

HISTORICAL SET . . . Mrs. Jacob Bush is now the proud and happy owner of the communion set used in the early days of the Fruitport Congregational Church services. Mrs. Frank (Marie) Rake gave the pitcher to her sister, Dorothy Sibert Baker, who later gave it to another sister, Laura Sibert Hill. The daughter became possessor after her mother's death. She presented it to Mrs. Bush in 1967. A sister-in-law, Mrs. Clarissa Bowles Sibert said she had the goblet to go with the pitcher which she received from her mother, Mrs. Kate Merritt Bowles, who received it from her mother, Mrs. Clarissa Merrit, a co-worker and neighbor of Mrs. Rake.



Mrs. Bush is presenting this to the Church for permanent possession. A Beautiful glass enclosed case of Burch, lined with ruby velvet has been made by Gerald L. Colburn for its preservation.

Mrs. Kleeves recalls that she was alone in the office until May, 1964 when Rev. Lewis joined the congregation. During the interim of pastors, Rev. Swern of Grand Rapids served the parish.

Rev. Lewis wanted a full time secretary. He suggested that she work full time and her salary be doubled.

Records are now kept of all members, baptisms, marriages and deaths and the parish paper is published monthly.

Mrs. Kleeves serves as Clerk of the church, attending two meetings monthly to take minutes and is also responsible for recording the Sunday offerings and sending out statements. She is secretary of the church and does all routine office duties, including cutting stencils and running off the Sunday bulletins.

Gifts to the church over the years have been outstanding and include the brass Altar Cross and candlesticks made by the late Andrew Sahlin in 1942. One of the Communion sets was given by Miss Ellen Grant in memory of her mother.

At the time of this Centennial Celebration, it is believed that Mrs. Jacob (Faye Sibert) Bush has been a member of the Church for the greatest number of years. She joined in 1916.

Mrs. Cleo (Phil) Colburn, co-chairman with her husband on the Centennial Celebration Historical Committee, comments, "As one goes through the records, familiar names appear -- people who worked back in the 1930's and are still helping along with our young and more active groups. As we look back still further and see what was accomplished by our early church people who had so little to do with, may we be inspired to greater efforts to make our Church a power for good in this community."