

Editor notes

Special thanks to Ken Bylsma

Writer's comments and introductions will be in sans-serif font

Actual articles (including newspaper articles, press releases, ads and bulletins) will be in serif font

Editor and writer's notes within an article *will be in italic*

preface

The History of Lombard Gospel Chapel

In January, 1993, the idea of writing a brief history for the Chapel Chatter was considered. So, with pencil and paper in hand, I headed for the public library, excited about gathering information about Lombard Gospel Chapel. I was sure the local paper had info regarding the construction of the building at 369 N. Stewart, but to my amazement nothing could be found. After going through micro-film from 1953 - 1956, I was ready to give up.

Earlier in December, Ron Hall had given me a brief two page history of the Chapel. This paper mentioned the fact that the Chapel began in the 20's. So back to the library I went, but this time looking for information on the original beginnings of L. G. C.

The earliest paper on micro-film began on June 1927, with the inception of the Lombard Spectator. Within minutes the adventure had begun and to my astonishment a wealth of material was discovered relating to the "Birth" of Lombard Chapel. As you read this history may your heart be blessed as you see how God has worked in the past at Lombard Gospel Chapel.

However, before you begin this adventure, let me make these following statements:

- 1) I have related the facts as I found them.
- 2) Some of the material may be incorrect.
- 3) There certainly is more information that we don't know about.
- 4) I have no personal agenda in presenting this material.

A special thanks to Olive Badger for all her help in supplying much valuable information. Likewise, to Pam Rivet for editing this material.

Ken Bylsma
Lombard, IL

Psalm 44:1

O God, we have heard with our ears,
Our fathers have told us,
The work that Thou didst in their days,
In the days of old.

Psalm 145:4

One generation shall praise
Thy works to another,
And shall declare Thy mighty acts

The Birth of Lombard Gospel Chapel

During the 1920's, the talk in most religious circles across America was the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It seemed as if people couldn't get enough of this exciting Biblical doctrine. Churches everywhere were being forced to examine the facts of the second coming and then take a stand either for or against this teaching of scripture.

The Methodist Church formed a council to answer the question: "Should the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, as a future event, be taught from their pulpits?" The outcome of that Council became one of the beginning sparks for the creation of Lombard Gospel Chapel.

The Methodist Church Council ruled that "the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, as a future event", was not to be preached by it's pastors. This ruling caused an immediate uproar in the Lombard Methodist Episcopal Church, located at the corner of Main and Maple. Just how the protest was carried out is not sure, but for about a year (September 1926-July 1927) there was constant objection to the ruling from the congregation. The friction became so intense that the pastor, Omer T. Canfield, finally told five families, publicly from the pulpit, to get out and leave them alone. So, thirty plus people left the Methodist Church in early 1927. Among those that left were:

Frank & Margaret Erickson - Margaret and Ewyn
William & Florence Routson - Donald, Helen, Jim, Grace
Dave & Theresa Weber - Belle, Dave
William & Ruth Kerr - Grace, William, Robert, Eleanor
Mac Patterson
Noah & Estelle Roeshley - Loretta, Clifford, Waldo, Opal Ann

On October 13, 1927, the following appeared in the Lombard Spectator newspaper, under "Methodist Church Notes."

"It seemed to this minister (Omer Canfield) best to return to Lombard for another year. The unfortunate circumstances of the past year made it so. The wish of the local church was almost unanimous for the return of the pastor and family. With a fine spirit of unity now prevailing, and the old friction now eliminated, everyone is forward looking..."

Those people that left the Methodist Church engaged Rev. A.H. Fardon an evangelist Bible Teacher from Kansas City, to join with them to conduct tent meetings in Lombard. This had been a Methodist practice for many years. The tent was erected on a vacant lot south of the old Aurora Elgin R.R. depot (*Prairie Path today*) and just east of Main St. (*Near Roy's Auto Repair*)

At this time there was no "Plymouth Brethren" church in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn or in Lombard. There was, however, an "Assembly" in Chicago (748 N. Leamington Ave.) called the Austin Gospel Hall. During the end of 1926 and early 1927 some individuals from this assembly had moved from Chicago to the Lombard area. These people were:

Mr. & Mrs. Will H. Durant (Ida) - Glen Ellyn
Mr. & Mrs. William S. Kellar - Lombard
Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Alien - Lombard

As far as can be determined, there was no connection between the group from the Methodist Church and those from the Austin Assembly until the commencement of the tent meeting in August, 1927.

On August 4, 1927 this article appeared in the Lombard Spectator:

Camp Meeting Coming

Rev. A.H. Fardon, the well known Evangelist of Kansas City, Missouri, will very shortly open tent evangelistic meetings on the lot adjoining the portable school just south of the A&E Main street depot. Exact dates of the first meeting will be announced by cards and hand bills. It is expected that these meetings will last two weeks. They will be absolutely non-sectarian and Religious (in nature)(? *page was torn*)

On August 11, 1927 the Lombard Spectator ran the following:

Gospel Tent Meetings

Half Block South of Third Rail Station

Each Night-8 o'clock

Evangelist, A.H. Fardon of Kansas City

(former Moody Institute Student)

The meetings are Non-Sectarian,
Fundamental, Evangelistic.

OUR OBJECT-TO instruct in the Inspired word of God-and
to make plain God's way of Salvation.

Interesting Subjects of Vital Importance
("COME AND SEE")

So many people attended these meetings that a board was formed in order to consider the beginning of a new church. It was also during this time that the Durants became involved in this new work. Mr. & Mrs. Durant offered to purchase two lots in Lombard as well as pay for the construction of a new church building. The Board asked Mr. Fardon to consider coming to Lombard and be their full time worker. This he and his wife agreed to do.

(A note here about Mr. Fardon: He had come from Surrey, England to attend Moody Bible Institute in December 1914. He was married and 56 years old when he came to Lombard.)

According to the records in the Village of Lombard Building Department, a permit, number 1019, was issued on October 22, 1927 to build a Gospel Chapel at 40 W. Ash St. This would have been approximately two months after the close of the tent meetings.

Mr. Frank Erickson, a local contractor, and one of those who left the Methodist Church, offered to build the chapel. It was agreed that the building should look like a house from the outside. In case the work failed, the building could be converted and sold. The total cost for the building and lot was about seven thousand dollars.

The following deed was found at the Du Page County Recorder's office:

DEED RECORD 206

WARRANTY DEED

This INDENTURE, WITNESSETH, that the grantors, Andrew C. Anderson and Ruth L. Anderson, his wife, and William A. Burke and Kathryn Burke, his wife, of the village of Lombard, in the County of DuPage and State of Illinois, for and in consideration of the sum of ten dollars, in hand paid, convey and warrant to Ida H. Durant, of the village of Glen Ellyn, Count of DuPage and state of Illinois, the following described real estate to-wit: Lot twelve (12) (except the east sixty seven and twenty eight hundredths (67.28) feet therof) and the east twenty one and seventy eight hundredths (21.78) feet of lot eleven (11) in block twenty seven (27) in the original town of Lombard...

40 West Ash Street

Dated this third day of November, A.D. 1927.

This deed was filed for record November 10, A.D. 1927.

On the same day, Thursday, November 10, 1927 the following article was printed in the Lombard Spectator.

Announcing a New Church

In these days when there are so many modern teachings and translations of the Bible, when preachers and laymen alike are tearing to pieces the Word of God and the average Christian is steeped in unbelief and doubt, a deep need is felt by a goodly number of men and women in Lombard and -vicinity for a place of worship where the old time Gospel is believed and preached without reservations.

The faith in which our forefathers clung and for which the Pilgrim fathers left home and country, suffered hardships and fought to conserve, even to the laying down of their own lives, has become a thing of the past in the average church in this Twentieth Century in which we live.

But there are many people and many churches who still adhere to the old faith of our fathers and there are many in this vicinity who stand foursquare for the old time Gospel that was good enough for such great leaders of the past as John Wesley, Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon, Dwight L. Moody, Charles Finney and others, and it has been felt for a long time that there is plenty of room in our village for a Gospel Chapel that will stand for and preach the unadulterated Word of God.

Many of them have hoped, prayed and dreamed of the establishment of such a work here and their hopes and expectations have now been more than full filled. That God's hand is in it all is a certainty for the whole thing has come as a bolt from a clear sky.

The Gospel Chapel is a reality, - it is going to be built, - in fact, it is already under construction and is located on West Ash Street, near Lincoln. Weather permitting, it will be ready for dedication in about three months. The way it has come about is still further proof that God's ways are not ours, neither are our thoughts His, and whereas men's plans often fail to materialize, God's plans never fail.

Entire strangers to Lombard, a man and his wife, living in Chicago, (Durants) feeling so keenly the need to day as never before for the preaching of the old time Gospel, had it laid on their hearts to build a Gospel Chapel for that purpose and that alone, - a place that would stand for the Word of God from Genesis to Revelations,

There will be no church organization but simply a Gospel Chapel, undenominational, without an organized membership, but where any and all are invited to come and hear the Word of God preached by men who are fundamental in their beliefs and who are satisfied to accept the Bible as God's Word.

The church building is entirely paid for and will be supported only by the free- will gifts of Christian people.

There will be no bazaars, church suppers or other such affairs to raise money to support this work, neither will there be any offerings taken at any of the meetings. It will be operated strictly on a faith basis and there is no fear but that its entire needs will be taken care of and that it will not be involved in debt at any time.

In addition to a regular Sunday morning service, there will be an evangelical service each Sunday evening, a prayer meeting during the week and a Sunday School established which will be given over entirely to the work of getting boys and girls and men and women built up in the Christian faith.

This new work has not been started as some may think, to detract in any way from other local churches but rather to fill the long-felt needs of many who want just such a place of worship and it is indeed encouraging to see how many people there are in our little community who are interested in such a place.

Anyone in sympathy with a work of this kind and is interested in the purpose of the Chapel is invited to attend the services. Definite announcements will be made later of the hours of services.

