

*The History of
Moraine Valley Community Church*



by Clarice Stampf

Edited and Published by Virginia Beehn

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Englewood Baptist Church 1872 -- 1955



Foster Park Baptist Church 1928 - 1970



Moraine Valley Community Church -- 1970 to Present



Clarice Stampf has been a member of this congregation for over 50 years. She has been a model of Christian service for all this time.

Clarice began teaching Sunday School at the age of 16 at the Calvary Methodist Church located at 78th and Carpenter in Chicago. After her marriage to Joseph Stampf and the birth of her first two children, Clarice would walk the few blocks to the church, pushing a buggy with her children inside.

About 1954 Joe, Clarice, and their three children moved to 83rd and Ada Street. Still without a car, she found it was too far to walk to Calvary Methodist Church. Clarice decided she would visit the nearby Foster Park Church. To her delight she found there were several of her friends from high school and other churches she had attended already there. Everyone at the church was very friendly. Clarice felt right at home, and stayed.

Through the years Clarice has taught Sunday School, served as Sunday School Superintendent, led youth groups, served at Camp Grow, been an active member and officer of the Women's Society, sung in the church choir, written a column for the church newsletter "The Brevities", and she has been a member of nearly every committee in the church.

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CHAPTER ONE

In The Beginning

Moraine Valley Community Church began with a very dedicated and able Christian group of nine families who, with prayer and hard work, initiated the building of a church and a fellowship of loyal and faithful parishioners.

In the beginning, the group formed what they called a Baptist Mission that would grow and educate and bless our lives. Their first meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Lind. They discovered one family had purchased a parcel of land at 84th and Justine which would be donated as a place to build a church. A temporary Baptist Mission would be held in a storefront at 83rd and Ashland Avenue (a part of a Pontiac dealership). They would continue to visit and canvass the neighborhood and Officers were elected. Selecting that area was a sound choice as it was close to two grammar schools and Calumet High School and the Foster Park was across the street.

By May 7, 1928, their second meeting, they had pledges from fifty people to support this Mission. Attendance seemed to grow and grow and Cook School at 8149 South Bishop was rented for Sunday services, and within a week, on June 1st, a Sunday School was organized and the first worship session followed, all at Cook School. Dr. Benjamin Otto was the preacher and 125 people were present and they continued through the summer and fall months.

Rev. Ralph Nordlund was called to help organize the church. He was a student at Northern Seminary. He stayed with the church through July 1929.

By autumn they realized that if the work was to continue and have a permanent place in Baptist history and the Christian life of the community, it would be necessary to organize as a church and secure a church home.

New plans, new prayers, and on September 26, 1928 the Mission was organized as the Foster Park Baptist Church. A building committee was appointed and the property at 84th and Justine Street was available and donated by the original families, and the first unit was started. Ground breaking ceremony for the new church was held on November 28, 1928, surrounded by all charter members and current believers.

The actual building of the church was interrupted by a cold and wintry winter, but by May 19, 1929, the building was completed to hold all regular services needed by a church. The final meeting at the Cook School was held on May 12th.

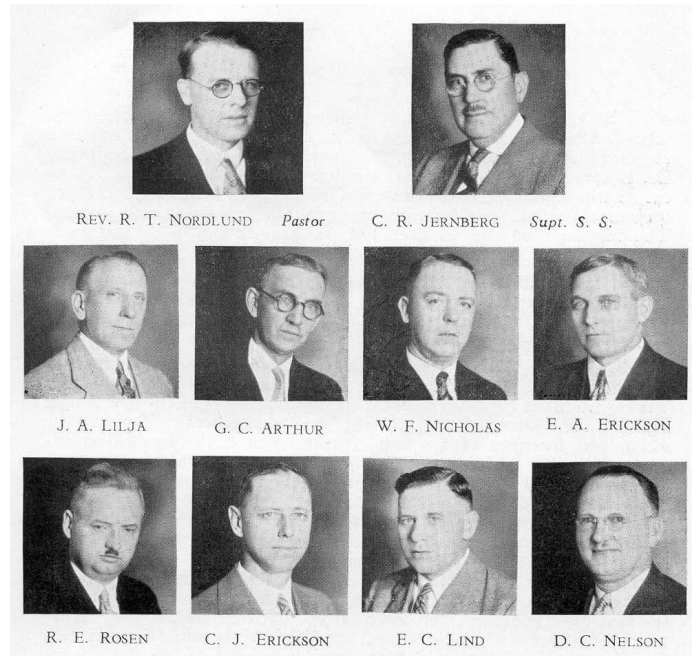
One week later the first church service was held in the new building with fitting ceremonies and then a full week of special services with special speakers, music, devotions and offerings. "Glory be to God" our church home was open and in use after 14 months of prayer, planning and hard work.

The following are the names of the nine families who took that first step to achieve the new church: C.R. Jernbery, J.A. Lilja, G.C. Arthur, W.F. Nichols, E.A. Erickson, R.E. Rosain, C.J. Erickson, E.C. Lind, D.C. Nelson. The only one from these families that can still be counted in our church is Ernie Rosain. To our knowledge there are only five children of the above-mentioned that are still living.

1930's and 1940's



Rev. Adam Baum at Foster Park Church picnic



*Foster Park Boy Scout Troop, Campout in Michigan,
Harry Jacobsen, Leader*



Ladies' Class, Foster Park



Foster Park Baptist Church, with portable Sunday School buildings, 1933

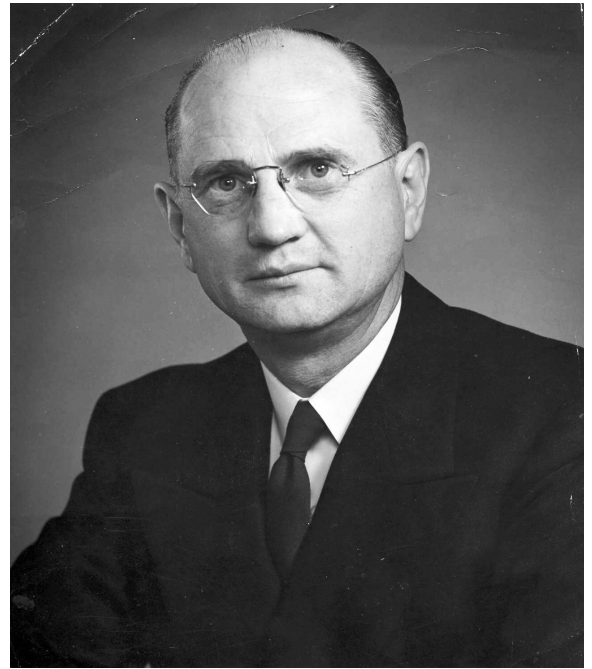


Rev. and Mrs. Adam Baum, April 1949

1930's and 1940's



C. J. Erickson



Rev. R. Claibourne Johnson



Last Sunday at Englewood Baptist Church before these two houses were torn down to make way for the community center.

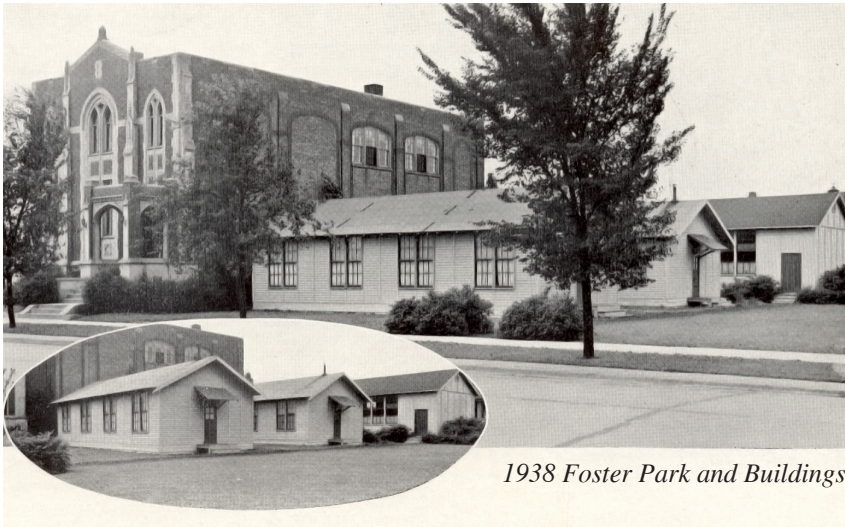
1937 - 1939



1937 Bathing Beauties



Rev. Guy Wimmer (1939)



1938 Foster Park and Buildings



The Wimmer Family



*Boy Scout Troop 654 at Foster Park Church,
George Michielson, Scout Master*

CHAPTER TWO

The Open Door

The history of the Foster Park Baptist Church is an interesting story of faith, prayer, and courage, blessed with sound advice from pastors working to lead the way. Dr. Otto and Dr. Nordlund set the pace for growth.

Rev. Guy Wimmer was called to serve in 1930 and stayed for seven years. He was a teacher of great distinction. He devised a plan to have every person be active in the church in some activity or service appropriate to Christian fellowship. He supplied the knowledge and experience to enable a young church to set up courses of instruction and training in following God's work.

Now they needed more space for Sunday School classes of all ages. In the fall of 1931 there were 490 pupils, so the church purchased a portable building from the Oak Park Board of Education. In 1933 and 1934, two more portables were added and were soon in use.

By Easter of 1938 there were three Sunday School classes for women and most of them joined the Women's Missionary Society, and were busy fulfilling White Cross needs, sewing baby clothes, and studying about missionaries. Over 100 men were in classes and many of them held positions on the Deacon and Trustee Boards and numerous positions in the Sunday School.

