

Our Church History – Hibbing Alliance Church

1923-1939 The Birth of Our Church

- 1923- The First Alliance began holding services in homes, in schools, and on the street. Rev. W J Naughton and Rev. Paul McKinney served as pastors.
- 1926- Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Cedar led services at a Howard Street store.
- 1927- The Cedars left for missionary service in South America.
- 1928- Rev. Abe Voth (CMA Church Superior, WI) began serving as pastor.
- 1929- Prayer meetings were held in the home of Howard Manlove.
- 1933- Rev. Lucas Cook took over as pastor, and services occurred at a store building in North Hibbing. The first missionary convention was also held at this time.
- 1935- Rev. Vernon Gowdy was pastor.

1940-1949 Building Roots

- 1940- The church moved to South Hibbing and incorporated as Alliance Gospel Church under Rev. John Swanson.
- 1941- The church became a branch of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. **Phil Block became a member of the church prior to 1942.*
- 1942- The basement of 2201 West 2nd Avenue was built under the leadership of Rev. E F Mapstone.



Photo taken in September 2012 of 2201 2nd Avenue West, Hibbing, MN

- 1944- Rev. L P Hustad became pastor.
- 1947- Rev. R E Carlson became pastor.
- 1949- *Luella Block, Phil Block's wife became a member.*

1950-1959 Recognizeable Faces Become Members

- 1950- *Alice Edwards became a member after moving to Hibbing from Cloquet in 1949. Alice remembers being in the youth group proved to be a disappointment because the kids did things that she had never been allowed to do. She went on a summer outreach trip with the Bloombergs – a musical family from Hibbing – and then in 1952 left for Elim Bible Institute in New York, going to college and working until November 1956 when she came back to Hibbing because her dad died.*
- 1953- *Rev. N A Weber became pastor and the church moved to 2306 3rd Avenue West (old site of Our Saviour's Luthern Church). *Jim Nelson became a member. ** Beci Finney remembers there were perhaps 75 attendees at the time.*
- 1955- *Olivia and David Carlson became members. *At this time there were couples small groups, called "Kings Couples".*
- 1956- *Everett and Joyce Dague became members.*
- 1959- *Earl and Shirley Sunnarborg became members.*



Photo taken circa 1966 of 2306 3rd Avenue West, Hibbing, MN
Rev. Jim Stone is present on the steps



Photo taken in September 2012 of 2306 3rd Avenue West, Hibbing, MN

1960-1966 Bursting at the Seams

- 1961- Rev. N A Weber left for a pastorate at Maplewood Alliance Church. Rev. James Stone took over as pastor. **Alice Edwards remembers Rev. Stone as a "pastor's pastor", a shepherd, a hard worker, and a good friend.* The congregation is about 50 at this time.
- 1963- *Beci Finney became a member, although she had grown up in the church since 1953. *Beci remembers the church offering youth ministries, Jr. And Sr. AYF, Vacation Bible School, Camp, Sunday School, and she particularly remembers a very powerful experience of Youth-for-Christ in Virginia with Ken Davis.* At that time there was a Junior Choir due to the sizeable group of young people. The church was growing and asked the city for permission to expand the building, but was denied. The church begins looking for a new location.

1967-1969 New Beginnings

The site at 4220 3rd Ave West was considered too far from town for those folks who walked to church. There was opposition to the move, but, with assurance that God was leading, the executive committee chose to go ahead and purchase the original five lots for \$1500 from Mrs. Ryan who was happy to sell the land to the church even though it was her "strawberry patch." All was not smooth, however. At least 5 families left at this time who had been strong givers to the church. Ground was broken, and interestingly enough, though the church had trouble keeping up with the previous mortgage on the 2306 3rd Ave West property, the church never had trouble keeping up with the mortgage on the 4220 3rd Ave West property.

Jim Nelson, Axel Johnson, Everett Dague, and Bill Bowlus served on the building committee that surveyed the lots. Everett remembers holding the survey stick while Bill worked the transit. John Polivka was the architect who drew up the church building plans. He was also the architect for the Northbrook Alliance Church of similar design. Because of this, John knew where to inexpensively obtain the expensive "A" frame main beams. The beams which now reside in the Hibbing Alliance Church had been involved in a railroad crash on their way to delivery at the

Northbrook Alliance Church building site and had been left out in the elements alongside the tracks where the crash occurred for an entire year. Their character and color is due to the fact they did sit out in the elements for a year, their quality was brought out with some sanding from a floor sander before use.



Photo of the Northbrook Alliance Church, gleaned from its website, notice the similar "A" frame design.

Roy Young was hired as the building foreman. Everett had grown up in the same town Roy was from and knew that Roy had just sold his farm and was looking for work; so, Roy was offered this job opportunity. Roy lived with Everett and Joyce during this time and was paid \$3.00/hour. Roy didn't charge the church for any of the hours he worked after supper, however.