Lombard Spectator - January 26, 1928

New Chapel Nearly Done

The new home of worship - the Gospel Chapel, on West Ash Street, is rapidly approaching completion. The walls are up, the glass is in, and about all that remains is the interior decoration to put the building to its proper uses. This is a beautiful little chapel and a distinct architectural addition to our beautiful village.

New Church To Open March 11th

Lombard Gospel Hall, Lombard's new non-denominational church will be formally opened March 11th, one week from next Sunday. Full details of the opening ceremonies will be found in next week's Spectator, The Rev. E. S. (A. H.) Fardon, the well known Evangelist will be the pastor of this new religious institution. Mr. Fardon conducted evangelical services here in Lombard last summer.

The new church building is located on West Maple (Ash) Street, and was constructed by Francke Erickson. It is a beautiful brick building, steam heated and insulated with balsam wood cathedral, giant windows light the main auditorium, which will seat about 200 people. It is to be used exclusively for religious purposes, and the main auditorium and the Sunday school rooms in the basement make up the entire space in the structure.

THE MAKING OF A NAME: LOMBARD GOSPEL CHAPEL

- Lombard:** "A goodly (considerable) number of men and women that felt the need for a place of worship in Lombard."
- Gospel:** This was to be a place, "where the old time Gospel is believed and preached without reservations."
A place that will "stand for and preach the unadulterated Word of God." (adulterate - make lower in quality by adding inferior or impure materials.)
- Chapel:** "There will be no church organization, but simply a Gospel Chapel, undenominational, without an organized membership, but where any and all are invited to come." (chapel - a place for worship used by people who do not belong to an established church.)

Unfortunately, there are many facts we just do not know about during those early days of Lombard Gospel Chapel's history. However, this is certain, these people believed the Gospel and wanted it preached without reservation. They also wanted the Word of God taught from Genesis to Revelation!

On Sunday morning, March 11, 1928, the Lombard Gospel Chapel opened its doors to the public. The location was 40 West Ash St.

The services were listed in the local paper as follows:

Sunday School - 10 30 A.M.
Preaching Service- 11 30 A.M.
Evening Service - 8 00 P.M.

Rev. A.H. Fardon, Evangelist will speak morning and evening.
There will be no public collections or soliciting of any sort. No one will be asked at anytime to join. We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and view the building, and get acquainted with us. We preach Christ and Him crucified.
"Come and See"

On Thursday, March 8, 1928, this short notice was found in the Lombard Spectator:

Lombard Gospel Chapel, 40 W. Ash St.

A week of special Prayer Meetings will be held in the above Chapel, commencing Monday evening, March 12th at 8:00 o'clock, (D.V.) To seek god's blessing upon this new work.

That first Sunday there were 60 adults and children in Sunday School at 10:30! Some of the new families that began to attend the Chapel in March were:

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Russell, & Jonathan
Mr. A.C. Bose - Villa Park
Mrs. Arne Olsen, Lillian & Evelyn
The Julians - Glen Ellyn
Mrs. Eva Williams, John, Joyce, Lots & Ronald

The Lombard Spectator, Thursday, April 5, 1928 read as follows:

The New Gospel Chapel

That the Lombard Gospel Chapel on West Ash Street has an important place in our community has been well assured during the three weeks it has been operating.

On Sunday morning, March 11th, the Chapel opened its doors to the public and a new Christian work was begun, which, it is a certainty, will prove a blessing among the people of our Village. The enthusiasm which this work has created is most encouraging to those interested in the mission of the Chapel. From its first service, that of the Sunday School, which opened at 10:30 March 11th, there has been surprisingly large attendances at every service.

The main auditorium, with a trifle more than 100 seats, will not long be able to take care of the numbers attending, as they are already well filled at nearly every service, even though the work is only started. However, it is possible to add sufficient seats to accommodate 175 and the basement auditorium is large enough to take care of almost as many.

Mr. A.H. Fardon, Evangelist and Bible teacher, has been speaking during the past Sunday mornings on the Book of Revelation. The truths contained in this last book of the Bible, the book probably less read and understood than any of the Scriptures, is being opened up and explained in a wonderful and interesting manner, bringing untold blessings to those who hear.

The Sunday evening services are given over entirely to an evangelistic address by Mr. Fardon, and one of the most surprising and encouraging features of the work is the large number attending the Sunday evening services.

The Gospel Chapel stands without reservations for the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation and it is the purpose and aim of those in charge of this new work to proclaim the truths of the Word of God in our Sunday School and in every service conducted.

The Lombard Gospel Chapel is affiliated in no way with any church or denomination and is entirely an independent work. It has no membership and no one will ever be asked to join the Chapel. It is carried on by the free-will gifts of Christian people who are interested and no public collections or subscriptions will be taken in any of its services, including the Sunday School sessions.

Everyone is most cordially invited and welcomed to the services in the Chapel. The hours of its regular public services are as follows:

Sunday 10:35 A.M.- Sunday School
Sunday - 11:30 A.M.- Preaching Service
Sunday - 8:00 P.M.- Evangelistic Service
Friday - 8:00 P.M.- Prayer Meeting and Bible Reading

Listed below are the sermon titles for the first six weeks of the Chapel at 40 West Ash St., by Mr. A.H. Fardon.

Sunday, March 18, 1928 -

Morning Message: Things which are most surely believed among us

Evening Message: What is the real Gospel

Sunday, March 25, 1928 -

Morning Message: The first of a series on the Book of Revelation

Evening Message: What is a real Christian?

Sunday, April 1, 1928 -

Morning Message: Studies in the book of Revelation

Evening Message: A Wonderful Love

Sunday, April 8, 1928 -

Morning Message: Studies in the book of Revelation

Evening Message: The Empty Tomb

Sunday, April 15, 1928 -

Morning Message: Studies in the book of Revelation
Evening Message: Can a saved person ever be lost?

Sunday, April 22, 1928 -

Morning Message: Studies in the book of Revelation
Evening Message: Two Brazen Serpents

Sunday, April 29, 1928 -

Morning: Mr. Davies - Missionary from India
Evening: Mr. Davies - Missionary from India

From April 1928 through September 1928 we find only three articles about the Chapel, other than listings of services.

Radio Singers Here Sunday

On next Sunday morning (July 1, 1928) at 11:30 the Lombard Gospel Chapel, West Ash Street, will have as its speaker at that service, Mr. Wendell P. Loveless, Radio Director of WMBI (Moody Bible Institute). He will have with him, Mr. King, who is Assistant Radio Director of WMBI and they will favor us with some Gospel songs. Mr. Loveless is well known to the radio audience and you are urged to attend this service and hear their Gospel message. Sunday School will be held at 10:15 as usual.

The Lombard Spectator, Thursday, July 26, 1928
(Front page Article)

Evangelist at Gospel Chapel

The Lombard Gospel Chapel will have Evangelist Norman Camp as its speaker next Sunday morning. Mr. Camp is well known to many in Lombard and is associated with the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, at present in charge of the Great Commission Prayer League. He will take as his subject Sunday Morning Prayer.

Sunday evening Evangelist George Cook of Oak Park, Illinois, will be the speaker at 8:00 o'clock.

Sunday School as usual at 10:15 A.M. All are cordially invited to attend these services.

Rally Day At Gospel Chapel

Sunday morning, September 30th, will be Rally Day at the Lombard Gospel Chapel Sunday School. The Morning service will be merged with the Sunday School for a big rally service.

The Sunday School will not meet at their usual hour of 10:15 but will meet at 10:45, replacing the regular Sunday morning preaching service.

We will have as our speaker for that occasion, Mr.

Guy A. Jordon, Assistant Director of Practical Work of the Moody Bible Institute. Mr. Jordon will have a message for both young and old but particularly for the children.

All are invited. Don't forget the hour and don't forget to turn your clocks back on Saturday night.

During that first year the Chapel grew quite rapidly. Since there are so few people living today who were involved in those early days, we will continue to turn our attention to newspaper articles. Later we will discuss the personal testimonies of some of the early "members" of the Chapel, and what they say about the growth.

From September 27, 1928 until January 17, 1929 there were no articles in the local newspaper other than listings for services. But on January 17, 1929, this very important article was printed.

The Lombard Gospel Chapel

Ten months have passed since the Lombard Gospel Chapel first opened its doors to fill an important and keenly felt need in our community. The purpose for which the Chapel was opened, that of the fundamental preaching and teaching of the Word of God, has been well carried out, both in the pulpit as well as the Sunday School.

The work of the Chapel has been in a large measure, under the ministry of Mr. A.H. Fardon, formerly of Kansas City, Missouri. For several weeks prior to Mr. Fardon's trip abroad, he took up the study of the Book of Revelation each Sunday morning. Although he preached on this subject several Sundays, he really just got started nicely when he went away. Much interest was manifested among his listeners in the exposition of this most wonderful book and many inquiries have been made in reference to a continuance of this series.

Although the Revelation is perhaps the least opened book in the pulpits of our churches today and likewise the least understood, it is one of the most interesting and contains some of the greatest truths in the entire Scriptures and it is God's revelation to us of the things that are to come. Moreover, God's Word promises a special blessing to those who read and study this marvelous Book.

Last June Mr. Fardon and his wife left on a four-months' trip to Europe, during which time he visited and preached in many cities in England and Scotland, returning to Lombard in October. During the absence of Mr. Fardon the pulpit was very ably filled by a number of men, among whom were Mr. J. Alexander Clark Author and Missionary to Africa, Peter and William Pell, both of Grand Rapids, Mich., Wendell P. Loveless and Norman Camp of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago and Brother Thomas, the Welsh evangelist.