Young girls joined the Missions Guild and the BYPU (Baptist Young Peoples Union) was organized for high school students. This group later became known as the BYF (Baptist Youth Fellowship). The purpose of this group was to grow in Christian character and service, to find a richer fellowship with the Lord and each other. These groups met on Sunday night, had a planned program, light supper, and then stayed for Sunday night service which always involved a lot of singing of familiar hymns. The young people had an orchestra and played at many evening services. A Boy Scout troop (#654) was organized as well as a Girl Scout troop. In 1938 baseball teams were organized for some activity and fun.

In September 1938 there was a week's celebration of the ten year growth, with past preachers returning, special music, and special Bible services. Attendance was growing and members increasing, and they were asked to join in earnest prayer that we might fulfill God's commission for all in the community.

It was not a good time to lose our Pastor, but Dr. Wimmer was called to the position of Executive Secretary of the Illinois State Convention, where he would contribute to the large work of our denomination. In sending our Pastor, we commended him to our brethren throughout the State, and would follow him in prayer wherever he worked for the glory of God.

Dr. William Powers, missionary and Seminary professor became our Pastor in 1938 and our busy life continued. Dr. Powers wrote in the monthly paper, "Our heritage is not so much the increase in numbers and equipment, or even our great organization, but rather the spirit of sacrifice and faith. The genuine consecration of life and roads to the cause of Christ so beautifully exemplified in the personnel of the church, is a heritage of high honor to follow in their train."

So many of the members gave of their time and talents it is difficult to select only a few, but the following names have appeared often in the records of the first ten years: Art Pierson — Editor of Baptist News, Sunday School teacher, baseball coach; David Nelson, Sr. — Choir Director; Marion Lillroth (Nelson) — Pianist, Baptist Youth Leader; John Singleton — High School Department Superintendent; Dr. Raymond Anderson — Church Official, President of Men's class; Ethel Johnson — Superintendent and teacher in Sunday School, Guild leader; Mrs. John Singleton — Girl Scout Leader, President of Women's Society; Mrs. R. E. Rosain — President of Women's Missionary Society for six years, Sunday School teacher and Superintendent of Junior High Department.

1930's and 1940's



Dedication of Church Lay Workers



Rev. Wil Borne, Brimson Grow, Charlie Bird at a meeting in Johnson Hall, 1953



Circa 1954 - Rev. Nosinger, Mrs. Barickman, Mrs. E. (Sue) Miller

CHAPTER THREE

Upon This Rock

Our church passed through the “Great Depression” and was soon into the problem of wartime. Many of our young men were drafted into service, then sent away, with some not returning from Europe or the Orient. Our young women started the K.I.T. Club (Keep In Touch) and wrote to the service men to keep up their spirits.

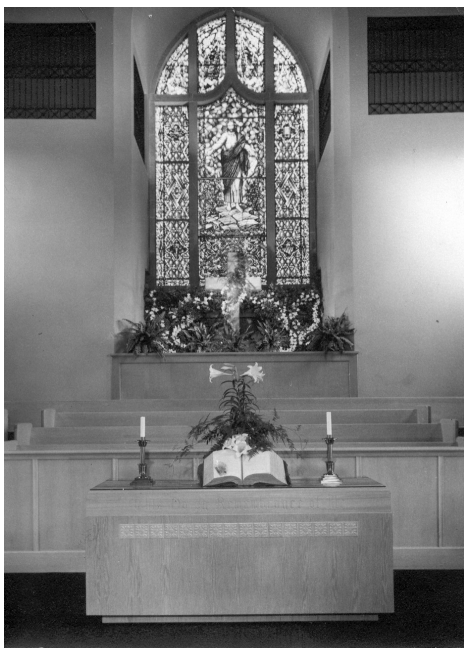
Dr. Wimmer, our pastor, prayed, “As we work toward the future let us do so with the conviction that God has given to us the opportunity, the equipment and the resources to make this coming year the most productive in our church’s history. In the spirit of devotion and dedication let us move forward together to give new virtues for our Christ.”

Through the late 30’s and early 40’s a number of our young men and women in the church married, having known each other in the Sunday School, in camp, in plays, and sport teams. Perhaps they had even been baptized on the same day. These marriages have stood firmly together with God’s love for many years.

Our attendance never seemed to falter, and the church elders felt it was time to think about building a sanctuary to meet the needs of our commitment. We simply needed more room for worship and study.

At this time we had ten classes plus three Girl Scout troops, two Boy Scout Troops, and were in the second year of Christian Education week — with day release time every Wednesday after school. The extent of our church’s ministry showed a strong desire on the part of all of the organizations to carry forward the work of Christ in the tradition our Baptist mission.

Finally our new sanctuary building was finished! It was beautiful and its very atmosphere spoke of God, with the stained glass windows and baptistry. The dedication on February 1, 1953 actually lasted two weeks, with a time of prayer, beautiful music, communion, and appreciation for all who had contributed so much time and money and labor.



Easter Sunday, 1956



Foster Park

CHAPTER FOUR

We Are The Clay

On July 1, 1955, the Englewood Baptist Church joined with the Foster Park Church. It is interesting to note that Englewood Church, several miles northeast of Foster Park, near 60th and Princeton, had a background similar to ours.

Starting on January 5th, 1872, a meeting of seven Baptist men declared themselves in favor of organizing a Baptist church, and adopted articles of faith and made a covenant which eventually became Englewood Baptist Church.

A Sunday school was organized, and the first covenant was held in a private home with a membership of 25. Mr. E. R. Lewis was made superintendent. The first pastor came in February 1873. In that year, property was donated, and a church building dedicated in September of 1873.

During the next fourteen years, membership was 278, and a new edifice was built with a sanctuary and a balcony big enough for a thousand people.

From the beginning, Englewood favored mission work, and accomplished much in that field. They established a Chinese group that met every Sunday afternoon in the church. But their biggest gift was in building a new educational building designed with excellent facilities as a community center. Daily use of this building led to eventually making it an independent operation. An athletic program, crafts, and special interest groups were developed, and it had a huge and significant impact on the community.

But, starting in the 1950's, that community began to change. Members were moving away and the atmosphere was different. The Englewood Church approached the Foster Park Church about merging. Together they worked out leadership roles, and combined their ways of sharing ideas and plans. It took a while, but the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church bought Englewood's properties, and they are still in the Lord's work today.

Rev. Wil Borne was recuperating from an illness when Englewood first came to Foster Park. When he returned he found things going well, with both groups friendly and sharing with each other. Sunday School classes were full with Associate Rev. Barnard Barron in charge. All the young people were enjoying new friends and new activities. The leaders of both congregations were given special recognition.

Mr. Henry Noel was made Director of Music, and David Nelson Jr. was Church Organist. After a few months, Rev. Borne asked Dorothy Boyer (Pierson) to direct a children's choir, and Berniece Palmquist was accompanist. He also asked Dorothy Palmer, who was Secretary at Englewood, to stay in that position for Foster Park, which she did for the next thirty years.



The front entrance of Foster Park Baptist Church as people arrive.

A Bit of History -

AS WRITTEN IN A CHURCH PAMPHLET OF THE TIME:

The history of the Foster Park Baptist Church is a short and simple annal of faith and courage.

It is not so much a chronicle of events as a summary of the blessings God has bestowed upon a consecrated and faithful band of Christian workers.

This Church was conceived in liberty and born of an intense desire to give expression to high ideals of Christian life and service. It stands as a symbol of man's relationship to God and God's beneficent goodness to man.

The initial meeting to consider the project of an English speaking Mission among people of Swedish ancestry was held on March 23, 1928, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Lind at 8224 South Laflin Street. A committee of three, Messrs. C.R. Jernberg, E.A. Erickson and Elmer Lind, was appointed at this meeting to canvass the situation and make recommendations.

A second meeting was held on the evening of May 7, 1928, at 8315 Ashland Avenue with the result that fifty people signed pledges to support a Baptist Mission to be located somewhere in the vicinity of 83rd Street and Ashland Avenue. Officers were elected and the work of organizing the Mission was undertaken in earnest.

On June 1, 1928, the Sunday School was organized in the Cook School, 82nd and Bishop Streets. The first preaching service was held at 10:45 a.m., following the session of the Sunday School and Dr. Benjamin B. Otto was the preacher. There were about 125 present at this initial Church service. This meeting, which was enjoyed very much by all, resulted in a fine spirit of fellowship and loyalty. The meetings of the Church and Sunday School were continued through the summer with considerable success.

By Autumn it was realized that if the work were to continue and have a permanent place in Baptist history and the Christian life of the community, it would be necessary to organize as a Church and secure a Church home.

Accordingly, an Organization Committee appointed for that purpose made plans and on September 26, 1928, the Mission was organized as the Foster Park Baptist Church. Thirty-three people signified their intention of becoming charter members. Through the vision and foresight of a group of men, who early identified themselves with this movement, a building site was available at 84th and Justine Streets, and was very generously turned over by them to the newly organized Church. A Building Committee was pointed, plans for the first unit of the new Church home were secured and ground was broken for the new building on Thanksgiving morning, November 28, 1928. The excavation and foundation work was completed promptly but the building operations proper were interrupted in December by the continued severe cold weather and could not be resumed until February. However, from that time on building operations progressed very rapidly and by May 19 the building was sufficiently completed to hold all the regular services of the day in the new Church. At the final meetings on May 12 in the Cook School, where meetings had been held regularly since June 1, 1928, the congregation parted from their temporary Church home with real regret. However, it was with real joy and a spirit of rejoicing that the people met on the historic occasion of Sunday, May 19, 1929, to hold their first services in their new Church home.

