next 22 years. In 1919 the Congregationists permanently disbanded and sold the church



building to St. Paul's and the next year they purchased the parsonage next door to house the pastor they expected to come.

A resident pastor, the Rev. Martin W. Rupprecht, came to answer their call in 1931. The Walther League was formed and a new pipe organ obtained. In 1937 the church became self-supporting and help from district mission funds was not needed.

Shortly after, the church mortgage was paid off. By this time extensive repairs were needed. The project started with the chancel in 1949 and four years later an extensive remodeling and enlarging program was planned.

Early American architecture was used. The building was extended 28 feet to the rear and the remodeled church was dedicated November 8, 1953. In 1955 the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary as an organized church.

It is estimated that about 34 per cent of the congregation earn its living from agriculture and 66 per cent are business, professional, clerical workers and skilled and unskilled workers.

Sunday school is held for ages from 4-14 and Saturday school has three graded departments. A vacation Bible school is held each summer. A Sunday Bible class for adult members and a weekday broadcast in the mornings is also provided.

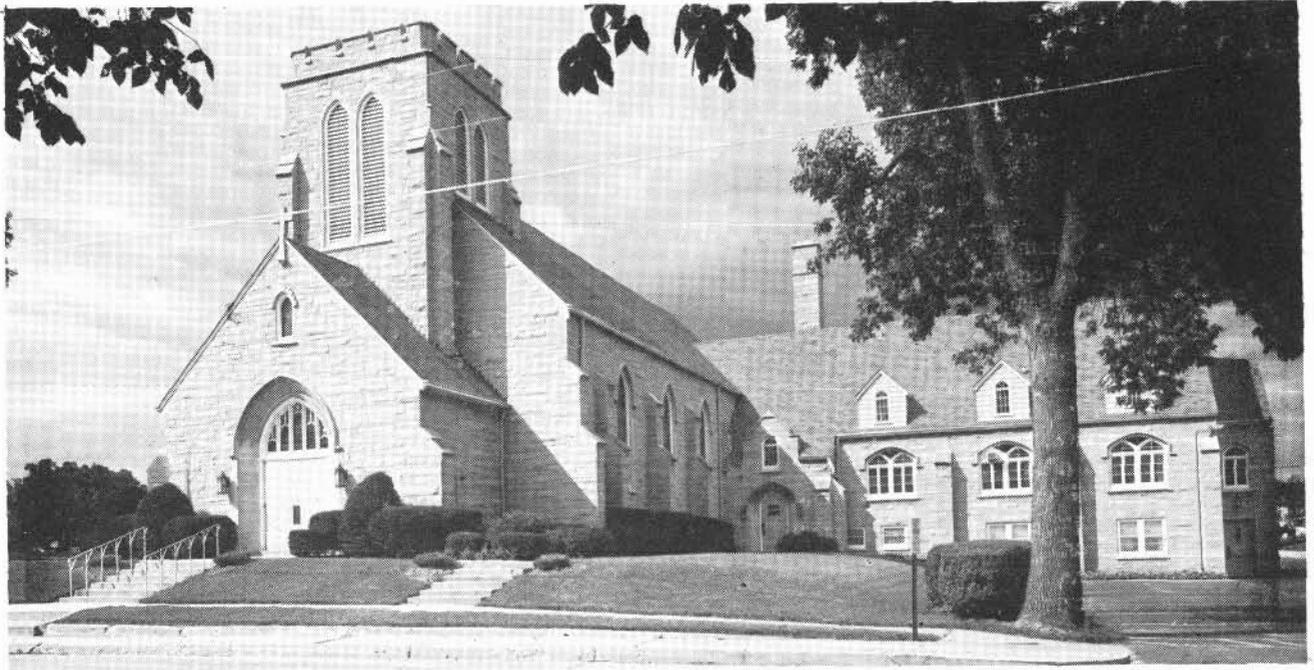
Other church groups are the Walther League, Ladies Aid, Women's Missionary League and the Sunday Evening Club.

The church is now debt free but the problem of growth has emerged, so a committee has been appointed to take care of this problem. A site was acquired, six acres on North Garfield Road near Rte. 14. A fund drive is being conducted with Don Stoxen as chairman.

The new church will be an attractive edifice for 270 worshipers with ample space for overflow. The full basement will include a large fellowship hall plus several classrooms in the educational wing.

Present pastor is the Rev. David J. Behling.

The vacancy pastor is the Rev. Norman S. Meyer of Union. Services are at 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. Sunday.



Trinity Lutheran, known to all Harvard as "The Church on the Hill."

Trinity Lutheran Church

There are four important anniversaries for the church, all falling on November 30. They are the organization in 1884, completion of the first church edifice in 1892, dedication of the present church in 1952 and dedication of the parsonage in 1955.

The church was founded in 1884 but even before that the Rev. William Von Schenk met with a small group. The first parsonage was built in 1890 and the first church building two years later.

The original group met at Hart Boulevard which is now St. Paul's church. The first baptismal and first confirmation service was held in 1884. Property on which the church stands was purchased in 1892 for \$443 as it was considered a "useless hill." Men of the church leveled the hill. A parsonage was built and construction on the church finished quickly.

A crisis arose in 1897 over withdrawal from the Missouri Synod. The congregation voted to withdraw and remained for 43 years without affiliation. Some members withdrew from Trinity and organized St. Paul's.

Ladies Aid was organized in 1940 and has rendered a much-needed service to the church. Lutheran Church Women and youth groups were also formed. Sunday School was established in 1911 and a room added. Improvements were made both on the inside and outside of the church. About 1912 English was used instead of German in the services. An adult Bible class met in 1913 and the Luther League was formed.

A basement was excavated and an organ purchased. Remodeling was started and of the 50,000 hours of labor required, 15,000 were donated. A 50-bell carillon was installed in 1960 which sounds three times daily. Cost of remodeling was \$220,000.

A new parsonage was erected on four lots east of the church on Grant Street and dedicated in 1955. Recent improvements include a small addition on the east end for an inside stairway from top-floor rooms, blacktopping parking areas and installing air conditioning.

To meet demands of a growing congregation, an education building was started in 1970 and finished the next year. It was an addition to the north end of the church on church property.

The Rev. Luther C. Mueller came to Harvard as pastor of the church in 1946 and retired early this year. His successor is the Rev. Charles E. Steinke, who is the eighth pastor to serve the church.



Trinity Lutheran before it was enlarged and remodelled.