The Sunday School work has been encouraging, both in attendance and interest. It is truly a Bible School and fully 75 percent of the attendance each Sunday morning will be found with their Bibles. A week ago there were four classes, every scholar of which had brought a Bible. In our Beginner's class, having an enrollment of about 20, there will be found an average of 14 or 15 each Sunday. These little tots have a room to themselves and have as their teacher Miss Dorothy Ferguson. The adult Bible class under the able teaching of Mr. Keller, has also had a remarkable attendance, ranging in numbers from 15 to 30. Another prominent and wide-awake class is our High School girls who number about fifteen and are taught by Mrs. McGowen. Mrs. Durant's fine class of girls are always near the 100 per cent mark in attendance, Bibles and Scripture verses and our other classes, under the teaching of Mr. Erickson, Mr. McGowen, Mrs. Fortune, Mrs. Prinzing and Mr. Cooper, are on the job helping to make the Sunday School a place where the boys and girls can learn of the things of God.

The Sunday evening Gospel service and the Friday night Prayer and Bible reading will be held at 7:30 instead of 8:00 o'clock during the winter months. Other services are Sunday School at 10:20 a.m., preaching at 11:30 a.m. On March 7, 1929, one year after the Chapel opened its doors at 40 West Ash Street, the Lombard Spectator was again used to communicate Chapel information and news.

Lombard Gospel Chapel Notes

Next Sunday morning at the Lombard Gospel Chapel Mr. A.H. Fardon will deviate from his series of expositions on the Book of Revelation at the 11:30 service, and will speak on the subject "The Work of Elders and Deacons in the Scriptural Church."

This is a subject in which Christians should be interested and a hearty invitation is given to all. The following Sunday morning Mr. Fardon expects to resume his series on The Revelation and will take for his subject "The Message to the Church of Laodicea", as recorded in the latter part of the third Chapter of Revelation. The great truths being brought out in this wonderful Book each Sunday morning are full of blessing to those who listen.

The Sunday evening services in the Chapel are devoted to a Gospel sermon. On Friday evenings the regular weekly service of prayer is held and this is without question one of the most important services of all.

The Sunday School is growing fast both in interest and numbers and the attendance is nearing the 125 mark. Mrs. McGowen's class of High School girls, with an enrollment of 17, had 16 present last Sunday. There were four large classes, every member of which had a Bible. The adult Bible class still maintains a fine attendance. Services are as follows:

Sunday at 10:20 a.m. Sunday School
Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Preaching
Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Gospel Service
Wednesday 8:00 p.m. Cottage Prayer meeting (first mention)
Friday 8:00 p.m. Prayer Service in the Chapel

<p>Note: Sunday School attendance on March 11, 1928 was 60 Sunday School attendance in March 1929 was nearing 125</p>
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The Lord's Supper at the Gospel Chapel

In the gathering of information on the history of the Chapel, there were, and still are, many questions. One of those that come to mind at this point is: Was the Lord's Supper being celebrated each week? In the many listings of services, which we have seen so far, no mention has been made regarding the Lord's Supper. However, there are a few references to the Communion Service at 9:30 each week. Later, in 1934, the "Worship Service The Lord's Table, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.," is listed each week under the "weekly calender." of the Chapel. Also, in personal interviews, individuals recalled having the Lord's Supper each week from the beginning of the Chapel.

We do know that the "Lord's Supper" was being taught and importance was placed upon it. On April 25, 1929 an article appeared in the Spectator regarding the subject of the Lord's Supper. Here is that article.

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead an hour next Saturday night as the daylight savings schedule goes into effect Sunday.

Mr. A.H. Fardon will preach both Sunday morning and evening. He will deviate from his series on the Book of Revelation at the 11:30 hour, taking as his subject "The Holy Communion" or "The Lord's Supper," covering its meaning, its place in our worship and who should partake of it. This subject is most interesting, especially to the Christians, as too often the Lord's table does not have its proper place in our worship.

At 7:30, Sunday evening, a Gospel service of song will precede Mr. Fardon's message. Sunday School as usual at 10:20. The little room in which Miss Dorothy Ferguson's class of Beginners meet is becoming crowded, 17 last Sunday and 22 a week ago.

An urgent invitation is given you to attend these services.

Lombard Gospel Chapel Notes

Mr. A.H. Fardon, of the Gospel Chapel, is in Adrian, Michigan holding a series of meetings and will not re-turn until Sunday, June 2nd.

During his absence the pulpit has been filled by various men. Two weeks ago Mr. Peter Pell, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, spoke at both morning and evening services, also gave a fine talk to the Sunday School.

The speaker last Sunday morning was Mr. R.J. Devine, Pastor of the Madison Street Church of Oak Park. Mr. Devine succeeded Mr. O'Hara, well known radio preacher and now pastor of the North Shore Congregational Church, Chicago. Last Sunday evening Mr. L. B. Armourding of Oak Park, a member of the Chicago Board of Trade and a lay-preacher with a powerful message, spoke.

Mr. Armourding will preach again next Sunday morning at 11:30 and Mr. William Nyman of Oak Park, also a business man and lay-preacher, will speak at the 7:30 evening hour.

Extra chairs were again required last Sunday morning to accommodate the Sunday School who had their banner attendance.

A cordial invitation is extended to you to attend any or all services in the Chapel. Mr. Fardon will be glad to call on any who are interested in their spiritual welfare or who are troubled or discouraged.

Tent Meetings as a Gospel Outreach

Tent Meetings were a regular gospel outreach for the Chapel. As we have seen, the first tent meetings held in Lombard, August 1927, resulted in the start of the Chapel. There is no indication that a tent meeting was held during the summer of 1928. The Fardon's were away in Europe for four months and no mention of meetings can be found. However, during the next six years (1929-1934) there were Tent Meetings every year except 1932. The reason that 1932 was skipped may have been due to the depression.

On July 18, 1929, the following was written in the Spectator:

"A campaign of tent meetings under the direction of the Chapel is being arranged during the month of August. These meetings will be held in Villa Park the first two weeks in August and in South Lombard the last two weeks. Complete and definite details will be given next week.

Two weeks later: Thursday, August 1, 1929 - Lombard Spectator

**Lombard Gospel Chapel
East Ash St.**

On next Sunday evening, August 4th, a two weeks' Gospel tent campaign will open in Villa Park on St. Charles road near Ardmore Avenue on the grounds where the carnival was held. (presently the Jewel parking lot)

These services will be conducted by the Lombard Gospel Chapel every evening except Saturdays and Mr. A. H. Fardon will bring an interesting Gospel message each night.

There will be good singing; meetings will last one hour, from 8:00 o'clock until 9:00, and no collections or subscriptions will be taken.

You are invited to attend these meetings every night or as often as possible. During the tent campaign both the Friday evening prayer meeting and the Sunday evening gospel services will be discontinued.

"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."

Thursday, July 9, 1931 - Lombard Spectator

Gospel Chapel Opens Series Tent Services

The Lombard Gospel Chapel opened a series of tent services Thursday night of this week at South Main and Harding road, with Rev. A. H. Fardon in charge assisted by William Kerr superintendent of the Sunday School, and the staff of Sunday School teachers.

A daily vacation Bible School will be conducted each morning, except Saturday and Sunday, between 9:30 and 11:30, and the main services of each evening will start at 7:45. No service will be held Saturday. All are invited to either of the meetings.

This Friday night there is to be the added feature of lantern picture entitled "How We Got the English Bible." No collections are taken.

July 16, 1931 - Lombard Spectator

Local Gospel Chapel Tent Meetings Grow

While there is the natural falling off of attendance during the summer months, due to the vacation period, the various services are being well supported. There is no shut-down in any of the services at the Chapel during the summer. However, there is a change in the Sunday evening service during July.

On July 9, a large tent seating about 150 was erected on South Main street and Harding road. Not only is there a gospel service every evening except Saturday but a children's meeting is held each morning, except Saturday and Sunday, from 9:30 to 11:30. This might better be referred to as a daily vacation bible school. The meeting is in charge of Mrs. A. H. Fardon and her helpers and the two hours is spent in bible study, games, songs, etc., a mixed program which is not tiresome to the children. The opening meeting brought out some 25 children and it has steadily grown until there is now an average attendance of nearly 70.

The evening services are also well attended and on one or two occasions the tent was practically filled. Mr. Fardon gave his series of talks accompanied by lantern slides on how we got the Bible. All are invited to these services every evening during week-nights at 8:00 o'clock and at 7:45 on Sunday evening.

Lombard Spectator, Thursday, September 6, 1934

Evangelist Talks at Gospel Tent Meeting

Tent meetings, sponsored by the Lombard Gospel Chapel, began last week in South Main street, on the Lilac pageant grounds where they were held last year, (1933) and are being well attended. For the coming week, beginning Sunday, the announced speaker is Dr. J. E. Conant, evangelist and Bible teacher. who has arranged the following program:

Sunday at 3 p.m. "The Great Puzzle of History." Why did God create man?

At 7:30 "The first Great Rebellion." Where did Satan come from?

Week Nights at 8 o'clock:

Monday - "The Ruin Wrought by Adam." Are we punished for Adam's sin?

Tuesday - "The Remedy Promised by God." Are Adam and Eve in Heaven?

Wednesday	"The Origin of Human Government." Is Democracy really safe for the world?
Thursday	"The Nation that can't be Destroyed." Will the Jews ever rule the world?
Friday	"The Law that Men can not Obey." Were the Ten Commandments given to keep or to break?
Sunday, Sept. 16	3 p.m. "The Grace Men Refuse to Accept." Why do the Lost reject salvation?
Everyone is welcome at these meetings. Come and bring your friends. There is room for all.	

(The Lilac pageant grounds were across the street from the Brust funeral home)

This is the last mention of tent meetings sponsored by the Chapel. It is possible that there were others, but not likely. Mr. Fardon was the main impetus for this endeavor, but by November 1934 he was no longer a part of the Chapel,

Rapid Growth after the Tent Meetings of August 1929

Four newspaper articles appeared soon after the Tent Meetings of 1929. Each one makes mention of in the Chapel. The first comes about one month after the meetings ended, on September 19, 1929.