Reverend Ralph T. Nordlund became connected with the movement in July 1928, as student pastor and rendered a splendid service in organizing and conducting the work. The Church is deeply indebted to him for his able and faithful preaching of the Word and for his consecrated service in carrying the message of the Church to the people of the community. He became the regular Pastor of the Church.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the Chicago Baptist Executive Council for its cooperation and assistance and to its superintendent, Dr. Benjamin Otto, for his advice and counsel, and for his preaching service at the inception of the work in June 1928. The Church is also deeply grateful to Miss Fuehling, very kindly assigned to the task by Dr. Otto, for her faithful ministry in calling on the people of the community and for her teaching service in the Sunday School.

1949 - 1959



Breaking Ground for the new educational extension, 1958



1954 Foster Park Sanctuary



Foster Park Baptist Church -- 1959

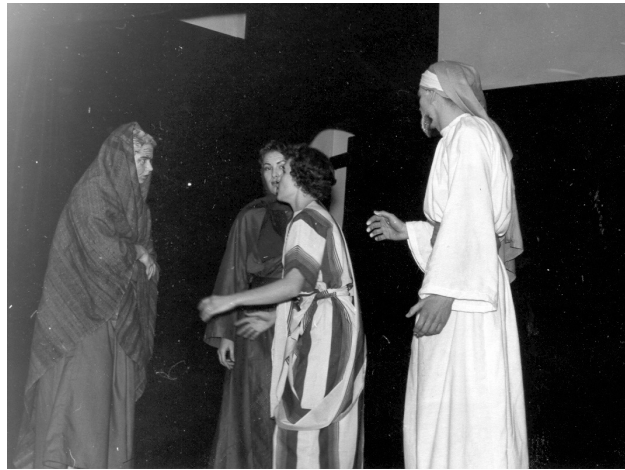
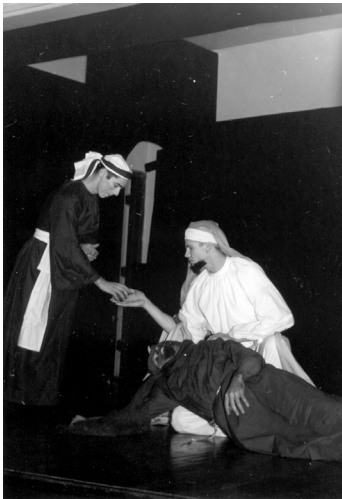
1949 - 1959



1959 Children's Day, Kindergarteners made a Flower Cross



L to R: Helen Anderson, Ethel Johnson, Mrs. Anderson (Ray's mother) - 1952



Foster Park Play



Each lady wore her wedding dress to a special Women's Circle meeting

Christopher Chou

Rev. and Mrs. Chou, now active members of Moraine Valley Community Church, were first invited to the church by then moderator, A. Royall Gay.

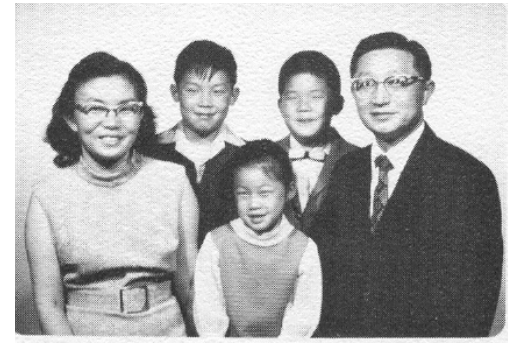
FROM A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE OCTOBER 18, 1959

The annual Homecoming Day at Center Methodist Church was celebrated on Sunday, October 11, with a basket dinner being served at noon in the church basement.

In the afternoon a good crowd gathered in the auditorium, with a number of our neighboring churches represented. Group singing was enjoyed by all and the invocation prayer was led by Rev. Giles of the Mt. Pleasant Church of God. Several choir numbers and solos by members of our and various other churches in the area were enjoyed by all.

Rev. and Mrs. Freisner, a former pastor of this church, but now of Camargo enjoyed the afternoon with us.

Rev. Christopher Chou, present pastor of the Center Church delivered the afternoon message, "A Message for our Times." Rev. Chou is a Chinese minister, having come to the United States in 1948 to study on a fellowship from Hartford for his degree in religious education. However, due to existing conditions in China, he is unable to return to his country to carry on his mission work. He is planning soon to become a citizen of the United States. While in China, Rev. Chou was a senior high school teacher and assistant minister of the Baptist Church there. He holds degrees in arts, theology, religious education, divinity, and philosophy.



The Christopher Chou Family - 1970

CHAPTER FIVE

A Purpose In Life

The Englewood members included people experienced in lay administration of a large church enterprise, and brought new resources to bear on the financial aspect. The Foster Park membership included many whose business and social life, as well as their church life, was community centered. They worked well together, and the next few years of Christian fellowship provided an average attendance of one hundred new people per year.

In memory of her husband, Mary Grow of Englewood bought a large acreage of land on Green Lake in Wisconsin directly across from the American Baptist Assembly grounds. It was to become Camp Grow, a place for all ages, but mostly for children from all the Baptist churches. It is a beautiful camp ground next to Green Lake itself, where the campers come to swim and fish and play games, and sing and read the Bible, and make new friends. Foster Park has enjoyed this camp for many years, and has sent forty-one adults along as counselors and teachers since the camp opened.

The motto for the camp is "To Find God's Purpose For My Life." Brim Grow, Mary's son, a lawyer, board member and Sunday School teacher, a wonderful, giving Christian, always ready to help in any situation, selected this motto for Camp Grow.

Emma Brodbeck was another outstanding person at Englewood. She was a teacher, a missionary and author, valedictorian in high school, and majored in Botany at the University of Chicago. While there she enlisted in the student volunteer board to prepare herself for service — some sort of Christian service. She taught high school for a while in Iowa, then returned to Chicago and taught high school. Her name was suggested to the American Baptist Women's Mission Society, and she took a course in missionary work. She also studied Chinese and Mandarin languages. After consulting with her family, Emma left for China and was there for the next twenty years in Yachow both teaching and as the head of a girl's school. She also spent twenty months teaching in Japan during 1938 and 1939. As usual, she gave revelations from the Bible and interpreted the Christian way of life.

Emma joined the Peace Corps that was just starting up, and she spent three years teaching in the Philippine Islands at a girl's school.

When Emma retired she went to live in Palos Park, Illinois with her sister and brother-in-law, A. Royall Gay and Hazel Gay. She continued to give many lectures, and was known as a cheerful, gifted speaker. Our church named the library as Emma Brodbeck's Library. Her two books should be there.

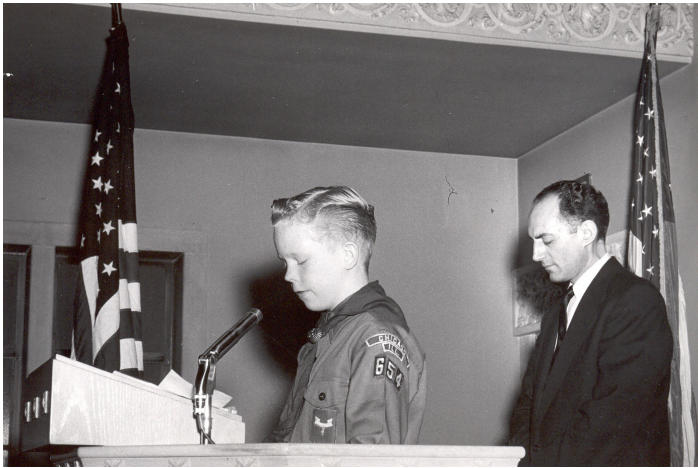


Circa 1958 - Mrs. Borne, Mrs. Jaquith, Rev. Borne



Foster Park Baptist Church

1960



Art Pierson Jr. and Rev. Wil Borne



Ed Larsen



The Fidelis Class, for young married couples, met in a room which was the only entrance to the church balcony.



*Back Row L to R: Roy Holley, Ray Anderson, Ernie Rapka, Dick Fay, Mr. Dalzell, Fred Gaecke, CBA person
Front Row L to R: Dick Kay, (unknown), Art Pierson, Blaine Reip, C.J. Erickson*



*Easter 1962 -- Front Row: Dawn O'Keefe, Jimmy Perry, Billy Services, Janice Hillman, Ronnie Lindahl, Leslie Irvin.
Second Row: Reed Rehorst, Linda Carlson, Bruce Hasenfang, Dawn Shatro, John O'Keefe, John (last name unknown),
Third Row: Julie Green, Jo Ellen Green, Bonnie Roth, Billy Irvin, Bruce Mork. Teachers: Mrs. John (Corinne) McClelland, Mrs. Richard (Betty) Fay, Mrs. Richard (Beverly) Briggs*



Kindergarten Sunday School Class, Fran Iser Smith, teacher

CHAPTER SIX

Mission Workers

In March of 1960 the new educational building was completed and furnished. Now there were classrooms for the large Trinity Women's class and another for the men. Before they had shared different corners in the sanctuary.

The church office was improved, the associate's office was ready, there was new space for the weekly church school, and the choir had their own room for music robes and practice. The new chapel was quiet and open for prayer or Bible study. Now our crib room and kindergarten space was welcoming and ready for the many babies in nurse Betty Gray's care and young kindergartners with Corinne McClelland.

It was all carpeted and ready for dedication to thank God for all His goodness to our church. There was extra room for a series, a week-long program of services and Christian training for children, young people, and adults. Eight Boy- and Girl- Scout Troops met throughout each week. Drama groups, study groups, and athletic teams were also in the building a lot.

All in our congregation continued with mission work and study and total giving for 1960 was \$13,347 above the pledges for help to pay for the construction of the new building.

Women's Mission Society, with nine Women's Circles, always provided a goodly amount for their missions, which that year was a little under \$1,000.00. They also had a Tray Fund – a charge for anyone wanting to use the trays for luncheons or parties, and this fund was used to buy needed items in the kitchen and this particular year was used to clean all the draperies.

