

# CARYNDALE AND THE CARMEL NEW CHURCH

A COMMUNITY BUILT  
BY A CONGREGATION



## WHEN KITCHENER WAS BERLIN

1833 - Bookbinder Christian Enslin regularly met with a group of people in his apple orchard - Now King and Benton Streets - to study the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg and his explanation of the Bible's internal meaning.

The group grew and, together with three other congregations, a small wood-framed building was built in 1842 on Frederick Street to serve as a place of worship for the four denominations and act as the area's first public school.



Rev. Frederick Waelchli in front of a frame church.





Rented house at Shanley and Andrew Streets

# GROWTH AND DIVISION

In 1847, the Swedeborgian congregation needed more space and purchased land on the corner of Church and Benton Streets from Joseph E. Schneider. A 150 seat church was built that same year.

Several decades later, a larger church was needed again, so a stone building was constructed in 1870 on the corner of King and Water streets. This became the first Church of the New Jerusalem.

In 1891, some members of the church wanted to further invest in the congregation and build a school founded on the church's teachings.

On September 18th 1891, this group formally split from the congregation, formed the Carmel Church Society, and met in a rented house by Rev. Frederick Waelchli. until a new church was erected in 1892 at 820 King Street West.

A house at the corner of Shanley and Andrew Streets in Berlin was used as a school until the new building and classrooms were ready.



The First Carmel Church of the New Jerusalem

Photograph of school children in front of school - back of photograph has notations: "School on First Occupancy of present building 1892

Back Row: Rev. F.E. Waelchli, Homer Waelchli, Clara Pepplee, Annie Steen, Daisy Steen, Edna Stroh, Isabella Roschman, Rev. J.E. Rosenquist

Middle: Herbert Hachborn, Alfred Stroh, Herbert Steen, Lambert Steen, Emil Stroh, Albert Hachborn, Ella Roy, Lily Steen, Nelso[n] Glebe, Edward Stroh, Miss A. Moir, Minnie Glebe, Edith Roschman

Front: Alena Roschman, Laura Deppisch, Lorene Stroh, Laura Schnarr, Clara Scott, Edna Steen, Carl Roschman, Fred Roschman, Bernard Rosenquist."





# GROWING A COMMUNITY

The vision for the current church community came about when young families could not afford to buy houses close to the King Street location.

In 1960, the congregation purchased the present day property from society member John Evans with the plan to build a church community where families would be close to the church and school.



John Evans's land, farmhouse, and barn prior to land purchase by the Carmel Society - 1961



Evans's Farmhouse (under red arrow) and area - 2019



# THE BUILDING ITSELF

The church worked with John Lingwood, one of Waterloo Region's most influential architects, to design the current Carmel New Church building.

Lingwood's modernist style and use of natural elements coincided with the symbolic geometries and material symbolisms of the Writings.

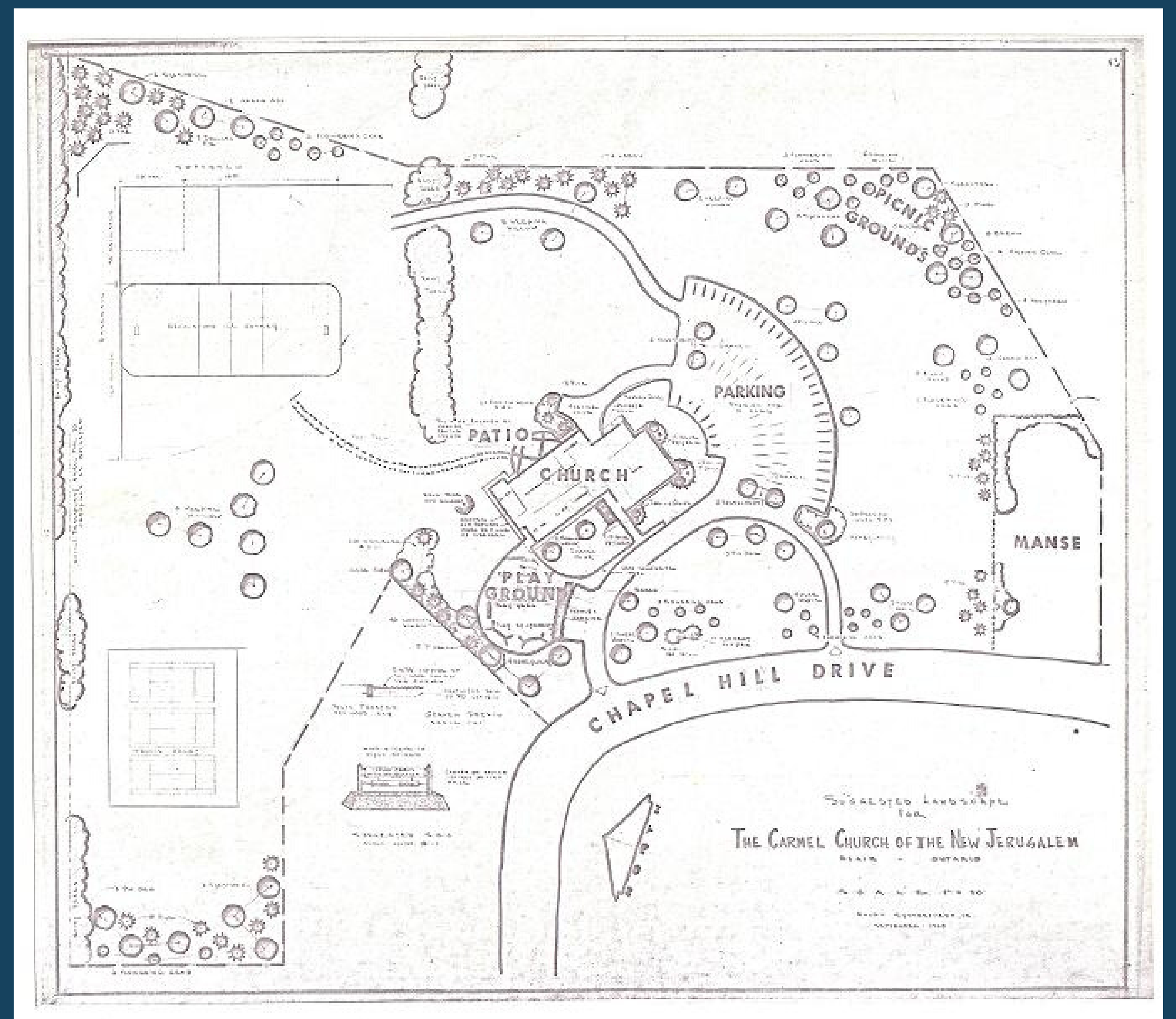
In the design brief, Rev, Geoffrey Childs expressed the importance of using the Writings and the correspondences to guide the design and materials of the new church building.