Lombard Gospel Chapel

East Ash St.

"We preach Christ and Him crucified"

"Come and See"

Following the vacation season, all the Chapel ser-vices were well attended last Sunday. The Sunday School was close to the high mark again, the morning service was one of the largest ever held in the Chapel and enthusiasm is growing in the evening Gospel service. This hour's service, from 8:00 to 9:66, is a service that is enjoyed by all and one where the Gospel message is very definitely preached, particularly for those who are interested in their soul's welfare...

October 10, 1929, The Lombard Spectator

Lombard Gospel Chapel

Mr. Fardon returned to the pulpit of the Chapel last Sunday, continuing his series on the Revelation in the morning and taking his Gospel message in the evening from the book of Romans. After more than a year of Sunday morning expositions on the Book of Revelation he expects to close this series in one or two more Sundays. Mr. Fardon will preach both morning and evening next Sunday.

The Sunday School attendance is back to the high mark again and the Adult Bible Class continues to grow in both attendance and interest. This class, under the able teaching of Mr. Keller, has from 25 to 40 nearly every Sunday. If you have never been there come out next Sunday and we are sure you will come back. An oil burner has been added to the Chapel equipment, which prepares us for the coming winter months. Additional seats have also been added to the equipment. The outlook for the winter work is most promising and you are invited to all these services.

Sunday School 10 20 a.m.

Morning Service 11 30 a.m.

Evening Service 8 00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting/ 8 00 p.m. Friday

The third article appeared on November 7, 1929.

Lombard Gospel News

Both the interest and attendance at all of the Chapel services is growing. At morning and evening services last Sunday the place was nearly filled and the Sunday School established a new record of attendance with 151 present. There were 28 in the Beginners and 38 in the Adult Bible Class and all of the other classes were filled...

A new feature for the special interest of the children, although enjoyable and helpful to the adults as well, is our stereopticon pictures with a gospel message in them, from 7:15 to 8:00 o'clock Friday evenings. This new feature was inaugurated last Friday evening with a very good attendance.

The fourth article is from the Lombard Spectator, Nov.30th.

...The Sunday School is growing fast. The new hour of stereopticon picture at 7:00 o'clock every Friday night is being well attended.

The Lombard Chapel continued to grow at a rapid pace into 1930. By the beginning of the second year, March 1930, the Sunday School had increased by 150 (60 to 150). Seven months later, October 2, 1930, the paper read: "The Fall and Winter work in the Chapel is well under way and last Sunday saw good attendance at all the services. With 165 at the Sunday School session, we are looking forward to big things during the coming months. Our Sunday School is crowded but as we grow God will open up more accommodations. A large adult Bible class convenes every Sunday."

November 13, 1930: "Last Sunday set a new high-water mark in our Sunday School attendance, falling short of the 200 mark by only thirteen. (187) It is quite evident some new classes will have to be started as there are now many classes with entirely too many scholars to handle conveniently."

Rapid Growth results in New Work in Villa Park

It is possible, that when the October 2 article stated as we grow God will open up more accommodations plans were being made to begin a new work in Villa Park.

The first mention of this came on Thursday, March 5, 1931.

Next Sunday will mark the beginning of the fourth year's operation of the Lombard Gospel Chapel. Not only has the work of the Chapel grown very materially but its influence is reaching many outside of our village. Quite a number of folks from Villa Park and vicinity have been worshiping with us at the chapel during the past three years but recently it was thought the time was ripe for a new work to be started in Villa Park.

The result is that a hall was secured and a group of these people have begun a similar work in that locality. While this move has taken quite a group away from the chapel, new friends are coming and the work is growing. Between 35 and 40 people left to begin the new work.

The Villa Park News ran this notice on January 2, 1931:

New Church Here

A new church group to be known as the Villa park Gospel Tabernacle will meet Sunday morning In the hall above Stahl's Drug store, Villa Avenue and the C.A.E. R.R.

Sunday School will be at 9:45 a.m. and teaching services at 11:00 a.m. Gospel services will be held in the evening at 7:45 p.m. Rev. Kings ley of Iowa will be the speaker on Sunday.

A cordial welcome is extended to all.

Starting as a simple "hive-off", in January of 1931, this group continued to grow. In the Fall of 1953 a new building was erected at Harvard Ave. and St. Charles Road and the name changed to Harvard Ave. Bible Church. Today it is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. The pastor is J. Donovan.

Even with the new work in Villa Park, the Chapel continued to grow very rapidly. Just fifteen months after 35 to 40 people had left, these words are recorded in the Lombard Spectator on March 10, 1932:

This new undertaking, the new Villa Park Gospel hall, has grown rapidly and it now has a splendid cjrowrincj Sunday School o f Its own as well as other regular services.

The loss of attendance suffered by the Lombard Chapel through the becjinnind of this new work, has gradually been overcome and the local Sunday School has grown again to the point where every available space for class room purposes has been used. There are in all 16 classes in addition to the Adult Bible class...

The evidence is overwhelming that there was rapid growth at the Chapel during the first three or four years. But the question is. Where did this growth come from? Were there people leaving other churches? Were new families moving into Lombard? Or, was the growth through new converts? Well, the answer may be found in the comments of people interviewed about those early days at Lombard Gospel Chapel.

Many accounts have been given of people coming to Salvation through Jesus Christ. Olive (Danker) Badger says, "There must have been a real spiritual revival going on!" Yet, there is only one mention in the local paper about people being saved, and that was on December 31, 1931.

Lombard Gospel Chapel
West Ash Street

<p>... The purpose and aims of the Chapel in all its services is to uphold and preach the Word of god, from Genesis to Revelation, with a view to the salvation of souls and the upbuilding of christians. Many have been brought to the Lord through the Chapel services and some twelve or fifteen were baptized during the year.</p>

As a child Olive Badger remembers attending the Methodist Church in Lombard along with her mother, Leola (Roath) Danker. Her father, Earl, didn't attend since he was Lutheran. But in 1929 Mrs. Kerr from the Chapel invited both of the Dankers to a tent meeting. These meetings impacted both of them very much. In November of 1929, after talking with Mr. Fardon, they both accepted the Lord Jesus for salvation, on the same day. Leola was so excited that she went home and told her mother, Mrs. Leroy Roath, about Jesus Christ and her new-found faith. Soon after, Mrs. Leroy Roath became a Christian, left the Methodist Church and started to attend the Chapel.

The Kerr family, which was one of the original starters at the Chapel, had come to Lombard in 1922. They had attended the Methodist Church, but left over the Second Coming issue. Mr. Kerr also felt the church was too liberal and didn't preach the gospel. Eleanor Kerr, one of the daughters, was saved in 1929, at the age of thirteen. Her brother, Bill Kerr, was also saved at the Chapel. Bill later went out as a missionary to Tibet. His son is also a missionary under Christian & Missionary Alliance.

Another young man, Bob Schultz, later to become Eleanor Kerr's husband, was under conviction of his sins as a teenager. Instead of going out with his friends one Sunday night, he decided to visit the young people's group at the Chapel. That evening, in 1931, he opened his heart to the Savior. Bob went on to serve the Lord in Venezuela as a missionary.

Olive (Danker) Badger was saved in 1933 at the age of 11. She had hear the gospel message often, but home alone during a severe hail storm, she believed it was the end of the world. Out of fear, she asked Christ to forgive her of her sins and come into her life.

Earl Danker, Leola's husband and Olive's father, was killed in an automobile accident exactly one year to the day of his salvation. Mr. Danker was a contractor, building Sears homes, and his changed life had impressed many people in the Village of Lombard. At his funeral in the Chapel, Mr. Fardon presented, as was his custom, a strong Gospel message. Three individuals turned their lives over to Christ that November day in 1930.

These are just a few examples of what God was doing at Lombard Gospel Chapel. Many were being saved, baptized and added to the church almost daily. Yes, there was a revival going on at Lombard Gospel Chapel!

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Not only were there tent meetings, but also Special Meetings at various times in the Chapel. By "special" we mean Children's meetings, Ministry meetings, and Gospel meetings, held in addition to the regular services of the Chapel. The following articles, from the Lombard Spectator, cover the first 8 years of the Chapel history which mention these types of special meetings. We begin with the first article of March 6, 1930.

Lombard Gospel Chapel

Mr Fardon has gone to Kansas City, Mo. for two weeks during which time pulpit of the Gospel Chapel will be filled by Alfred P. Gibbs, formerly missionary to Africa. Mr. Gibbs will speak at the Sunday School hour and all classes will remain in the auditorium for the session. At 11:30 he will bring us the morning message of Bible teaching and again at 7:30 the gospel service will be conducted, Mr. Gibbs speaking.

Next Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings Mr. Gibbs will continue his services in the Chapel at 7:30 each night. Mr. Gibbs has spoken at the Chapel on several occasions during the past two years.

August 3, 1930

Mr. James McKendrick from Scotland will be holding meetings starting on Sunday and going to Wednesday evening. He will also be speaking to the women at their weekly meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Don't let the hot weather keep you from these services as we meet down stairs during the hot evenings, where it is comfortably cool.

October 28, 1930

On Tuesday evening, October 28, at 8:00 o'clock T. Ernest Wilson who has been laboring for the past seven years as a missionary in Portuguese West Africa, will speak at the Chapel on his work for the Lord in that field.

April 19-24, 1931

A.G. Bently, evangelist and Bible teacher, of Toronto, Canada. Is coming to Lombard for a series of services at Lombard Gospel Chapel, 40 West Ash Street, beginning Sunday, April 19th and concluding Friday evening, April 24th. He is a gifted servant of the Lord and one whose ministry has been blessed to the salvation of many souls.

A cordial invitation is extended to all and a feast of good things from God's Holy Word is promised to all who attend.