The Senior BYF (Baptist Youth Fellowship) kids visited Oak Forest Hospital twice this year, singing songs, passing out candy and simply talking to the patients in the infirmary.

Rev. Wil Borne, Pastor, wrote, "I am happy and encouraged by things, especially by the spirit shown by the people of our congregation. This spirit of joyful service is the very essence of the Christian members, ushers, teachers, and Board members, and all the many, many persons who carry on in His name. I cannot evaluate the service highly enough. All I can say is thank you and praise God for them!"



Betty Gray and the Nursery Class



Nursery Class, ages 2 and 3, Corinne McClelland and Bernice Erickson, teachers

1960



Kindergarten Department



Marion Nelson, teacher



Primary Class



Vi Wagner, teacher



Junior Department, Dorothy Palmer, teacher



Harriet Rosain Teacher, Carol Rosain and Steve Briggs

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Beat Goes On

Reading through the annual reports makes one wish to have been there to enjoy all the programs and all the studies that were offered. Pastor Borne's sermons applied well to the different age groups of our congregation, and Anthony Fieni, our Associate Pastor, was a good organizer with all the committees and their various leaders.

During the year, the Deacons sponsored three evening lectures by Dr. George Vanderlip of Northern Seminary on "The Holy Spirit", "Immortality", and "Eternal Life". These were so successful, that a two-month series of two-hour lectures on John's gospel were held each Sunday evening during October and November.

In late spring, the Deacons worked on preparing for the Billy Graham Crusade, with many of our young people and adults taking his course in counseling and soul winning. The church chartered a bus and a number of the choir members joined the other church choirs at the Crusade. Pastor Borne represented the Baptists on the Counseling Committee. Everyone made all but four of the crusade evenings. It was a great experience.

Meanwhile, Pastor Borne was conducting two church services – 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., was on TV with the choir, and on radio thirteen times in 1961-1962.

The Drama Committee produced a year of entertainment, and called on the different age groups to help with lighting, props, and publicity for their productions. In March, at a church dinner, there was a reading from "Cry the Beloved Country" when a missionary from Africa was visiting. This committee also planned and rehearsed a Children's Day Program, and in October presented, "A Good Steward." A big offering by Ron and Alice Duffy, with Ron Harrison and Denise Saulinn was an original compilation of songs and cuttings for the C.B.A. Minister's Christmas Banquet at North Shore Church, and at our all-church Christmas Party, and at the Washington and Jane Smith Old Peoples' Home at 113th and Western Avenue in Chicago. At Christmastime "Where Love Is" was performed.

Meanwhile, all athletic teams were active, and winning trophies, and two new basketball teams of younger players were organized.

Women's Missions Society, under guidance of Mrs. A. Royall Gay, had a full program of monthly meetings and dinners, and fine speakers. Their mission interests and giving was to ten different organizations. Plus there were two blanket drives which produced 34 blankets, and they sent 135 warm sweaters to refugees in Hong Kong.

Tony Fieni left to become a Pastor in St. Paul, Minnesota. We wish him well.



*Jackie Schraeder, Karen Ekblad, Carol Rosain
-- Dec 1966*



*1961 -- Herb Lind, Art Pierson, Rev. Wil Borne, John Singleton,
Ray Anderson, Fred Gaecke*

CHAPTER EIGHT

Outside Our Walls

Dr. Wil Borne left Foster Park early in 1964, and Rev. Fred Largen was hired as an interim pastor. He was young, and filled with good spirit. He took time to examine the ministry of the church and its surroundings. He found that eight new churches were starting up in our area. Actually, most of the Southwest side of Chicago was ninety percent Roman Catholic! We still had a good-sized congregation, but our Sunday School classes were losing members.

The church elders instituted a nine-point evangelism program to search out new members. Under the leadership of Harold Willin, the publicity committee put metal signs advertising our church on certain street corners. The pastor made 483 calls on prospective members or those who were not attending church or Sunday School to invite them to our church.

Donna Stratton planned a very successful Vacation Bible School, and the high point of the year was a series of four Transfiguration

dinners held in the October. The Drama Group worked with the choir, and presented a pageant "This is Christmas" on December 20th. Camp Grow was attended by a good-sized group of children, with a number of adults going along as counselors. Women's Mission Society was a strong force, as were those who were teaching each week.

At this time Joseph Stampf was named Camp Grow Program Director by the Chicago Baptist Association. He held this position for eight years, during which time his three children and his wife also worked at the camp. Richard Stampf worked at the camp for eight summers, Susan Stampf worked there for six summers, and Jody Stampf worked for six summers before she was married. Many of the church young people came to work at the camp summer after summer, as well as Pastor Earl Wickstrom who served the camp faithfully for several years.



Art Pierson, Mr. Singleton, Rev. Borne, 1961

Outside our church walls, however, a lot of problems seemed to start in the 1960's. There were many social changes. There was the Vietnam War, and young men drafted to be in it. There was Woodstock, where hundreds of young people spent several days. There were people living in communes, using drugs. There were civil rights movements, and women began to work outside of their homes. Some families were breaking up, and many older people moved to other states.

Fred Largen wrote, "There is much to be done in the area of Evangelism, the kind of a New Year we have in 1965 will be up to you as a church member. We are preparing material to interest newcomers in our church and in Christ. The choir, Mr. Child, Choir Director, and Norma Payne (organist), and I are preparing the best worship service we know how to produce. We have bolstered our Sunday School, and Youth Program. Support the Lord with your time, your money, and your witness, and God will richly bless you."



Choir Rehearsal



1963 Kid's Play and Chancel Choir

CHAPTER NINE

Spread The Word

Rev. Largen felt the attempts to evangelize were simply not working out. Over a year before, the Deacons had worked out a visitation program that included visiting with unchurched people, but only a few dedicated members took part. The theme of the Wednesday evening programs was to give strength to Evangelism, but there was apathy on the part of those needed to go out to the people. The average attendance, however, was higher than the previous year, and the events of the various classes or groups were really interesting.

The Family Evening School with its five-night program became a wonderful experience. It was an attempt to communicate Gospel through art, drama, music, and photography, all well received, with college kids helping out.

The drama workshop produced "Carey", "Christianity and the Cults" and "None of These Desires", which not only produced entertainment, but also underlined our social sensibilities.

The Mission Committee sponsored a dinner in March welcoming Emma Brodbeck home after two years of service in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. She received coverage in the local paper and national TV, and also letter from Sargent Shriver and Senator Earl Douglas.

Under Herbert Lind's leadership, a tithing program for members to challenge everyone both spiritually and financially was doing well. A new class "Young Adults" opened, taking in a new age group. A few couples were married, others were single, but all were in the same age bracket, and seem to be really enjoying their lessons. Dr. Ray Anderson was their teacher.

Rev. Fred Largen left our church on May 30, 1966. Rev. Earl Wickstrom was installed later that year.



Rev. Earl Wickstorm - Pastor 1969-1972

1960s and 1970s



Dinner time at Camp Grow



A few of the swimming instructors at Camp Grow. L to R:
Richard Stampf, Clarice Stampf, unknown camper,
Randy Miller, Steve Briggs.



Socializing at Camp Grow



Joe Stampf



Boat House at Camp Grow



Camp cooks were a wonderful cajun couple from
Louisiana, Steve and Alice Coleman

Serving Others

On Sunday, June 25th, 1966 the church outdoor worship and picnic was held at Palos Park, North at 119th and Kean Avenue. Corinne Mc Clelland of Hospitality was in charge to plan a “sharing” noontime meal. Each family brought a dish of food and the church furnished baked ham, beans, rolls, coffee, pop, and ice cream. Over 200 persons were served.

“Fellowship Time” meant serving coffee and cookies after Sunday Morning 11 o’clock service, and was really begun in 1966. It is still offered every Sunday. Serving here is a nice way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or special achievement. A sign-up sheet is always on the serving table.

A new group called the “Keen Agers” (all senior citizens) have been enjoying their monthly meetings at church. Sometimes they have lunch and a program, sometimes take a bus to enjoy Judson College, the Board of Trade Building, Baki Temple, or even Starved Rock. One trip was to the summer home of, then class president, C. J. Erickson in Sherwood Hills, Michigan, who was the President of Keen Agers that year.

The Women’s Mission Society had a busy year, participating in World Day of Prayer, Mission Institute, bazaars in Maywood, Holiday Splendor, and Tag Days, all with other Baptist church’s women. They contributed to six different Baptist schools or auxiliaries and surpassed their goal with the Love Gift.

Pastor Earl Wickstrom came to Camp Grow several times as a village leader, with a good number of campers and counselors, and spent a week enjoying the activities and programs each time.

Excerpts from The American Baptist newsletter, Chicago Baptist News Section /December 1970 follow:

“Joe Stampf was overall director of the camping program for the eighth consecutive year. Clarice Stampf worked as camp secretary. Darrell Gabbard was the camp manager and Dorothy Gabbard was dining room hostess.

“Heidi and Russell Hirschy (Berwyn First) were at camp for the entire summer. Heidi was responsible for the arts and crafts program and worked three weeks as an assistant cook. Russell was counselor to the maintenance staff, foreman of the maintenance work, manager of the camp store, and participated in the program providing wagon rides for all of the camps.

“The waterfront program was directed by Rich Stampf.... assisted by Sue Stampf...

“The health lodge, which was improved by the addition of an enclosed porch, was officially dedicated as the Gardner Health lodge in 1970.

“Preparing the camp for the summer’s activities and closing it up again for the winter months is the responsibility of Herb Lind.

“Moraine Valley Church repaired screens and doors.

