

Allendale residents strive for religious freedom

The Church of the Epiphany was started during the Epiphany season in 1872, when Mrs. Stephen Cable and her daughters began to hold Sunday School meetings in her parlor. So successful was the

undertaking that within a year the space was too small and a move was made to an unoccupied barn belonging to John J. Zabriskie, across the street from the Cable home. A chapel was fitted up in the barn and on

Sept. 14, 1873 the Rev. L.R. Dickinson conducted the first service. This was known as "Hope Chapel."

In 1874 efforts were made to build a more suitable place. To this end Mrs. Cable gave \$50 and property. A building of Gothic design was constructed and on the second Sunday after Trinity, June 25, 1876, the "Chapel of Willows" was formally opened with the Right Reverend William H. Odenheimer, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Northern New Jersey, officiating.

It was in 1903 that the Catholic Church in Allendale had its beginning. The first Masses were said in Linkron's Confectionery Store. Rev. P.T. Carew,

pastor of Mt. Carmel Church, Ridgewood, assisted by John Appert (of Allendale) as altar boy, served the ten or more Catholic families in Allendale.

From 1903 to 1914 the Catholic population increased slowly. In the latter year Rev. P.F. Pindar, pastor of St. Luke's Church in Hohokus, started services in the recreation room above the Appert garage at 1 Cottage Place, Allendale. The congregation by then numbered about 20 families.

In December 1914, the former home of B.F. Hutches on Maple Street was purchased and simple alterations made to convert the first floor into a Chapel. (This has since been sold and once again is being used as a private home).

The Catholic women in Allendale were not idle in those early years and assisted greatly in the upkeep of the Mission Chapel. In 1924 they formed the Guardian Angel Guild, meeting in each other's home monthly and running benefit card parties and cake sales.

In 1954 some 17 acres, on the southeast corner of East Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Vesce and the house converted to a Chapel. Here the church now carries on its work.

During the early years of this district, between 1785 and 1790, the Methodists began to hold camp meetings. About 1797 the records of New Prospect, as Waldwick was then known, show that it was the Mother Church of the area and its ministers served the circuit stretching from Belleville to Haverstraw, N.Y.

In the early 1870's, a summer resident of Allendale, Mr. O.H.P. Archer, combined a personal desire and a community need into an act of faith. With his own funds, he had a chapel built at the corner of Allendale Avenue and Franklin Turnpike in memory of his parents.

It was on Feb. 17, 1876, at 3 p.m. that the chapel was opened for Sunday School purposes and on June 18 the same year, the chapel was dedicated for church worship and a circuit rider assigned to hold services regularly in Allendale.

The first full-time pastor in Allendale was Reverend William Potts George, who was assigned to the church in 1886. Archer Hall was erected prior to

In the Fall of 1954 a group of Lutheran families met together to discuss the possibility of starting a congregation in the town of Allendale. The Borough Council was approached and they gave permission for the use of Allendale Fire House on West Allendale Avenue opposite the railroad station. The first service was held on Dec. 5, 1954 at 11 a.m. The Rev. C.O. Pedersen, president of the Atlantic Circuit of the Eastern District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church was the speaker at this first service. There were 61 present.

Due to the rapid growth of the Sunday School, in December 1959 construction was started on a parish education addition consisting of five new classrooms and a new fellowship room, the old fellowship room being divided into two Sunday School rooms.

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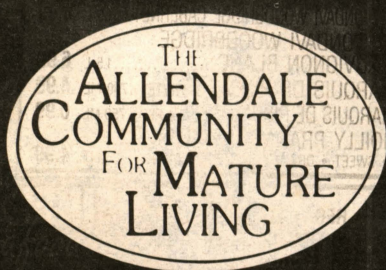
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