May 7, 1931

Dr. H.A. Ironside, pastor of the Moody Memorial church in Chicago and a well known Bible teacher and evangelist, is coming to Lombard next Monday (May 11) and will speak at the Lombard Gospel Chapel, 40 West Ash Street, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. All are invited to attend and are urged to come early as it is expected that the chapel will be crowded on those nights.

May 25-29, 1931

William R. Newell of Deland, Florida, a noted Bible teacher, will appear at LGC, for an engagement of meetings starting Monday evening, May 25, at 8 o'clock. The meetings will take place nightly up to and including May 29.

October 18-30, 1931

Beginning next Sunday evening at 7:30 a series of two week's Gospel services will be opened in the Lombard Gospel Chapel. These services will continue every night to and including October 30, except Saturday evening, beginning at 8 o'clock week nights and 7:30 on Sundays.

James McAKendrick, Scotch evangelist will be the speaker each night. A hearty invitation is extended to the people of Lombard and vicinity to attend these meetings as far as possible to do so.

August 8-10, 1932

Harold St. John, Internationally renowned as a Bible scholar and minister of God's Holy Word, will speak at Lombard Gospel Chapel at 7:30 o'clock (Sunday night) and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 o'clock.

This is a rare opportunity to hear a very pleasing speaker and Bible authority, and it is hoped that these meetings will be well attended.

All who love God's Word and who desire to know the way of salvation are invited and promised something vitally interesting and profitable.

October 24 - November 4, 1932

It will be good news to the children of Lombard to hear that Alfred P. Gibbs is coming back and will present a new series of illustrated talks of the kind that won so much favor during Mr. Gibbs' visit here two years ago.

These talks will begin next Monday evening, October 24 at 7:30 o'clock at Lombard Gospel Chapel. Last time the subject was Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan. This time it will be the Holy War by the same author. The slides used by Mr. Gibbs to illustrate these talks are all of his own making and have never been shown in Lombard.

June 14-28, 1936

Mr. Peter Pell, an evangelist of Grand Rapids, Mich. , will conduct a series of special meetings at the Lombard Gospel Chapel. Commencing next Sunday (June 14) in the Bible class at 10:45 a.m. and continuing each evening, except Saturdays, through June 28.

November 30 - December 13, 1936

All are invited to attend special meetings for the young people. Henry Petersen will use object lessons for illustrating his Bible talks. Small prizes are to be offered to those who meet certain conditions by attending. All these services are free and there are no collections, so none of our readers need hesitate to attend from a financial standpoint.

The following is a copy of the original flyer that was distributed, announcing these meetings.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30th FIVE SHARP ARROWS	SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 1936 10:45 A.M. Sunday School:- Points From Pencils 6:45 P.M. Gospel Service:- A Wise Choice	MONDAY DECEMBER 7th FLASHLIGHT LESSONS
TUESDAY DECEMBER 1st THE TWO ALLS	ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND Young People's Special Meetings IN THE LOMBARD GOSPEL SERVICE 40 W. Ash Street CONDUCTED BY Henry Petersen <i>Talks Illustrated With Models</i> 7:30 Each Evening CONTEST - PRIZES - HAPPY SINGING <i>Come Bring This Card</i>	TUESDAY DECEMBER 8th A REMARKABLE RESCUE
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2nd FIVE BIG CUPS		WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9th A PYRAMID OF GRACE
THURSDAY DECEMBER 3rd WONDERS IN A NUTSHELL		THURSDAY DECEMBER 10th THE LONGEST BRIDGE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 4th WHAT ABOUT ME	SUNDAY DECEMBER 13th 10:45 A.M. Sunday School:- Twelve Brothers 6:45 P.M. Gospel Service:- The Saviours Tears	FRIDAY DECEMBER 11th A TRIP TO EGYPT

Services change as the Chapel grows!

The Chapel began with basic religious services. During the first year there were the following services:

Lord's Table - 9:30 (Not open to the public)
Sunday School - 10:30
Morning Preaching - 11:30
Evening Gospel - 8:00
Friday Night Prayer - 8:00

The second year started with the addition of a Cottage Prayer Meeting each Wednesday Night. By November 1929, the Chapel had started a Friday Night children's meeting (forty-five minutes only) just before the regular Friday Prayer meeting. The Friday night session for the kids must have been very popular because by October 1930 more changes occur.

Cottage Prayer moves from Wednesday to Monday night.
Chapel Prayer meeting moves from Friday to Wednesday.
Friday Night becomes "Boys and Girls Hour" only.

Also in 1930 we see the beginning of the Young Peoples meetings. They were meeting at 6:30 on Sunday evenings, before the Gospel service. The services remained like this for the next three years. Then in January 1934, more services were added.

The Lord's Table - (Listed in newspaper - weekly)
Tuesday - Women's Prayer meeting
Mother's Meeting (alternate Tuesdays)
Friday Night Choir practice - 8:00 p.m.

The Friday Night Children's meetings came to a halt sometime in 1934 and it was 12 years before this work was restarted (June 1946)

If you were attending Lombard Chapel between 1934-1940, these services would have been available to you:

Sunday - The Lord's Table - 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Adult Class - 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Young Peoples - 6:30- 7:30 p.m.
Gospel Service - 7:45- 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday - Woman's Prayer / Mother's Meeting
(Alternate weeks) - 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday - Prayer and Bible Study - 8:00 p.m.

The First Four Years in Capsule Form

There are five major articles that give one year reviews of the work of the Chapel. Two of these have already been presented, (see below) Because of the amount of information in the remaining articles, they will be listed in their entirety. After the last article, dated March 10, 1932, there were no major reviews of the happenings of the Chapel found. All articles are from the Lombard Spectator on the following dates:

January 17, 1929 - The first ten months (pages 12-13)
March 7, 1929 - One year review (pages 13-14)
March 5, 1931 - Three year review
December 31, 1931 - Review of 1931
March 10, 1932 - Fourth year review

Gospel Chapel Shows Progress March 5, 1931

Next Sunday will mark the beginning of the fourth year's operation of the Lombard Gospel Chapel. Not only has the work of the chapel grown very materially but its influence is reaching many outside of our village. Quite a number of folks from Villa Park and vicinity have been worshipping with us at the chapel during the past three years but recently it was thought the time was ripe for a new work to be started in Villa Park. The result is that a hall was secured and a group of these people have begun a similar work in that locality. While this move has taken quite a group away from the chapel, new friends are coming and the work is growing.

A new class of small boys was started a week ago with Miss Tuck as teacher. The Sunday School attendance has kept up in a splendid manner during the winter months.

The Young peoples service at 6:00 o'clock each Sunday afternoon is becoming more interesting and growing in attendance. Miss Pearson, newly elected president of the group, is presenting most helpful ideas and securing interesting speakers from time to time. Last Sunday evening a group of young people from the Wheaton College had charge of the meeting.

The 11:30 service Sunday mornings and the 7:30 Sunday evening gospel service has been well attended. Mr. Fardon has been bringing messages of help and interest during the past several weeks.

The Lombard Gospel Chapel
December 31, 1931

As the old year comes to a close and we are about to embark upon another twelve months it is quite natural to look both backward and forward. A backward look-not so much perhaps at what has been done but to see wherein many things have been left undone; a forward look with hope and expectation for greater things in 1932 if the Lord tarries.

Last Wednesday evening more than 250 gathered to the Christmas program given by the Sunday School. About 15 girls and boys received rewards for perfect attendance during 1931. Other rewards and a big supply of candy was given out. A considerable amount of clothing and food was brought in at that time, all of which was distributed among the needy in our own vicinity. The Sunday School has progressed most satisfactorily during the year and the attendance has kept up well. One of the outstanding features of the school is the large number of Scripture verses that are memorized and spoken each Sunday. It is also remarkable that nearly every boy and girl coming to the school bring their Bibles with them.

A week-night feature has been carried on for the children during the Fall and Winter months. This has usually been in the form of stereoptican pictures in which the gospel is emphasized.

In addition to the morning worship service at 9:30 each Sunday, there have been the preaching service at 11:30 and the Gospel service at 7:30- not a single one of these services having been postponed during the year. While Mr. Fardon has been in charge of these services largely, there have been many speakers from other places who filled the pulpit during the past year. The weekly prayer meeting for the ladies on Tuesday afternoons has been carried on during many months of the year and the regular Wednesday evening prayer service has been a permanent meeting.

In the matter of finances even during this most abnormal year we are happy to report that all operating expenses have been met without a deficit. In addition to this a considerable gift has been sent to missionaries in the Foreign field and out of a special fund for the purpose, many needy families have been helped. God has again proven His promise to supply all our needs.

The purpose and aims of the Chapel in all its services is to uphold and preach the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation with a view to the salvation of souls and the upbuilding of Christians. All are invited to its services. Many have been brought to the Lord through the Chapel services and some twelve or fifteen were baptized during the year. Also, one of the Sunday School teachers, a former student of Wheaton college, just sailed early this month to take up his work as a missionary in Africa. This was Adam Ferguson who has been most active in the work at the Chapel during its four years of existence.

Gospel Chapel in Fifth Year

March 10, 1932

On March 11 the Lombard Gospel Chapel will begin its fifth year and in looking toward the future with its opportunities and responsibilities one cannot but reflect over the past.

Beginning four years ago with just a few folks, the work has progressed nicely. Starting the first Sunday school session four years ago with about 60 scholars, this phase of its ministry grew rapidly until we were faced with a problem of accommodations. However, about a year ago, a group of some 35 or 40 of our number felt led to open up a similar gospel work in Villa Park. While the local work suffered a considerable loss through this new undertaking, the new Villa Park Gospel Hall has grown rapidly and it now has a splendid growing Sunday school of its own as well as other regular weekly services.

The loss of attendance suffered by the Lombard Chapel through the beginning of this new work, has gradually been overcome and the local Sunday school has grown again to the point, where every available space for class room purposes has been used. Five new classes have been added which was made necessary on account of many of the classes out growing themselves. There are in all, 16 classes in addition to which is the adult bible class which has an average attendance of 25 to 30 people each Sunday. One of the teachers, a former student at Wheaton College, sailed in January to take up his work as a missionary to Africa.