“The most significant part of the 1970 Camp Grow season is difficult, if not impossible, to communicate in words. There was a spirit shared by all the camp family. People of diverse backgrounds, living, working, playing, studying, pray and worshipping together, bearing witness to the unifying power of Jesus Christ.”



The ladies of Moraine Valley Community Church served punch and cookies.

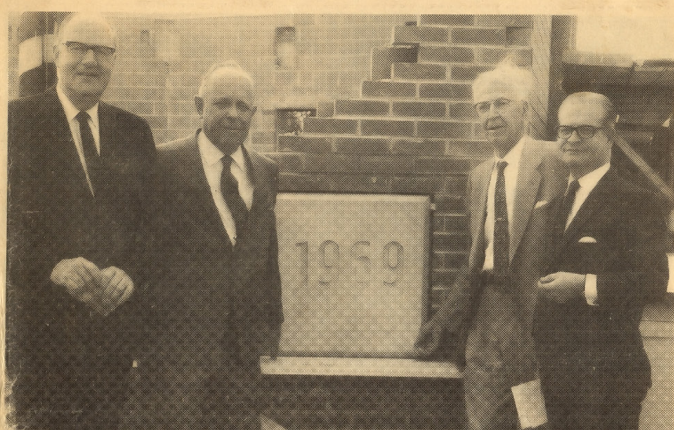
Foster Park Lays Cornerstone For Moraine Valley Community

Moraine Valley Community Church held a corner-stone laying service on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21. A large crowd attended the service. A number of members took part in the service by placing articles in the corner stone box. The ladies of the church served punch and cookies.

Principal speakers were Dr. Bryan Archibald, president of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary;

Arthur P. C. Pierson, general chairman of the Building Council; A. Royall Gay, moderator of the church; and the Rev. Earl J. Wickstrom, pastor.

It is hoped that the building will be finished in the early spring. The Foster Park Baptist Church will then move from its temporary quarters to this new site and become the Moraine Valley Community Church.



Above (l-r): Dr. Bryan Archibald, president Northern Baptist Theological Seminary; Arthur P.C. Pierson, general chairman of the Building Council; A. Royall Gay, moderator of the church and Pastor Wickstrom.



The walls are rising on the new home Foster Park Baptist Church.



They Plan To Build A New Church

The Building Committee of the Foster Park Baptist Church, 1540 W. 84th, met recently to discuss plans for their new church, which will be erected at 86th Avenue at 107th., Palos Hills. Committee members, pictured from left, are: (seated) William J. Hubbard, Arthur P. C. Pierson, general chairman; Mrs. John Schraeder, chairman of the plans committee; Rev. Gordon Bucy, program consultant from the American Baptist Home Missions Board; (standing) C. J. Erickson, chairman, construction committee; Fred C. Mose, survey committee; Blaine Reip, chairman, finance committee; Richard Harrison; Mrs. Howard Sheppard, secretary, building committee; Mrs. John McClelland, Mrs. Ernest Rosain, and Rev. Earl Wickstrom, pastor. Mr. A. Royall Gay, moderator, does not appear in the picture.

The name for the new church will be the Moraine Valley Community Church and construction is planned to begin in April, when the Board of Education takes

possession of the entire premises.

At present 12 classrooms are being leased for students of the Cook School.

Mr. Pierson is very in-

couraged by the cooperation of the various committees, and the enthusiasm of the church members.

The program of the new church will include pre-school nursery care, a complete youth program, a special college-age program, and one for senior citizens. It is hoped that this will be a seven day a week program to serve the entire community. Additional staff will be added to assist Rev. Wickstrom.

ECONOMIST NEWSPAPERS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Plan Church In Palos Hills



Plans for a new church building to be constructed in Palos Hills at 84th ave. and 107th st. were accepted by vote of members of the congregation of Foster Park Baptist church, 1540 W. 84th st., at a meeting held Feb. 16. Pictured here with models of the planned con-

struction are, from left: the Rev. Earl J. Wickstrom, pastor; Arthur P. C. Pierson, general chairman of the building council; Al Busch, chairman of the building committee; A. Royall Gay, moderator of the church; and Bob Smith, of Townsend and Smith, architects.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

A Guiding Hand

On December 13, 1967, Mr. A. Royall Gay reported that the Chicago Board of Education was interested in renting classrooms, and possibly the purchase of the church as an extension of Cook School. This could not take a quick decision, but a resource committee was appointed. Renting the classrooms, however, was approved first.

There was much to attend to, much to discuss, and there were meeting with lawyers, architects, real estate people, and with our own members. Because the community was changing, and people moving away, our membership was lower. Moving the church would involve new pledging of money, and much praying for guidance. Prayful support would be needed. This decision would affect the future of the church for years to come. But everything seemed to work together. As Pastor Earl Wickstrom quoted from the Bible, "All things work together for good to those that love God".

On February 18, 1969, the members were shown a model of a church building with preliminary plans for rooms and sanctuary. The church voted to direct Townsend and Smith Architects to proceed with the working models, drawing, and specifications.

On March 18, 1969, the building fund drive was launched for Sunday, March 28, 1969, our last meeting at Foster Park. This was a time of reflection. The day before lots of young people came to help move our furnishing and equipment to storage in many members' garages. A small portable building at 91st and Bishop streets was rented for some equipment, and Dorothy Palmer, our Church Secretary, had an office there.

The Trustees sent thank-you notes to those who helped move all our things. Special thanks went to John and Corinne McClelland and their three mighty strong young sons.



Presentations made by Pastor Borne, Circa 1964



Plans are approved for the new church.
L to R: Rev. Earl Wickstrom, Arthur Pierson, Alvin Busch,
A. Royall Gay, moderator, and Mr. Smith, architect



1968 - 1969



8601 West 107th Street -- Future Home of Moraine Valley Community Church



Groundbreaking



John Townsend, Architect



Foster Park Baptist Church, 9100 Bishop in Chicago, broke ground on Sunday, June 15th, 1969 for their new building at 107th and 86th Ave., Palos Hills. The new church will be called the Moraine Valley Community Church. The picture shows, left to right in back: Mr. A. Royall Gay, Moderator; Dr. Raymond Anderson, Chairman of Board of Trustees; Mr. Elmer Lind, ground breaker at the original church; Mrs. Arthur Pierson, Womans Mission Society President; Mr. C.J. Erickson, original ground breaker and President of the Keen Agers; Mrs. John A. Schraeder, Chairman of Christian Education; Mr. Kenneth Rehorst, Chairman of Deacon Board; and Mr. Ralph Cook, representing the Chicago Baptist Association. In front with the shovel are Rev. Earl J. Wickstrom and Mr. Arthur P.C. Pierson, Building Council Chairman.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Forty Years

One of 1968's highlights was the 40th anniversary celebration held in Johnson Hall. Herbert Lind was Chairman. Two hundred thirty people attended the dinner, and thirty more came for the program that followed. Held on September 29th, Dr. Adam Baum was the speaker, and Elmer Lind followed with slides covering 40 years of the history of Foster Park Baptist Church. Many former members took part, and spoke at the meeting.

Johnson Hall was a large room directly below the sanctuary, with raised wide windows on two sides. It was a cheerful, welcoming room for large dinners, with a good-sized kitchen nearby! The drama groups now had plenty of room for their stage, and many big events to place there. The Hall was named in honor of Ethel and Elmer Johnson, a couple who worked hard in all positions in the Sunday School and church board.

After the church service on Sunday a special time of fellowship was held, with former and present member telling what the church meant to them. Brimson Grow, Chair of the Trustee Board, officiated in the rite of burning the mortgage papers.

The name of our new church was voted by the congregation to become Moraine Valley Community Church. The people felt that although we continue to be a Baptist Church, we wanted to reach out to the people of the community, and calling ourselves a Community Church might encourage new people to attend.

On June 8th, 1969, the church membership approved a contract for the erection of the building at 107th and 87th Avenue, Palos Hills, Illinois. Taking into consideration the additional costs for furnishings, and the underwriting of a two-year program, with an estimated cost of \$500,000.00.

"On June 15th, 1969 we broke ground for the building, and progress has been beyond expectation." So said Arthur Pierson, General Chairman.

On September 21, 1969, the cornerstone was laid. Dr. Archibald, President of Northern Baptist Seminary, was the principal speaker at the ceremony.

The pews, carpeting and kitchen equipment have been ordered. Our normal church services continued during this period. All of the various classes or organizations continued with their activities. The Keen Agers met the first and third Tuesday of each month, except during November and December. They still took bus trips. One such special overnight trip that year was to Green Lake Assembly grounds across from Camp Grow in Green Lake, Wisconsin.



The Keen Agers often used a bus to go on field trips

1969



1969 Laying of the Cornerstone



L to R: Larry Hansen, Art Pierson, Royall Gay



Laying the Cornerstone



L to R: Senator Derwinski, Bill Hubbard,
John McClelland, A. Royall Gay



Rev. Earl Wickstrom

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Helping Hands

The year 1970 was busy. Much of our storage and furniture had to be moved again. Cross Temple wanted us out by July 1st, and the building loaned to us at Moraine Valley College needed to be emptied. Gradually everything would be put into the new church building, but not yet!

