



In 1904, a newly-created organization, the Baptist Home of Monroe County, completed the purchase of large shingle-style mansion and surrounding twenty acres on the northeast corner of Whitney and Nine-Mile Point Roads that had been the home of the Levi DeLand family. The mansion would become a home for the elderly. The moving force behind the project was Dr. Marena Ricker, a Rochester physician whose concern was the well-being of the aged. Mr. and Mrs. William Ordway, pictured above, were the first residents of what would eventually be known as the Fairport Baptist Homes. The project was a success from the start. By the second year there were 17 residents, mostly in their 60's and 70's. Within a decade, the population had swelled to 40 residents and expansion was necessary. In the early days, residents had to be at least 65 years of age and "in good standing in an American Baptist Church."

By the second half of the 20th century, significant changes were taking place with advances in medicine, longer life spans, and the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. The increased demand for nursing home space and services resulted in long waits for care, and the Baptist Home responded with a building program. Another building program in the early 1970's resulted in the razing of the old DeLand home and construction of yet another wing.

The Fairport Baptist Home has been a leader in caring for the elderly in creative ways. In the mid-1990's the Home began its shift from "hallways to households," creating areas for up to 12 residents with a kitchen, dining space, and living area surrounded by private rooms. Today, the Fairport Baptist Homes campus includes the Fairport Apartments, DeLand Acres, the ElizAl Court for independent living, and the Northfield. In addition one wing of the original Baptist Home has been redone to provide more assisted living apartments.

What began as a home for the "well-aged" has developed into a complex that allows the older generation to remain in the community and receive services in an atmosphere that mirrors a home and family in as many ways as possible.