By the winter of 1967 all they had built was the structure and nothing more. They installed an old fuel oil furnace and a 1000 gallon fuel oil tank to heat the empty building that first winter. They pre-built the roof panels in Hank Wiiliainen's barn over the winter. The roof panels were all varnished before they were installed. To install these finished roof panels, Jim Nelson and Roy Young climbed to the top of the "A" frame, and then each roof panel was winched up the beams to them where they would then fasten the roof panel to the "A" frame beams. During the construction of the roof, one of the roof panels fell through and almost landed on Dale Finney while he was running the winch, but he escaped injury. The paint used downstairs was a combination paint created when the paint store owner poured together all of the extra paint returned to his store. It was given to the church for free.

According to Everett Dague, "We had a bunch of dedicated men and women who worked well together" to complete the building. The first service at the 4220 3rd Ave West location was August 25, 1968. The new church building was dedicated on September 22, 1968 with around 500 people in attendance, according to Alice Edwards. Floyd Lacy and his wife, both professional musicians, "raised the roof" with their singing during that dedication week.



Photo taken in September 2012 of 4220 3rd Avenue West, Hibbing, MN

1970-1979 Growth

- 1970- *Georgia Niebling became a member.*
- 1971- Rev. G Bubna took over as pastor. **Alice Edwards remembers him as very charismatic pastor with a wonderful singing voice. He and his wife, Ginny, had three very talented sons and one daughter. The youth group was very active at this time.*
- 1973- Rev. Ronald Clason takes over as pastor.
- 1977- Daryl Jacobsen joined him as assistant pastor. **Everett Dague estimates there were 183 kids and adults in sunday school.*

1980-1989 Reaching New Communities

- 1980- Rev. Dan Crom began as pastor. **Carol Maki became a member. **Everett Dague remembers teaching men's adult sunday school.*
- 1982- The "Evangelism Explosion" program occurs, where teams of 3 evangelize door to door.
- 1983- An infusion of folks from a local Methodist church occurs.
- 1984- The Nashwauk Alliance Church was planted.
- 1986- Rev. H Bruce Leastman becomes pastor and the Christian Education Wing, with classrooms and a gym, is built and dedicated. **Alice Edwards remembers herself and everyone else in the church working many hours on the expansion.* Victory Christian Academy, a Christian primary school, moves into the new space.
- 1987- Rev. Kevin Haworth joins Rev. Leastman.
- 1989- Kevin Haworth became pastor of Ashland Alliance Church and enters the mission field in later years.



Photo taken in September 2012 of 2306 3rd Avenue West, Hibbing, MN including the Christian Education Wing (seen in the left side of the photo)

1990-1999 Continuing Evangelism

- 1990- Rev. Terry Wise became pastor.
- 1993- Rev. Dale Hutchcraft became pastor.
- 1994- The church staffed a gospel tent at the St. Louis County Fair.
- 1995- The Heaven's Gate/Hell's Flames program occurs (also in 1996).
- 1996- Rev. Tim Maki joins Rev. Hutchcraft as assistant pastor. A mission trip to Mexico occurs.
- 1998- "Powerhouse" is led by Rev. Tim Maki.
- 1999- Triumphant Life Church is planted in Coleraine.

2000-Current

- 2000- Rev. Dale Harris became pastor.
- 2001- Rev. Kevin Norton steps in as an interim pastor.
- 2002- Rev. Dennis McKeever serves for 6 months.
- 2003- Rev. Kevin Norton became pastor. The "Alpha" program begins.
- 2004- The "Alpha" program continues.
- 2005- The "Alpha" program and "Restoration Sunday" occur.
- 2006- A mission trip to Autlan, Mexico occurs.
- 2007- The Powerteam visits.
- 2008- The North Star Church is planted.
- 2010- Rev. Norton is joined by assistant pastor Mark Larson.
- 2011- The Hibbing Alliance Church begins the "Retool Kit" process.