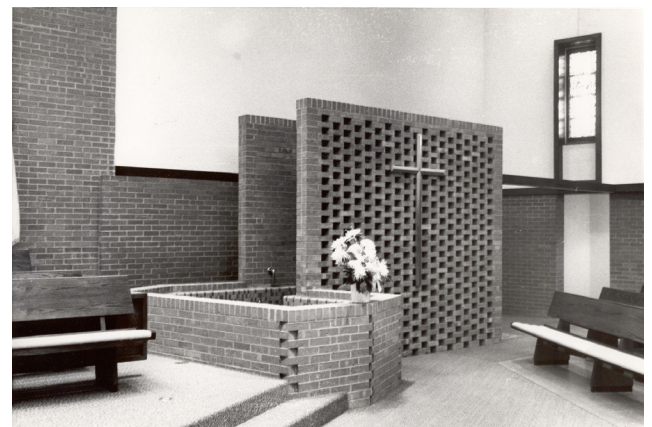
The Board of Trustees voted to build a garage type building next to the church which could store larger items, and that was very helpful. Bill Meisel, our former janitor, was rehired, and he slept in the new building as a watchman.

June 27th found church members busy in another “moving day”, even two pianos were moved! It was a lot of work. Our Hospitality Chairman Corinne McClelland served lunch from an electric roaster, along with cake, cookies, and coffee, to 37 tired people who sat on boxes or the floor. On July 3rd, another group came out and finished clearing the area.

Then, on Sunday, July 5th, we held the first service in the new building. To celebrate this occasion and the 30th Anniversary of Pastor Earl's ordination, the Hospitality Committee served cake, coffee and cookies from the unfinished kitchen!

From July to October, there were many days of cleaning and unpacking and dishwashing to get all in order.

All was in readiness for the Dedication Service in October. Ladies of the congregation brought sandwiches and cookies. Coffee, too, was served. But on October 23rd there was a catered Dedication Banquet for 175 members and friends – the first real use of our new kitchen! Rev. Adam Baum, our former pastor, was the speaker.



Our Families



MRS. KATHLEEN ALBERTSEN



DR. AND MRS. RAY ANDERSON



MR. AND MRS. TERRY ANDERSON



MRS. JANEEN BEAL AND DAUGHTERS



THE RICHARD BRIGGS FAMILY



THE CHARLES BROWN FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. R. BROWN



THE ALVIN G. BUSCH FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. RUDY CARLSON



THE CHRIS CHOU FAMILY



MRS. ETHEL COCHRAN



MRS. LILY M. COWBURN



THE LEROY CRETOL FAMILY



MRS. FLORINE DANCEY



MISS LOUISE DAHNKE



MR. AND MRS. S. DALZELL



MRS. JOHN DENMARK



MR. AND MRS. JOHN DENTON

1970 Church Directory



THE ROBERT DYKES FAMILY



VIRGINIA DYKES



MR. AND MRS. THURSTON EKBLAD



KAREN AND JANICE EKBLAD



MRS. BERT ENGHOLM



MRS. C. J. ERICKSON



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD FAY



MR. ANDREW FLAWS



MRS. HELEN FOX



MR. AND MRS. H. LANG



MR. AND MRS. A. ROYALL GAY



MR. AND MRS. NEWELL GRAY



MR. AND MRS. BRIMSON GROW



THE LARRY HANSEN FAMILY



SARA HOLLIS



MR. GILBERT JOHNSON



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD KAY



THE KENNETH KOHR FAMILY



MRS. LOIS LAMB



MRS. CARL LARSON



JUDGE AND MRS. MAURICE W. LEE



MRS. ROSE LEIST & REX TORIAN



MRS. ERNST LEWIN



MR. AND MRS. EUGENE LEWIS



MR. AND MRS. HERBERT LIND



MR. AND MRS. PAUL LIND



MRS. RAYMOND LITTLE



MR. AND MRS. ERNEST LOOMIS



MRS. GRACE LOWRY



MISS CLARA LYON



MRS. FLORENCE MADSEN



DR. AND MRS. CHARLES MANN



MR. AND MRS. JOHN MC CLELLAND



MRS. ERNEST MILLER AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. H. C. MILLER



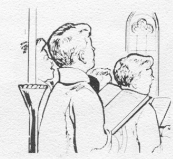
THE GRANT MITCHELL FAMILY



THE FRED MOSE FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE NELSON



MR. AND MRS. TOM NOLAN



MR. AND MRS. AARON OLSON



THE JAMES OLSON FAMILY



MISS MILDRED OSCHMAN



MRS. CHARLES PALMER



MRS. NORMA PAYNE



MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR PIERSON



MR. ROY POKIN AND FAMILY



THE ARTHUR PORTER FAMILY



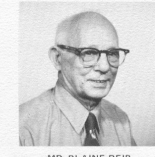
MISS NINA PRINGLE



MR. AND MRS. ERNEST E. RAPKA



THE KENNETH REHORST FAMILY



MR. BLAINE REIP



MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN ROCHE



THE ERNEST ROSAIN FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. EARL ROSENOW



MRS. WARREN RUNYAN



THE BILLY SATTERFIELD FAMILY



THE JOHN SCHRAEDER FAMILY





MR. AND MRS. SIDNEY SHEPHARD



MRS. HOWARD SHEPPARD



MRS. RAYMOND SHERWOOD



MISS GRACE SHILSON



MRS. JOSIE SINGLETON



MR. AND MRS. CLYDE SOELLNER



MR. JOSEPH STAMPF



MRS. JOSEPH STAMPF



MR. AND MRS. VICTOR STANK



MRS. OMA TODD



MR. GEORGE TROEMEL



MR. AND MRS. CHESTER URBAN



MR. AND MRS. FRANK VANDENOEVER



THE DUANE WICKSTROM FAMILY



REV. AND MRS. EARL WICKSTROM



MR. AND MRS. HAROLD WILLIN



MRS. ADA WOOD



MISS DOROTHY ZINK



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



CHOIR



BOARD OF DEACONS & DEACONESSSES

We Are Stewards

There is always a need for money, and our trustees have been very careful and prompt in caring for the funds. Our members have been caring in signing pledges, and finding ways in their activities to make money. They know that a part of the funds go to Missions. Brim Grow had a special saying: "You can't out-give God. We are the stewards." Our members have given in many ways. In the sixties the church sold notes to interested members, who received the interest. As the notes came due, each person could redeem them or donate them to the church, and that was a help to the budget.

Outdoor lighting, parking lot repair, snow removal, piano tuning, insurance – all things that cost money, and show up the need for extra funds. Luckily, we have had wonderful Trustees to oversee the needs.

We lost some of our members with the move to Palos Hills. Some families who could always walk to church now looked around for a closer one. Not surprisingly, after a few months, some families returned to our congregation. Slowly, the numbers were rising again, and a special effort was made to greet newcomers. Fred Mose was a greeter – a friendly man who remembered new names, and shook hands with a friendly smile, as did our Pastor.

In fact, Pastor Earl Wickstrom said, "Thank you for your service to Christ and His church, not for just your faith, but your love as well. Love is the first mark of a true and living church, but not unless it is a loving church. Without love, the church is lifeless."



Moraine Valley Community Church Dedicates New Building In Palos Hills

Moraine Valley Community Church, formerly Foster Park, dedicated its new building at 8601 W. 107th st., Palos Hills, with a series of special events Oct. 11-25. Speakers for the services included Dr. Richard Cummings, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society; the Rev. Darrell S. Bennett, Chicago Association; the Rev. Ian Chapman, Morgan Park; Dr. Adam Baum of Springfield and a former pastor; Dr. Turner, president of Moraine Valley Community College and Congressman Edwin J. Derwinski.

The new building is a change in design from the traditional. The large narthex serves as a hub and fellowship area around which activities generate. The structure is on one level and is entirely carpeted and air-conditioned. The sanctuary is radial in design with

ten rows of pews, giving a feeling of closer fellowship.

The church was organized Sept. 2, 1928. In 1955, Englewood Baptist Church joined with Moraine and in 1966, five acres of land were purchased in Palos Hills. In deference to the location, the name was changed to Moraine Valley Community Church, with continued affiliation with the American Baptist Convention. The first service in the new building was held on June 5, 1970.

The Rev. Earl J. Wickstrom has been pastor of the church since 1966, coming here from the First Baptist Church of Niles, Mich., where he led a building program. Prior to that, he had been pastor of Chicago Heights at the time they, too, erected a new building.



1976 - 2000



Preschool Teachers L to R: Front Row: Ann (Gray) Mitchell, Dorothy (Zink) Martin, Erma Bryan. Back Row: Jennifer Ames, Barb Tampa, Alice Christiansen, Dianne Werner.



The children baked an Easter cake in 1987



Mrs. Janosek and Miss Marc's class about 1994. Front row, L to R: Jeremy, Veronica, Jillian, Erin, Nicole. Back row, L to R: Sami, Sarah, Kevin, Erica, and Nicholas Noga.



A preschool photo from October 1976 shows young Becky Marcquenski, niece of Director Dorothy Martin, standing second from the right, wearing plaid pants. Becky will later grow up and become Becky (Marcquenski) Moss, Director of the MVCC Preschool.



Becky (Marcquenski) Moss, Director of the MVCC Preschool, oversees autumn fun with falling leaves.

CHAPER FIFTEEN

Moraine Valley Community Church Preschool

AS WRITTEN IN FEBRUARY 2001 BY

DOROTHY (ZINK) MARTIN, FORMER PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

We had a vision in 1971 that children of preschool age in Palos Hills and nearby communities needed a place to work and learn with other children: to develop trust in the world outside their homes and to understand their world through self-discovery. With the blessings of the Board of Deacons and Christian Education Committee, Rev. Earl Wickstrom and I sought out Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for state licensing.

Having surveyed the community there was not a need for a day care center — thus we were serving a 2-1/2 day program. (In retrospect today 70% of Moms are employed!) Students were enrolled from our local community (Aspen Drive) and our congregation to total 25. Tuition was \$2.00 per session. Ann Mitchell was the first church member to be hired, a divine friendship.