Since the chapel opened its doors four years ago there has never been a discontinuance of any of its services. A. H. Fardon has been connected with the work of the chapel since its inception, in fact was one of those active and instrumental in the starting of the local work. While he has been away frequently speaking at conferences and occupying other pulpits he has kept in close touch with the chapel and devoted most of his time to it.

During the past 12 months there have been several other speakers at the chapel from time to time, among these Dr. H. A. Ironside, pastor of the Moody Memorial church of Chicago, who spoke for several evenings last spring. Other pulpit supplies are Peter Pell of Grand Rapids, A. G. Bently, Peter Pilon, W. R. Newall of Florida and James McKendrick of Scotland.

The Young Peoples meeting convenes each Sunday evening at 6:15. Miss Erma Moisted was recently elected president of the Young Peoples' work.

The finances of the chapel have always been handled by free-will gifts rather than through any subscriptions or public offerings and during the four years of existence all needs have been met. In addition to the general expenditures a considerable amount has been sent to missionaries as well as certain gifts to the needy.

Adam Ferguson

There are two questions before us: "Who was Adam Ferguson?" and "What part did he play in the early days of the Chapel?"

Adam Ferguson had come to Chicago from Scotland as a young man, probably in early 1926. He attended the Austin Gospel Hall until he enrolled at Wheaton College (Fall 1926?). Because of his association with Austin Gospel he was aware of the beginnings of the Lombard Chapel and decided to become involved with this new work. As a student, at Wheaton College, it was easy for him to catch the Aurora & Elgin R.R. in Wheaton and get off at the depot at main street Lombard (Prairie Path) and walk a half block west to the chapel.

The following statements about Adam Ferguson and his role at the Chapel, come from the December 31, 1931 article, (bottom of page 27) He was "one of the Sunday School teachers" and "has been most active in the work at the Chapel during its four years of existence."

In April, 1931, he was commended to the work of the Lord in South Africa by the Austin Assembly.

Chicago, April 15, 1931

From the Austin Assembly

To the Saints of God wherever gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, greetings:
Beloved Brethren:

It is our privilege at this time to commend to the work of the Lord in South Africa, as a fellow-laborer with Brother Edwin Gibbs, among the Zulus, Bro. Adam Ferguson, who has for the past five years, been associated with us in Austin Gospel Hall, and also with the testimony in Lombard, Ill.

Bro: Adam Ferguson hails from Leigh, Scotland. Shortly after he was saved, through the kindness of a brother in the Lord, he with others from Scotland, came to his country to study, having the Heaven-begotten desire to fit himself for service in the foreign field. This desire had been pregnant in his heart ever since, as a young boy, he had heard missionaries tell of the need of the Gospel in heathen lands.

He has graduated from school, and during the time there has sought every opportunity of witnessing a good confession for his Lord, although the path many times has been a rough one working his way through for the most part. He also associated himself with the brethren meeting in Lombard, giving such assistance in the work of the Lord as he could at Sunday School, as teacher, and in children's meetings, also preaching the Gospel with clarity and much acceptance....

Yours in the fellowship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the saints gathering in Austin Gospel Hall, 748 N. Leamington Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Signed C.E. Atwood, James Brown, David Stubbs, Laurence Skinner, John Duff, Tom Bendelow.

(James Brown - father of Tom Brown grandfather of Dave Brown)
From "Light and Liberty" May 1931

Gospel Chapel Picnics

One tradition that began early in the history of the Chapel was the annual Sunday School picnic. The first picnic was held in June of 1928 and continues even today. (1994) The picnics were normally held in the month of June. The location varied from time to time. In the early years the Chapel would go to Pottawatomie Park in St. Charles. (On the east side of the Fox River, two blocks north of North Ave.) The Chapel would rent two cars on the Aurora and Elgin Railroad for the day. Everyone would meet at the Chapel and walk to the depot on Main St. The train would then take them right into the park and remain there until the picnic was over, then return them to Lombard.

By June of 1934, the location for the picnic had changed to Deer Park in Bensenville. (Two blocks south of Fenton High School and one block east of 83) All would meet at the Chapel by 9:30 a.m., and go by bus or car to enjoy a Saturday of food, games, fun, and a short devotional. (The Durants owned the bus that was used each year.)

During the Second World War, 1940-1946, the picnics were held at Lake Ellyn in Glen Ellyn, due to gas rationing. Sometime in the late 40's or early 50's the Chapel began going to Busse Woods for the annual Sunday School picnic. Buses would leave the Chapel at 12:30 and make the trip up 53 to Higgins road. The late 60's found yet another location. Wheeler Park in St. Charles. By the 70's - 90's most of the Sunday School picnics were being held at the Lombard Commons, just blocks from the Chapel.

"And the Lord was adding to their number day by day whose who were being saved." Acts 2:47

From March of 1928 until December of 1934, many people were added to Lombard Gospel Chapel. We have listed some of those individuals that were present as the work began, but there were others who joined along the way. Some of them are:

Frank & Clara Hicks, Sherwood, Gwyn, Delores, & Frank Jr.

(Probably in 1929)

Earl & Leloa Danker, Richard & Olive (Badger)

Fall of 1929)

Mrs. Leroy Roath Sr., and Leroy Jr. (1930)

Earl & Eileen Elliot, John & Rob

Mr. & Mrs. McGowen

Miss Dorothy Ferguson

Mrs. Fortune

Mrs. Prinzing

Mr. Cooper

Mrs. Leslie

Mr. & Mrs. Tuck, Miss Tuck

Miss Pearson

Adam Ferguson (Student at Wheaton College)

Miss Erma Molsted

Mr. & Mrs. Klett

A True Balance

There was a strong emphasis on the preaching of the gospel at the Chapel, but also a great deal of teaching as well. We mentioned early on about the study from the book of Revelation. On the completion of the book of Revelation, Mr. Fardon began a series from the book of Genesis. (Fall 1929) "This study is most Interesting and is bring us many new blessings inspired by these first four words,'In the beginning God'". (Lombard Spectator - November 30,1929)

In September of 1930, a new series was begun on the Holy Spirit. The subject titles were:

"Introduction to the Holy Spirit" - Sept.21,1930
"Sealing of the Holy Spirit" - Sept.28,1930
"Personal Work of the Holy Spirit - Oct. 5,1930
"Grieving of the Holy Spirit - Oct. 12,1930
"Evidences of the Spirit Filled Life - Oct. 19,1930
"Holy Spirit" - Oct. 26,1930

The Sunday evenings, in September and October, Mr. Fardon began a series on "The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ", from the book of Daniel. Mr. Fardon used a large chart (made by his wife) to assist him in teaching Daniel.

"Much interest is being manifested at the 7:30 evening Gospel Service and the subject concerning the Second Coming of Christ. It is not only helpful. Instructive and interesting but brings those vital teachings about the most important and yet sadly neglected teaching of which the Word of God is filled."

(Lombard Spectator - October 16, 1930)

On Sunday mornings in the month of November and following, Mr. Fardon began teaching from the Gospel of John. Specifically on the Miracles of Christ.

Sunday- November 2,1930 - First Miracle of Christ
Sunday- November 9,1930 - "The Healing of the Nobleman's Son
Sunday- November 16,1930 - "Healing of the Man at the Pool of Bethesda."

After the above listings, there is no more information found in the paper relating to sermon titles or subject matter being taught at the Chapel. However, articles continue in the newspaper but with a different strategy in view. That was to present short articles on interesting subjects with a short verse or gospel message. Some of the subjects considered were:

What Great Men Say About The Greatest Book - (Oct. 1931)
(Three articles)
The Testimony of the World's Greatest Scientists on Evolution -
(Nov.- Dec.1931 - Five articles)
The Economic Depression - (Feb. 25,1932)
What We Believe and Teach - (January and February 1932 -five articles - pages 33-37)
What Think Ye of Christ? - (March 3,1932)
Does God Answer Prayer? - (March 17,1932)
The Living God - (March 31,1932)
Bring Out Your Dead - (April 7,1932)
Our Weekly Message - (Six Articles presenting the Gospel during 1934)

The Lombard Spectator was used as a vehicle to share the Gospel as well as general information about the Chapel. There were over 67 articles from August 1927 through December 1934. (This does not include countless times that the paper just listed the services of the Chapel) The break down of the main articles is as follows:

1927 - 3
1928 - 8
1929 - 13
1930 - 8
1931 - 12
1932 - 12
1933 - 0
1934 - 11

After 1934 there was a marked difference in the number of articles appearing in the newspaper. (The reason for this we will deal with a bit later) From January 1935 until December 1947, only 20 articles are recorded in the paper. However, the services for the Chapel are listed just about each week in the Spectator during that same period of time. Here is a break down of those articles:

1935 - 1 Special Young Peoples Meeting
1936 - 2 Special Meetings
1937 - 2 Missionary at Chapel
1938 - 1 Announcing a visiting Missionary
1939 - 3 Special Meetings - All in January!
1940 - 4 Special Gospel Meetings
1941 - 0
1942 - 0
1943 - 3 Missionary/Christmas Program
1944 - 1 Special Meetings
1945 - 2 Special Meetings
1946 - 1 Children Meetings
1947 - 0

What We Believe and Teach

Five articles were written on "What we believe and teach". These appeared in the Lombard Spectator during January and February 1932. Since the contents really present to us just what the Lombard Gospel Chapel believed and stood for, they will be given in their entirety.

January 14, 1932

Believing that it will be of interest to many of the church news readers to have further information brought before them regarding the Gospel Chapel, as to its objectives and principles, we shall by the kind courtesy of the Editor of "The Lombard Spectator" which we much appreciate, hope to bring before you some of the features which characterise the above work in Lombard.

We are now almost four years old, the Chapel being first opened March, 1928.

