

1944 - 1985

Rev. Morris Folkert became our pastor on June 6, 1944. Many of the young men were either overseas or in training camps and the "North Holland Beacon" was published for the young men in service. This was a project by "League for Service Society". Hymn sings were also sponsored by them. V-E Day marked the end of the European War on May 8, 1945 and V-J Day on August 14, 1945. The occasion was marked with a praise service. Two young men lost their lives for their country – T/Sgt. Dick Tenckinck was killed in action at Leyte and Pvt. Leon Nienhuis was killed in action in Germany on March 15.

The church building was completely destroyed by fire on December 11, 1945. Loss was estimated at \$20,000 to \$25,000 with only a part being covered by insurance. Among the items saved were two pianos, pulpit furniture, communion set, several pews and some hymn books. Services were held at South Olive until the new church was built. On Thanksgiving Day, 1946, a brief outside service was held to lay the cornerstone for the new church. Rev. Folkert spoke on "The Glory of This Building" and Floyd Kraai presided in the laying of the cornerstone. The new church of modified Gothic design was built on the site of the old frame church of sandstone, steel and concrete. The auditorium and balcony provided seating for 400. The original bell was recast and retempered and given in memory of George F. Brower, who died three days after the fire. Mr. Brower was an active member of the church and a member of the greater consistory. Dedication services were held March 2- 4, 1948 with many friends and neighboring congregations contributing much toward the new building. Rev. Folkert left in August, 1949.

Rev. Ellsworth Ten Clay came in 1950. During his ministry the congregation experienced spiritual and financial growth. Church attendance increased, midweek services and young people's meetings were also well attended. The mortgage of the church was burned on June 23, 1953 in a very special service. Rev. Ten Clay left in 1956.