Within two years we totaled 200 students, reaching from La Grange to the city limits of Palos Hills. Encouraging our outreach I am grateful to Mr. Art Pierson, John McClelland, John Schraeder, A. Royal Gay, and Bill Hubbard (who donated smiley face tee shirts). Dorothy Palmer and Gene Lewis (bookkeeper) drove the car pools to the Trace Apartments.

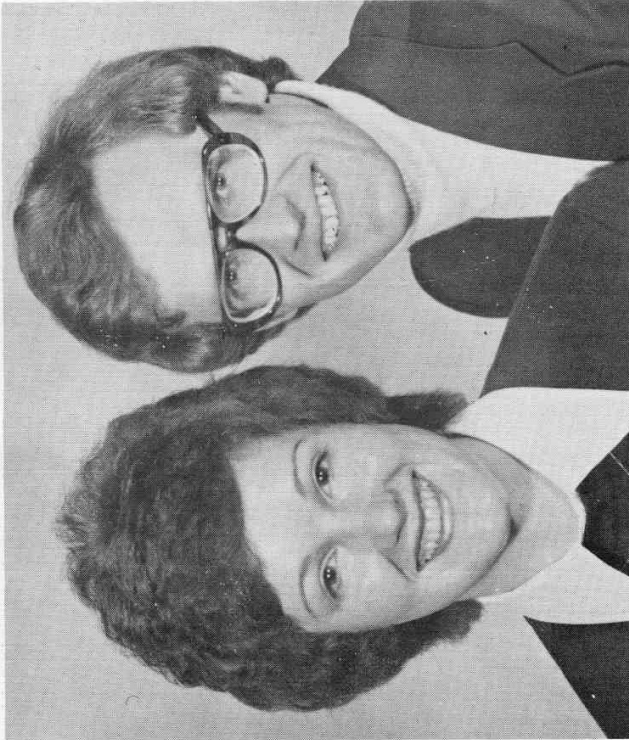
Our equipment came from Foster Park Church and two successful Jazz concerts entitled us to purchase additional supplies. To reflect on our early days is very exciting. In the beginning 88th Avenue did not exist, so I contacted the college and invited the students enrolled in child care to walk across the campus. Students of Moraine Valley Community College were then taking classes in mobiles, and completing their internships at our school. This practice continued for many years until the college opened a day care center. Rachel Circle sold our cribs to the center! I was asked to serve on Moraine Valley's Child Care Advisory Committee and eventually taught in the child care division for many years.

We were growing and cherishing our vital program and weren't aware of the competition until licensing renewal when the Fire Marshal remarked that there were now 30 schools in the area! Economics played havoc with family life, school districts began early childhood programs which impacted enrollment. Several successful summer camps were developed, vision and learning screenings were offered, and we successfully raised fund through Hop 'A Thons for Muscular Dystrophy and St. Jude's Hospital.

At the core was the pastoral leadership of E. Wickstrom, D. Johnson, J. Spahn, and Dave Nichols, and the chicks in the office (what patience!). At our inception it was stipulated that church members would be the first staffing consideration. I was richly blessed with the talents and testimonies of: Ann Mitchell, Erma Bryan, Debbie Busch, Nancy Janosek, Sue Blythe, Renee Macarus, Phyllis Marcquenski, Becky Moss, Dianne Werner, Corrine McClelland (bookkeeper), Geri Schwer, Annette Noga, Joan Knox, Patti Cantu, Carol Vitkauskus, and Debbie Lauciello. Among the "Helping Hands" have been: Grant Mitchell, Earl Rosenow, Larry Hansen, Ray Krause, Roy Beehn, and Ernie Miller (sprinkler system).

Our staff participated in Early Childhood Conference at Moraine, Whitewater, Wisconsin, and Concordia Teacher's Co. Open houses were hosted by our own Women's Mission Society ladies.

Who would have imaged a precocious two-year old accompanying her aunt to school would one day become its director? "God does not want extraordinary things, but ordinary people who do extraordinary things." In Psalms we read, "Come see what the Lord has done." We invite you to know and understand our goals as we touch so many lives.

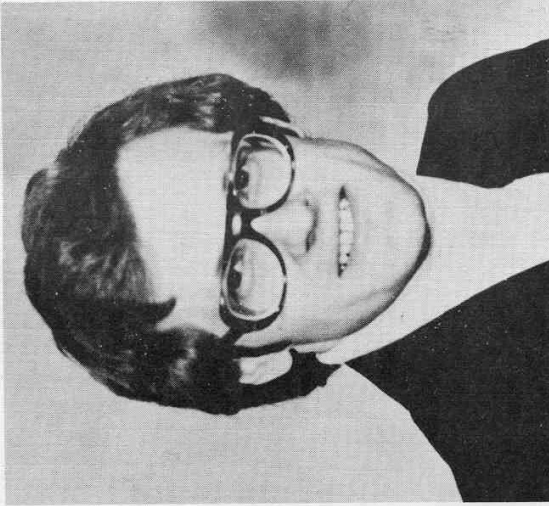


Rev. Dennis L. Johnson received his Master of Divinity degree in 1976 from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1971 from Quincy College, Quincy, Ill. During the interim years between college and seminary, he taught junior high school at Roosevelt Military Academy, Aledo, Ill., and at Rockridge Junior High, Rock Island, Ill.

Rev. Johnson has served as interim of the Moraine Valley church since February of 1975, jointly with Rev. Buzzard thru May and individually since June. The Moraine Valley Community Church was the name chosen when, in 1968 a decision to move was made by Foster Park Baptist Church, then located at 84th and Justine Streets in Chicago. A building site was acquired in a rapidly developing section of Palos Hills at 107th and 86th Ave., close to the Moraine Valley Community College. For many of the members this was the second such move as in 1955 Englewood Baptist Church, located at Steward and Englewood Avenues, had merged with Foster Park Baptist Church. The new church was finally ready for occupancy and the first service was held in it July 5, 1970.

Building membership from the new community has proved a difficult challenge. But we are now seeing a growing Sunday School and a number of new young families are joining, our fellowship. Through support of community activities and a fine pre-school which has been conducted very successfully since we first moved into the area, we now have a very fine reputation in the community.

Rev. Johnson was ordained, graduated, and married to the former Holly Bauer of La Grange all within the months of May and June. Holly is an active interior designer and a member of the American Society of Interior Designers. They reside at 11104 S. 84th Avenue, Palos Hills.



*Installation of
Reverend Dennis L. Johnson
as pastor of
Moraine Valley Community Church*

Sunday, December 12, 1976

4:00 p.m.

8601 W. 107th Street

Palos Hills, Illinois

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

We Join In

In 1974 we were enjoying the ministry of Peter Brown, minister in training, and former pupil at Foster Park Church. He did a fine job leading the children's sermon, enjoyed by children and adults alike. He also had different ideas in teaching the young people's classes, and that prompted new people attending and learning scripture.

In the spring, Joy Runyan and her committee planned a contest for children and high school age, which found good response.

In May and June, "The Family Plan" was adopted as a theme for each Sunday, and the Pastor geared his sermon to fit right in on the importance of family members and family life. One Sunday the entire Chris Chou family sang together, with one of the boys playing the piano, Carol on the violin, and Dr. Chris Chou giving an excellent sermon.

On June 17th Daily Vacation Bible School began, with Bible lessons, interesting crafts, and singing. On their last Sunday they showed what they had been doing all week.

June 30th was the church picnic. On Rally Day a new fall program was demonstrated by Grace Shilson and her committee.

The Sunday morning coffee hour after church offered a chance to greet new members, and fellowship with friends. It continued each Sunday until the present day.

This was a good year for our membership with ample activities, good sermons that teach and touch us with the love of Christ.

Rally Day was a springboard for a fall contest, creating lots of enthusiasm in adults and children for Sunday School.

1978 - 1980



Alellulia Cantata 1978



Chancel Choir 1979



Christian Forum Class 1980



Rev. Dennis L. Johnson received his Master of Divinity degree in 1976 from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1971 from Quincy College, Quincy, Ill. During the interim years between college and seminary, he taught junior high school at Roosevelt Military Academy, Aledo, Ill., and at Rockridge Junior High, Rock Island, Ill.

Rev. Johnson has served as interim of the Moraine Valley church since February of 1975, jointly with Rev. Buzzard thru May and individually since June. The Moraine Valley Community Church was the name chosen when, in 1968 a decision to move was made by Foster Park Baptist Church, then located at 84th and Justine Streets in Chicago. A building site was acquired in a rapidly developing section of Palos Hills at 107th and 86th Ave., close to the Moraine Valley Community College. For many of the members this was the second such move as in 1955 Englewood Baptist Church, located at Steward and Englewood Avenues, had merged with Foster Park Baptist Church. The new church was finally ready for occupancy and the first service was held in it July 5, 1970.

Building membership from the new community has proved a difficult challenge. But we are now seeing a growing Sunday School and a number of new young families are joining our fellowship. Through support of community activities and a fine pre-school which has been conducted very successfully since we first moved into the area, we now have a very fine reputation in the community.

Rev. Johnson was ordained, graduated, and married to the former Holly Bauer of La Grange all within the months of May and June. Holly is an active interior designer and a member of the American Society of Interior Designers. They reside at 11104 S. 84th Avenue, Palos Hills.

1976 - Rev. Dennis and Holly Johnson



CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Celebration

Pastor Earl Wickstrom left our church after serving almost seven years. Rev. Lynn Buzzard, a graduate of Northern Seminary, came as an interim, and introduced the congregation to Rev. Dennis Johnson. The two pastors worked together for a while as our pastors and teachers. Rev. Dennis Johnson was soon invited to serve as our pastor, and Pastor Buzzard accepted another pastorate.