We wish to attribute all praise and glory to God when we say that these four years have been rich in spiritual blessing. We have not one thing to boast about. Any good that has been accomplished has been entirely by the help of God. We face the new year with no debt upon our hands whatsoever. All working expenses have been met, considerable sums of money have been regularly sent out to missionaries in many parts of the world. Home missionary work in our own land has not been forgotten, and local needs have been ministered to. No public collection has ever been taken up at our services, never have we solicited individuals for subscriptions, or resorted to any of the many methods often used to raise money for church support.

How These Needs Have Been Met

We find that in the Bible full instruction regarding the support of the Lord's work has been given. We have sought in some measure to follow these instructions. We have found them to be true, and for four years experienced that God honours His Word. How simple many church problems would become if only people believed God, and obeyed Him. Christ himself said "Ye will not believe Me, because I tell you the truth." People are saying today "You cannot believe the Bible in a literal way." Well the Gospel Chapel says- "Thy Word is true from the beginning." For four years we have proved it along financial support, and found the Bible method works.

(From the Lombard Spectator, Lombard. Illinois)

What We Believe and Teach

January 28, 1932

At the Gospel Chapel we believe and teach that next to the gift of Jesus Christ as the sinner's Savior, and the Holy Spirit, that God's greatest gift to man is the Bible.

We believe the Bible contains from Genesis to Revelation a divine revelation of God in relation to mankind. We believe that there is not one single contradiction of doctrine in the whole book. There are some apparent contradictions in the book, but when studied in their several connections are not so in reality. We believe that the records of all things in the Bible are recorded for man's highest good, under direct inspiration from God. Not that God inspired all the deeds that scripture records, but rather that God inspired men of old to record these acts that men might learn God's attitude to sin and righteousness. God did not speak every word in the Bible, nor did He inspire every act, but God did cause these words and acts to be recorded.

The Bible is credible, that is, it is worthy to be believed. We believe that the Bible is given to us in life, and that where people have a Bible they will be held responsible to God for not knowing it and believing its records. "The scriptures cannot be broken."

Salvation

We believe that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" and that because of this fact, all are eternally lost apart from the salvation that God in grace has provided for all who will believe. God's way of salvation is very clear.

"Ye Must Be Born Again"-the necessity of a new birth is universal. No sex, position, religion, or any other condition exempts anyone from this necessity. Not to be born again is to be eternally lost. Our first birth by nature was an entering into life, and with it came our natural life. God says- "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." We may educate, cultivate, and morally improve, and become very religious in this natural life of ours, but all that will in no way fit you for heaven. "Ye must be born again." This second birth is a miraculous work of God. "Born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." It is absolutely the work of God.

The inspired writer Peter tells us how we are born again. He says- "Being born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." Whosoever will believe what God has recorded about His son Jesus Christ, of how he died for our sins as lost sinners, and is willing by faith to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior -that person will be born again. The new birth is a new life, not mere religion. "Ye must be born again."

(From the Lombard Spectator, Lombard, Illinois)

What We Believe and Teach

February 4, 1932

We believe that there is no subject that has to do with Christian life and service that is more important than prayer. In II Chronicles chapter 7, verse 12,13, we read -

"The Lord appeared unto Solomon by night and said unto him . . . If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people, if my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Here lies the solution for the economic depression which lies upon our beloved land and people.

But who among us believes in this solution? Who cares these days for God's message? Where are those who have a real vital faith in the old Bible? And the echo answers-

"Where"?

Tennyson wrote- "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Another poet has written:

"Prayer is the breath of God in Man, Returning whence it came. Love the secret fire within, Prayer the siring flame?"

Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer, except that which lies outside the will of God." "Lord teach us to pray"

(From the Lombard Spectator, Lombard, Illinois)

What We Believe and Teach

February 11, 1932

Many today deny a personal Devil. It is just a product of the ignorance and superstition of bygone days, ugly fiction intended to frighten weak minded people, this is what many would have you believe.

The only people who deny the personality of the Devil are those who do not believe the Bible. From the beginning of Genesis to the last book, the Bible is full of the accounts of the works of the Devil. A more serious charge still lies at the doors of such unbelievers, and it is this; that they would rob the Lord Jesus Christ of all moral integrity, and expose HIM before the world as a false witness. Over and over again the Lord refers to the personality of the Devil. The great work of the Devil is to "blind the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." All unsaved people are under the power of the Devil. The Devil hates Christ and His Word, hence hatred to Christ and the Bible is seen in all the unsaved people of the world. The Devil is man's most powerful foe, and man is deceived by this being when he denies his personality. Christ Jesus has conquered the Devil at Calvary. Christ Jesus died as a substitute for sinners, that by faith in that death, sinners might be saved from the Devil's eternal place of torment, which is everlasting fire. Apart from Christ Jesus there is no salvation. But HE is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him. We at the Gospel Chapel believe in a personal Devil, and also in a personal living, risen Christ who is a mighty Savior for all who receive HIM by faith.

Come to our services.

(From the Lombard Spectator, Lombard. Illinois)

What We Believe and Teach

February 18, 1932

The Second Coming of Christ. We believe that Jesus is coming again to earth. Not to suffer at the hands of men, but to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. He himself said, "I will come again." Angels said he would come again. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Could anything be plainer? This does not mean that when death comes to a person that it is the coming of Jesus. The coming of death does not fulfill the words spoken by the angels.

Some fourteen hundred times in the Old Testament His coming to reign as a King is spoken of. About three hundred times in the New Testament His second coming is referred to.

The second coming of Christ to reign as King is often ridiculed by teachers, but that does not surprise us in the least, for the scriptures say "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers,...saying, where is the promise of His coming?"

Scripture also tells us very plainly what sort of conditions will prevail on the earth at the time of His coming. Listen to Christ's own words on this point. "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." What were the days of Noah? Scripture tells us that the earth was corrupt, the earth also was filled with violence. All flesh had corrupted his way. Mankind had forsaken God's laws, and the wickedness of man was great in the earth. This then will be the exact state of things prior to Christ's coming again to earth. Who in Noah's day believed in a flood of judgment? But it came. Who today, believes that judgment is soon to fall upon a Christ rejecting world? But it is coming. The last days will be marked by much religion. But religion is not Christianity. The Christ life is the test of Christianity, not religion. Where is Christ in your life?

(From the Lombard Spectator, Lombard. Illinois)

Following these five articles on "What we believe and teach," there were six short gospel articles in March and April, 1932. After May 19, 1932 there are no listings in the paper of the services at the Chapel until January 25, 1934! From December 8, 1932 until January 25, 1934, there is no material in the Spectator regarding Lombard Gospel Chapel.

1934 - The Year of Changes!

On January 25, 1934, we find a whole new format for the listing of Chapel information in the newspaper. The new format adds the following information: (underlined)

Lombard Gospel Chapel
Pastor A. H. Fardon
40 W. Ash St.
Weekly Calendar

Sunday - Worship Service - "The Lord's Table" 9:30 - 10:30
Sunday School - 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.
Adult Bible Class - 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.
Young People's meeting - 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Gospel Service - 7:45 to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday - Prayer meeting - 8:00 p.m.
Friday - Choir practice - 8:00 p.m.
Pastor A.H. Fardon, 320 East Elm St.

Sometime before January 25, 1934 there must have been discussions going on about presenting Mr. Fardon as "Pastor" of the Chapel. The decision was made to publicly list Mr. Fardon as the "pastor" of the Chapel on January 25, 1934. The above listings continued until November 29, 1934, at which time, the title "Pastor A. H. Fardon" was dropped. But during the year, 1934, a real friction arose at the Chapel regarding this exact matter. Did the Chapel really want to recognize someone as their "pastor"? (It is possible that the friction had been developing for sometime before 1934)

In the chapel there were a number of individuals that had a strong "Brethren" background. "The Brethren group wanted to discontinue the services of Rev. Fardon and change to a Brethren type of government. No preacher, Just lay leaders; no women to pray or speak except in women's meetings, communion every Sunday morning, participants allowed by permission only, no woman without her husband, (I am not sure what the last statement means or if it applies to the communion service.) and only born again believers who were members of the particular congregation (closed communion)." (Taken from the "Roots" of the Lombard Bible Church)

Rather than deliberately cause problems, Mr. Fardon asked that a meeting of the church be called. His position was stated mainly in two areas. One, remain on as the full time pastor and second, having more of a Fundamental Bible Church structure. He suggested that the people vote as to whether he should stay on under these terms. Mr. Fardon stated that he would stay on only if he received two-thirds of the vote. The vote was taken and counted, and Mr. Fardon found himself two votes short of the two-thirds. He immediately resigned from Lombard Chapel.

However, the rest of the story is quite interesting. Two women were uncertain whether they should vote since they were newer believers and unsure of "Brethren" type of government and background. So they refrained from voting. But both of these women, Leola Danker (mother of Olive Badger) and Mrs. Jullian (mother of Sally Mathieson) were in favor of Mr. Fardon. He had been instrumental in leading each of them to the Lord.

From information obtained, the Durants and the Kellar's had left the chapel because of Mr. Fardon and the fact that the chapel wasn't following "Brethren" ways. Following the resignation of Mr. Fardon, The Durants and the Kellar's returned to the Chapel. However, when the leaders (Elders) of the Chapel decided they wanted to continue this work without the aid of a pastor or full time worker, many people decided to leave.

"Since this was not acceptable to all, these people withdrew from Lombard Gospel Chapel: Routsons, Roeshleys, Russells, Tucks, Mae Patterson, Kletts, Bose. " About 25 in total. (This was probably in early fall, 1934.)