This included incorporating the Doctrine of 3 degrees. Just as there are 3 degrees of the Lord and 3 degrees in man, both the chancel and the roof have 3 levels.

The chancel of wood and nave of stone present a key idea: a path to celestial love. With wood representing celestial love and stone representing divine truths, the roof line mirrors man's gradual ascent by living those divine truths.

Other details include:

- The Word is the highest point on the chancel with the highest point of the church over it.
- White terrazo on chancel floor based on "sea of glass" as read in Revelation
- 7 candlesticks based on 7 lampstands from Rev. 1: 12-20
- Circular chancel influenced by the circle of life and that all life is from the Lord and should return to Him



Original Church Site Plan



Architectural Model of projected Carmel New Church building



The finished building - 1962



# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

When the foundation was being laid, the unhewn cornerstone from the old King St Church was brought and set in the southeast corner of the chapel.

The cornerstone symbolizes the Lord in His Word. As referenced in Daniel 2:34, it is a stone cut without hands. A ceremony was held with just the foundation in to dedicate the building to the Lord.



Unhewn cornerstone set in foundation



Various construction photos





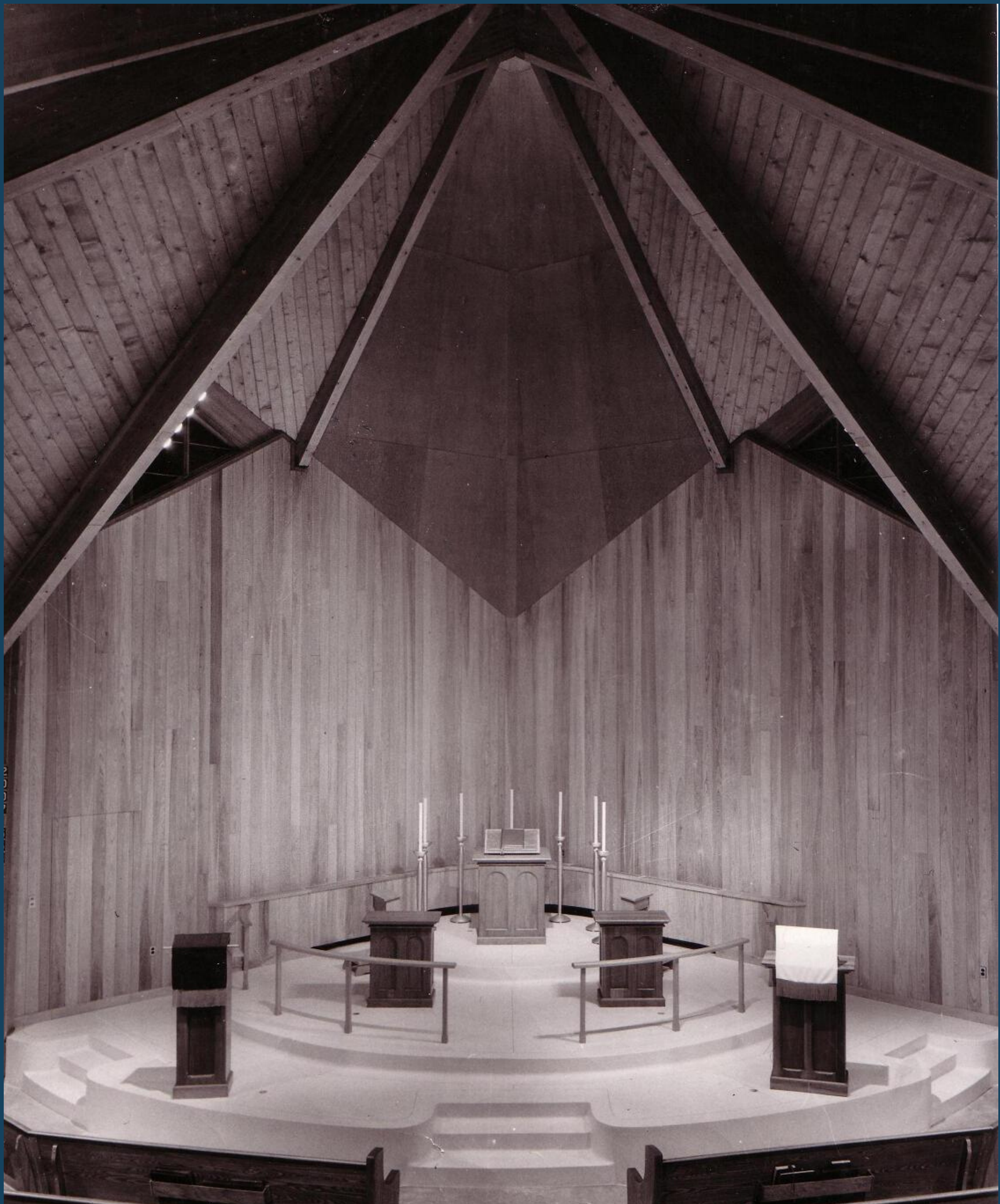
Finished building with driveway



Church Dedication - November 25th, 1962 - Rev. Geoffrey Childs (right) led the service



Interior view of chapel from chancel



Interior view of chapel from organ loft



# REBUILDING AND EXPANDING THE SCHOOL

The trend of outgrowing our buildings continued and as the church congregation grew, so did the student population.

Two portables and a hallway cloakroom were added in 1987 to accommodate all the children.

These were all torn down in 2001 to make way for the current school building which was built in 2002. The secondary school, in the same building, was opened in 2007.



Portable addition - 1987



Carmel New Church School Expansion - 2002

## NEW CHURCH EDUCATION

A child's education has a strong foundation when parents and teachers work together.

Education at Carmel New Church School:

- is built on the Lord's Word
- teaches love and respect for the Lord, for our neighbour, and for our self
- involves the child as a whole person
- is inquiry- and project-driven, when possible