Appendix A: History Timeline

Year	Pastor	Youth/Associate Pastor	Location
1923	Rev. W J Naughton / Rev. Paul McKinney		Street, Home, School
1924	Rev. W J Naughton / Rev. Paul McKinney		Street, Home, School
1925	Rev. W J Naughton / Rev. Paul McKinney		Street, Home, School
1926	Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Cedar		Howard Street Store
1927	Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Cedar		Howard Street Store
1928	Rev. Abe Voth		Howard Street Store
1929	Rev. Abe Voth		Home of Howard Manlove
1930	Rev. Abe Voth		Home of Howard Manlove
1931	Rev. Abe Voth		Home of Howard Manlove
1932	Rev. Abe Voth		Home of Howard Manlove
1933	Rev. Lucas Cook		Store building North Hibbing
1934	Rev. Lucas Cook		Store building North Hibbing
1935	Rev. Vernon Gowdy		Store building North Hibbing
1936	Rev. Vernon Gowdy		Store building North Hibbing
1937	Rev. Vernon Gowdy		Store building North Hibbing
1938	Rev. Vernon Gowdy		Store building North Hibbing
1939	Rev. Vernon Gowdy		Store building North Hibbing
1940	Rev. John Swanson		South Hibbing
1941	Rev. John Swanson		South Hibbing
1942	Rev. E F Mapstone		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1943	Rev. E F Mapstone		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1944	Rev. L P Hustad		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1945	Rev. L P Hustad		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1946	Rev. L P Hustad		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1947	Rev. R E Carlson		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1948	Rev. R E Carlson		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1949	Rev. R E Carlson		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1950	Rev. R E Carlson		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1951	Rev. R E Carlson		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1952	Rev. R E Carlson		2201 West 2nd Ave, Hibbing
1953	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1954	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1955	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1956	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1957	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1958	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1959	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1960	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1961	Rev. N A Weber		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1962	Rev. James Stone		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1963	Rev. James Stone		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1964	Rev. James Stone		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1965	Rev. James Stone		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1966	Rev. James Stone		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1967	Rev. James Stone		2306 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1968	Rev. James Stone		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1969	Rev. James Stone		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1970	Rev. James Stone		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1971	Rev. G Bubna		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing

1972 Rev. G Bubna		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1973 Rev. Ronald Clason		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1974 Rev. Ronald Clason		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1975 Rev. Ronald Clason		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1976 Rev. Ronald Clason		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1977 Rev. Ronald Clason	Daryl Jacobsen	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1978 Rev. Ronald Clason	Daryl Jacobsen	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1979 Rev. Ronald Clason	Daryl Jacobsen	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1980 Rev. Dan Crom		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1981 Rev. Dan Crom		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1982 Rev. Dan Crom		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1983 Rev. Dan Crom		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1984 Rev. Dan Crom	Ernie Rapson	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1985 Rev. Dan Crom	Ernie Rapson	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1986 Rev. H Bruce Leastman	Ernie Rapson	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1987 Rev. H Bruce Leastman	Rev. Kevin Haworth	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1988 Rev. H Bruce Leastman	Rev. Kevin Haworth	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1989 Rev. H Bruce Leastman	Rev. Kevin Haworth	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1990 Rev. Terry Wise		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1991 Rev. Terry Wise		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1992 Rev. Terry Wise		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1993 Rev. Dale Hutchcraft		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1994 Rev. Dale Hutchcraft		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1995 Rev. Dale Hutchcraft		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1996 Rev. Dale Hutchcraft	Rev. Tim Maki	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1997 Rev. Dale Hutchcraft	Rev. Tim Maki	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1998 Rev. Dale Hutchcraft	Rev. Tim Maki	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
1999 Rev. Dale Hutchcraft	Rev. Tim Maki	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2000 Rev. Dale Harris		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2001 Rev. Kevin Norton (interim)		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2002 Rev. Dennis McKeever		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2003 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2004 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2005 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2006 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2007 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2008 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2009 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2010 Rev. Kevin Norton	Rev. Mark Larson	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2011 Rev. Kevin Norton	Rev. Mark Larson	4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing
2012 Rev. Kevin Norton		4220 3rd Ave West, Hibbing

Appendix B:

Churches planted by Hibbing Alliance Church:

Nashwauk Alliance Church - 1984

Triumphant Life Church – 1999

North Star Church - 2008

Appendix C:

People in Ministry who came out of the Hibbing Alliance Church:

*Rev. Todd Block (Ann), Triumphant Life Church, Coleraine, MN. *Parents Phil and Luella Block.

*Rev. Dale Buchwitz, Ordained with Church of God. *Parents Dale and Barb Buchwitz.

*Josh and #April Hutchcraft, Ordained with C&MA. *Parents Dale & Cathy Hutchcraft. #Parents Dan & Bonnie Houck (Bonnie Hyatt).

*Matt and #Jaci Hutchcraft, SEND missionaries to Ukraine. *Parents Dale & Cathy Hutchcraft. #Parents Scott & Renee Matsen.

*Rev. Brian Maki (Donna), Ordained with C&MA. *Parents Mick and Carol Maki.

*Matt Maki (Shelly), Racers for Christ / Youth Adventures N. *Parents Walt Sr & Grace Maki.

*Rev. Tim Maki (Steph), North Star Church plant. *Parents Walt Sr & Grace Maki.

*Rev. Dan Niebling (Pat), Ordained with C&MA. *Parents Merle & Georgia Niebling.

*Rev. Joel Nelson (Jodi), Harvest Ministries (Missions). *Parents Jim & Pauline Nelson.

John & Elizabeth Rodgers, Pastor of Northern Light Church of Copper Center, Alaska.

*Tony and #Raeni Roos, C&MA Envision, France. *Parents Randy & Bobby Roos. #Parents Bob & Cindy Stone.

Earl and *Bev Rutledge, Missionaries to Nicaragua SA. *Parents Earl & Shirley Sunnarborg.

Brenda and Sandy Schmelzer, Missionaries to ????. *Sisters of Lonnie Schmelzer.