

1885 - 1943

Rev. Jacob De Jonge arrived in August, 1885 as the new pastor and stayed only 2 years. Even though members of the congregation were essentially Dutch speaking people, American influences were being felt. During this time, it was decided that the singing of Gospel Hymns be allowed in Sunday School.

Rev. R. Bloemendaal, just out of seminary, came in July 1889 and stayed three years. There was steady growth in the church and many things were added. A new chapel was built to serve as a place for many meetings. A pipe organ was given by Mr. & Mrs. Jan Spykerman in 1890. It required pumping so that for every service two people were needed – an organist and a pumper. Mrs. Henry Meengs and Mrs. Petger Douma were the first two organists.

In March, 1892, Rev. Abraham Stegeman came to be the pastor. To provide something for the young people, he was asked to preach in English once a month on Sunday evening and he was given permission to start a Christian Endeavor Society. These young people's meeting presented problems in behavior and the consistory appointed a constable to arrest any disorderly person.

The parsonage was in need of repair and a committee was appointed in the spring of 1897 to draw up plans to build a new one or to remodel the present one. The congregation raised \$1,113 for this so the old parsonage was sold and they proceeded to build a new one. Rev Stegeman was stricken with a heart attack while preaching. He was taken to the parsonage and died a few hours later. This ended a very successful 6 years in 1898.

Rev. A. H. Strabbing came in November, 1899. New church pews and new windows were installed. The Women's Missionary Society presented the church with a new communion table. The congregation kept growing. Rev. Strabbing was very successful, friendly and always faithful in dealing with all congregational needs. He stayed 5 years.

Student J. Wesselink came to North Holland in 1905. He was remembered as a faithful preacher, his sermons being instructive and practical.

Rev. and Mrs. John Tysse and seven children arrived in the Spring of 1911. They had four more children during their ministry at North Holland. Many improvements occurred during this time. The horse barns were enlarged, a telephone and bathroom were installed in the parsonage and shrubbery was planted around it. During this time, the young people objected to the continued use of the Dutch language. Rev. Tysse helped them write a petition asking for a change in the afternoon service. The young people circulated the petition and also came to the congregational meeting to personally ask for the change. The request was granted by a vote of 4 to 1. Rev. Tysse left in 1919 to become a Classical Missionary for the Classis of Holland.

A vacancy of almost two years followed. In June, 1921, John Klaaren was ordained and installed as the ninth pastor. His solid preaching and teaching made him very popular and highly respected. Many new families were added, a new

organ was purchased, the chapel was moved to the south side of the church and two Sunday School rooms were added. Consistory minutes were now being written in English. He left in 1923.

Rev. A. Maatman came in August, 1923. He attracted many visitors to the service and had a special interest in children and young people. His hobby was painting and drawing and used his talents in teaching Sunday School and catechism.

During this time new hymn books were purchased, other seats were purchased for the chapel and balcony, the chapel was redecorated and sidewalks were laid on both sides of the church and parsonage. A "hollow-wire" light system was installed in the church, chapel and parsonage. After much deliberation, it was also decided to replace the communion goblet with individual cups. Rev. Maatman stayed

5 1/2 years.

During this vacancy 8 calls were extended and finally in October, 1930 Rev. H. Maassen accepted. He came in December at the start of the great depression. Rev. Maassen voluntarily took a cut in his salary. He made many repairs and improvements himself.

During Rev. Maassen's pastorate many changes and much progress was made. The balcony entrance was changed, carpeting was placed in the church aisles. The "rotary system" for consistory members was instituted, thus eliminating continuity of office.

In 1938 it was decided to have the English language in the morning service, followed by Sunday School, Dutch in the afternoon and English in the evening. The Dutch service was discontinued in November, 1938. WW II began in 1941 and lasted for 4 years. The first printed bulletins for worship were started in 1943. Many young men were called to serve. Rev. Maassen served North Holland faithfully and effectively for 13 years and left for Friesland, Wisconsin in December, 1943.