- encourages children's individuality and talents through flexible teaching environments including ample outdoor space.
- includes worships in the classroom during the week and chapel services on Mondays & Fridays

New Church schools provide a spiritual overlay to all the learning that takes place, and each subject is infused with principles drawn from Divine revelation. Teachers and staff, working together with parents, explore the ways that God would have students conduct themselves.



## FUN FACTS

- Rev. Frederick Waelchli has some famous relatives: Jake Gyllenhaal and Maggie Gyllenhaal are his great great grandchildren.
- Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman was a missionary for the Swedenborgian Church
- Swedenborg's Writings influenced a lot of people including:
  - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
  - Ralph Waldo Emerson
  - Robert Frost
  - Helen Keller
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt

## OUR HISTORY

Emanuel Swedenborg (1688 - 1772), a scientist and theologian, in his writings described a new spiritual awakening of the Lord's Church here on earth that would be founded on a fuller and deeper theology understanding of the Bible.

Swedenborg's writings for a New Christian Church spanned 36 volumes of theological works, but he himself never tried to establish a church organization.

At the time of his death, few efforts had been made to establish an organized church, but on May 7, 1787, 15 years after Swedenborg's death, the New Church movement was founded in England. It spread to Europe and America, coming to Kitchener and founded here in 1892.

## A VISION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

*It's easier to achieve a common goal when like-minded people support each other. We strive to be a caring, growing community supporting:*

- Marriages and Family Values
- New Church Education
- Continued Spiritual Learning and Growth
- Supporting Each Other in a Life of Religion

## BE THE CHURCH

*It's easy to think of church as an organization, a building, or a group of people...*

but you are the smallest unit of the church. You are the church to the degree that the Lord is able to be present with you. Don't just attend church, be the church.

**"Swedenborg was an eye among the blind, an ear among the deaf . . . one of the noblest champions true Christianity has ever known."**

- Helen Keller -