"Stranded, Mrs. Klett invited Rev. Fardon to continue Bible classes in her home at 1160 S. Main Street. It was at these meetings that the suggestion was made to organize a new church. Rev. Fardon agreed that this was a fine idea but insisted that under no circumstances was he to become involved as preacher, member, or Bible teacher. Therefore, a committee of men was formed and met at the home of Mr. Rouston on West Road where the Lombard Bible Church was organized as a Fundamental Bible Church and linked to the Cicero Bible Church where A. U. Tozer was pastor~"(Quote from the "Roots" of the Lombard Bible Church.)

After Authur Fardon resigned, it is not clear how long he continued at Lombard Chapel. But by March 1935, we know that Mr. Fardon was asked to substitute as pastor of the Oak Park Bible Church. (Calvary Memorial Church today) Within five weeks Mr. Fardon was asked to become the full time Pastor.

The following account is from the History of Calvary Memorial Church:

"The twentieth anniversary was commemorated by a week of special services beginning with the coming of Rev. Authur H. Fardon of Lombard, Illinois, to become our sixth pastor, on Sunday, April 12, 1935. "

"In April, 1940, we were rejoicing in our twenty-fifth anniversary. Pastor Fardon had completed five years with us and had been joined by his son, the Rev. Leonard V. Fardon, to serve as his assistant."

Mr. Fardon continued there as the pastor thru 1943. When Mr. Fardon left the Lombard Gospel Chapel he was 64 years old and 72 when he retired from Oak Park Bible Church in 1943.

Lombard Gospel Chapel continued services as usual after the departure of Mr. & Mrs. Fardon and the group of 25 which began Lombard Bible Church. Services were still listed each week in the Spectator; however, a change came in the amount of additional material about the Chapel in the newspaper. After November 1, 1934, articles relating Chapel news are almost non-existent. (see page 32) This is probably due to the fact that Mr. Fardon, we believe, wrote most of the articles for the Lombard Spectator.

Actual Growth After 1935

Little information is available as to the size or the growth of the Chapel following the events of late 1934. Not until a short note is printed in the Lombard Spectator, March 28, 1940, relating to Easter Sunday attendance, do we learn anything of the size of the Chapel. I quote, "Lombard Bible Church had 150 attendants Sunday, while last year there were 112 and the Lombard Gospel Chapel reports 140 over the 135 of last year. "

The Chapel seemed to reach a plateau and probably was smaller, (see pages 27 & 28) with not much growth after January 1935. This is not to say that the Chapel was dying off, that it was not. However, with the lack of a full time worker, the work seems to have suffered as far as new growth. (This is strictly my personal observation as I gathered information about the Chapel)

Lombard Bible Church on the other hand was growing. Starting with about 30 the first Sunday of 1935, they saw their numbers almost double during the first year. And, as just mentioned, Lombard Bible was nearing 150 by 1940. While Lombard Gospel Chapel, for the most part, was unchanged during the same time period.

Young People's Activities

In spite of the differences in Church Government, the people from the Chapel and the Bible Church continued to work together on various occasions. Just three months after the "split", the young people of both churches combined to present a special service for "Young Folks". We have this account from the Lombard Spectator, March 28, 1935.

Gospel Chapel Invites Young Folks Sunday

A service of special interest to all young people of high school and college age is to be held in the Lombard Gospel Chapel, 40 West Ash street, this coming Sunday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. The "W" club gospel team of Wheaton College will conduct this meeting...

The theme of the meeting is to be "Christ - a Living Savior" and will be presented in quartet numbers, instrumental selections, and personal testimonies. A cordial invitation to attend this service is extended to all the high school and college men and women of the community.

The young people of the Lombard Bible church, a new local group which worships in the social hall of Ballou apartments on South Main street, will join in this service in the Gospel Chapel Sunday evening.

The young people of the Chapel, in December 1936, decided to begin combining all of the young people's meetings with the Lombard Bible Church. They would meet each Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Bible Church. This practice continued until January of 1940. There were also times in which the group from the Villa Park Gospel Tabernacle joined in for special occasions. (This was the "hive off" church of 1931 - see page 20) The following example again comes from the Lombard Spectator, January 26, 1939.

Gospel Young People Arrange Special Meet

Young folks of the Lombard Gospel Chapel at 40 West Ash street, and the same group in the Lombard Bible Church, 9 North Main street, are inviting all their friends, young and old, to a joint meeting next Sunday evening at 6:30 in the Bible Church rooms on the second floor of the Hammerschmidt building, 9 North Main Street. Young people of the Villa Park Gospel Tabernacle will bring an inspiring message from God's Word in word and song. They are extending an urgent invitation to all interested, to come and receive cordial welcome.

Speakers and Special Meetings after 1935

Guest speakers continued to be brought in for Sunday morning and evening services. Notices would be written up in the local newspaper, Lombard Spectator, for "special" speakers, special meetings. The following articles record who some of those speakers were in the late 1930's.

February 13, 1936

"Mr. Peter Pell, the well known Bible teacher from Grand Rapids; Mich., will preach at the Sunday morning service; also on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:45 o'clock."

June 11, 1936

"Commencing next Sunday in the Bible class at 10:45 a.m. and continuing each evening, except Saturdays, through June 28, 1936. Mr. Peter Pell, an evangelist of Grand Rapids, Mich., will conduct a series of special meetings at the Lombard Gospel Chapel at 40 West Ash street."

November 26, 1936

"Next Sunday morning and evening at 10:45 and 6:45 respectively Peter Pilon of Holland, Mich., a former village blacksmith, will speak in the Lombard Gospel Chapel."

"These services will be followed on the Monday and every night thereafter except Saturday up to and including Sunday, December 13th, by special meetings at 7:30 for young people. The speaker is Henry Peterson."

October 21, 1937

"...at 8 o'clock Friday evening of this week, prepared to see and hear an excellent illustrated lecture, put on by Mr. Buckland, a returned missionary from Rhodesia, Africa. His pictures are good and he is an eloquent speaker."

December 15,1938

"...Sunday evening Ernest Sandeen, of the Bible Truth hall of Oak Park, will deliver the gospel message in the Chapel and will also preach the gospel in song. Mr. Sandeen is not a stranger to Lombard and his many friends will be glad of this opportunity to welcome him back for another brief visit. All are welcome."

January 19,1939

"... James Spink, who has resided in Europe for the last few years, is to be the speaker. Mr. Spink's lectures will deal with present world conditions in the light of current events, contrasting them with apparent predictions from the scriptures."

"The church is eager that many residents of Lombard and suburbs will be able to attend these meetings."

On different occasions outside groups would be invited to Lombard Gospel Chapel and asked to take an evening service. Often this would be in the form of music and testimonies.

March 28,1940

Chorus to Sing at Gospel Chapel Sunday

"The Gospel chorus, a group of 30 young people from the Laflin Street Gospel Hall Chicago, will have charge of the evening service at Lombard Gospel Chapel, 40 West Ash street, next Sunday evening.

This chorus of trained voices will present the gospel in song and several of the individual members will give their testimonies during the course of the meeting.

An invitation is extended to all to attend this service. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. No collection will be taken."

The response for this concert was so good that the group was invited back June 2, 1940. However, this time to give two concerts.

"Both the afternoon and evening programs are given under the auspices of the Young People's group of Lombard Gospel Chapel. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these programs."

The emphasis in the 1940's seems to continue that of the past few years. (1940 starts off with two special meetings, one in April the other in May.

April 4, 1940

Gospel Chapel Holds Series of Meetings

"A series of meetings of special interest will begin at Lombard Gospel Chapel, next Sunday evening, April 7. The speaker during this series will be Leonard E. Brough of Yakima, Wash., former pastor of the Baptist Church of that city.

Subjects announced for his four addresses are as follows:

Sunday evening- "The First Bible Passover"

Tuesday evening- "From His Cross to His Coming"

Thursday evening- "Altars of a Pilgrim"

Friday evening- "The Church - The Body of Christ"

"On Wednesday evening, April 10, Adam Ferguson, a missionary from South Africa, now home on furlough, will speak at Lombard Gospel chapel at 8 p.m. Mr. Ferguson and his family will sail for South Africa on May 4 and this will be his final appearance in these parts. Following his address there will be a social half hour."

May 2, 1940

"....an invitation to attend a series of special meetings by George Eraser of Hamilton, Ontario, formerly a missionary in Venezuela."

"Mr. Fraser is a gifted speaker and the group promises some very interesting meetings."

"Meetings will start Sunday evening, May 5, and continue through Friday, May 17, except Saturday. Sunday services are at 7:30 p.m., all other evenings at 8:00 p.m. Meetings are free, no offering will be received."

"Other services of the church are also open to the public and the church is issuing a special invitation to newcomers in Lombard."

After these two special meetings, very little information is available in regards to the affairs of the Chapel. The Young people's group stopped meeting with the Bible Church. The Mother's Meeting on Tuesdays has been dropped from the schedule. Articles in the newspaper are non-existing until fall 1943. Much of this is probably due to the effects of the Second World War.

Pacific Garden Mission, in Chicago, was very busy during this

period of time. Many servicemen passed thru the Service Men's Center at 646 South State Street. Lombard Chapel had an ongoing part in this ministry. The following helps explain their part:

Lombard Spectator-December 16, 1943

"Women of the Gospel chapels in the Chicago area are supplying food for the 400-500 men who pass through the Service Men Center in Chicago. Lombard ladies take charge of the Center on the first and third Friday of each month and also plan to be there on New Year's Day."

Remember growing up and being part of your church Christmas Programs? Lombard Chapel was and is no exception to that tradition. Stated in 1928, this event still carries on today! This one before us, December 28, 1943, had a special bonus.

"A special Sunday school Christmas program is being prepared by the youngsters to be presented Tuesday evening, December 28 at eight o'clock. The Bible will furnish the theme for the program. At that time the children will also receive their awards for perfect attendance."

MORE CHANGES COME IN 1944

	FROM	TO
The Lord's Table -	9:30 - 10:30	9:30 - 10:45
Sunday School -	10:45 - 11:45	11:00 - 12:15

First Chapel newspaper - "Chapel News" - Issue #1 - September