Pastor Johnson was interested in many things. He wanted to know what each church job entailed, and all about the members and their faith. He sent out a questionnaire that asked among other questions, "Why did you join?" "What should be the responsibilities of a church member?" "Do you engage in devotional practice?" "What do you believe?" These questions and their answers gave him a feeling of knowing his congregation and these questions were interesting for study for the members, too.

Pastor Johnson was also interested in the Drama Group and encouraged their work and programs. A portable stage was built, and special lights and microphones were purchased. The children's classes were encouraged to put on plays, too, complete with costumes. Pastor Johnson actually played the part of an owl in "Sir Oliver". Other children's plays included "The Music Machine" and "Down By the Creek Bank." These plays involved a lot of people in acting, music, props, scenery and costumes. All were delighted with the programs.

Pastor Johnson also started a book club of maybe 12 or 14 people who met once a month at each other's homes for book discussions of the strengths or weakness of the characters, and the author's intentions. Of course coffee and cake were served afterwards!

On September 4th, 1979, the church celebrated the 10th anniversary of being in Palos Hills. Ernest Rosain, Anniversary Chairman, sent letters of invitation to all members, whether local or out of the area, as well as church friends. On that afternoon, the choir would present "Sound of Music" and a catered meal was served.

Rev. Johnson also created several retreats – generally at the Palos Community Center in Palos Park. Sometimes the retreat was for those holding a position in the church or for those interested in examining their faith. It was a study in how to deepen commitments to evangelism and the individual's faith. These were well attended.

Herbert Lind, Chair of the Board of Deacons, recommended Mark Tubbs for ordination, as he had passed all the test of the Chicago Baptist Association. Mark had worked and taught in our church, and was ordained here. After his ordination, he traveled to the First Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon, to accept a position as an Assistant Pastor to its 1200 members.

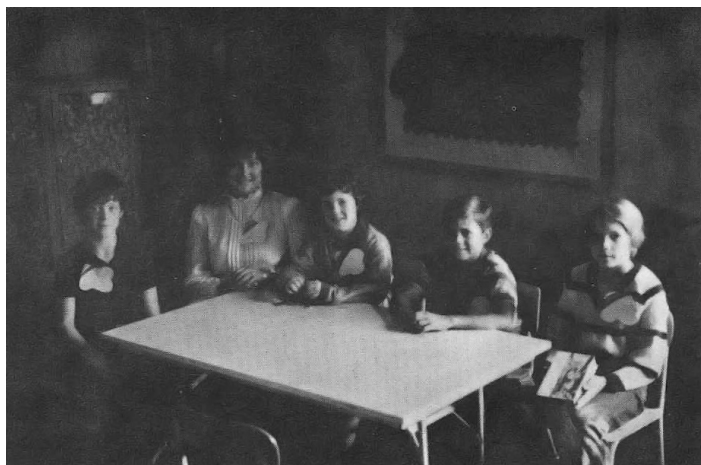
1980's



1987 - 1988 Maureen Bird



Preschoolers circa 1982



Middlers Class, Debbie Lauciello, teacher
Students L to R: Matt Macarus, Lori Macarus,
Jimmy Ammirati, Derrick Beehn



Youth Sunday Presentation: L to R: Randy Miller, David Church,
Joyce (Mason) Briggs, Mark Tubbs, Linda Miller, Martha
Church, Unknown young lady, Lori Macarus, Matt Macarus,
Renee Macarus



Rachel Circle Members serve a Christmas Luncheon:
Kay Pavell, Renee Macarus, Carol Miller, Linda Hudecek,
Phyllis Bendtsen, Dianne Werner, Phyllis Marcquenski



1980 Roy Beehn, Jr. attains the rank
of Eagle Scout with the church's
Boy Scout Troop 654

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Fellowship With One Another

Total membership as of May 1st, 1980, was 319. This has been a busy year in activity, with study, and growth. New ideas have been taking part in it all. Preston Van Loon, as added staff person, plus Randy Miller, from the seminary, have increased the avenues of activity and enjoyment.

Preston said, "I'm excited about what has happened this last year. The Sunday School has experienced a 20% increase in attendance. The youth group is ministering to the needs of youth, and the Family Life Committee is organized and excited with a full agenda of activities for the coming year."

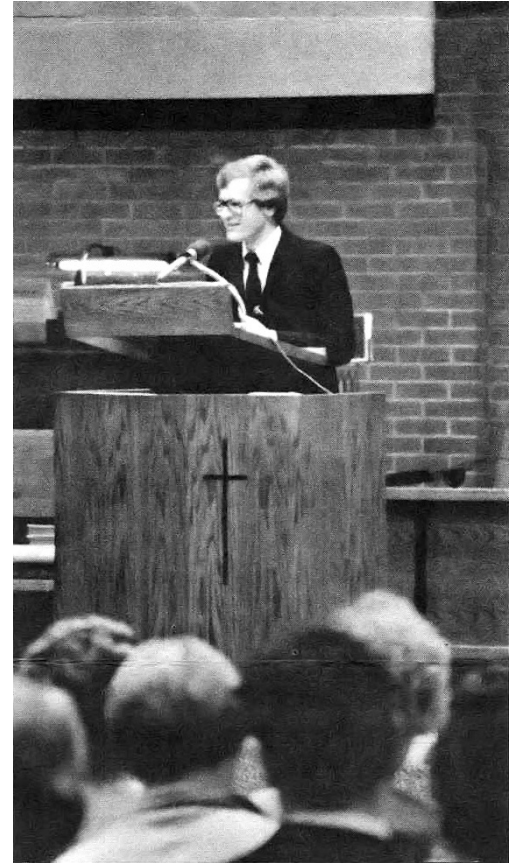
New teachers have joined the forces. Monthly meetings including "Family Day" and "Sunday School Swim Party" have been heartily received. Still to come are "A White Sox Ball Game" in June, plus several field trips.

The Church Family Campout at Green Lake, Wisconsin last June was a smashing success! Many youngsters went to Camp Grow this year.

Joyce Mason, MVCC Youth Director, says there is visual growth among the youth. They are much more united with one another, learning to be what it is like to be a Christian in the world.

Our Women's Mission Society members joined with the Business and Professional Women's Circle for a dinner meeting of music and fellowship twice this year. The Second Annual Men and Boys' Dinner, with a speaker from the Christian Athlete's Association, was enjoyed by all.

Randy Miller has revitalized the Deacons, and has sought new ways of service and ministry. Pastor Johnson is thankful for the various groups and for their continued support.



Family Life Committee, 1980
Standing: Rev. Dennis Johnson, Roy and Virginia Beehn,
Randy Miller. Seated: Marion Busch, Committee Chair



Preston Van Loon - 1980

To Him All Things

After almost ten years as our Pastor, our much-loved Dennis Johnson felt a challenge to accept a call from the Geneva Road Baptist Church in Wheaton, Illinois. We will greatly miss Dennis, as he has served us well.

To show appreciation of his work, the congregation presented Pastor Johnson with a cake, plus



1986 New Horizons Class.

L to R: James Ammirati, Rev. Johnson,
Renee Macarus, Vernon Miller, Carol Miller

FROM THE SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN REALTOR NEWSLETTER OF JUNE 1989



U.S. Senator Paul Simon is presented with bow tie from Alvin Busch.

U.S. Senator Paul Simon

□ U.S. Senator Paul Simon, whose wardrobe is conservative but sparked by a wide variety of bow ties, graciously accepted a polka dot silk clip-on and a grey geometric design bow tie from Alvin Busch during the recent Scholarship Awards luncheon.

Busch, who served as Board President in 1972, has been creating his own high fashion bow-ties for over two decades. He's given them as gifts

to people like Red Skelton, sports personalities and Chicago corporate giant Clement Stone, and sometimes he makes several in a week.

If Busch was thrilled to make a presentation of his neck wear to Senator Simon, he was equally thrilled when scholarship winner David Watson from Reavis High School approached him following the ceremony and complimented him on the bow tie he was wearing. Busch immediately removed it and presented it to a delighted young man. ■

flowers for Holly Johnson and Megan, their daughter. Also presented to Dennis was a copy of the New English Oxford Study Bible, and "A Guide To Prayer For Ministers".

Pastor Johnson then reflected on the past year's activities – recognizing the Officers, Deacons, and Trustees who carried out their duties along with their various standing committees. He had special thanks for the volunteers who covered building maintenance, community involvement, devotional jobs, and those who called on the ill members. He also thanked Kay Pavell and Emily Mose for their work in the church office.

A committee of seven members was appointed and confirmed by the church to start seeking a new pastor. Rev. William Nelson, Executive Minister of the CBA, accepted the post of interim while the committee searched.

In Brim Grow's Annual Report, he, too, as Moderator, wanted to thank all members who have given so much of their energy and time this year. This includes the Chairman of Vision Seekers, Herb Lind; Chairman of Trustees, Corinne McClelland; Chairman of Deacons, Robert Palmer; Chairman of Christian Education, Elaine Carey; Chairman of Membership, Ted Ekblad; Chairman of Missions, Susan Palmer; Chairman of Women's Missions, Marion Busch; and Chairman of Maintenance Committee Earl Rosenow, as well as committee members Larry Hanson, Bob Doodson, and Bob Palmer.

CHAPTER TWENTY

Board of Trustees

On March 22nd, 1987, Corinne McClelland, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented our new pastor Rev. J. Jeffrey Spahn and Mrs. April Spahn for church membership.

Pastor Jeff entered whole-heartedly into the structure of the committees and meetings, and there were a lot of them! Many people were involved. Each group required leadership roles, monthly meetings, and sometimes weekly meetings. It had been determined that the church needed a new approach to fulfilling necessary adjustments.

A committee was appointed to study the feasibility of a single board constitution. Under the leadership of Herb Lind, a new form of Constitution for the church was prepared. It was adopted and would take effect at the 1988 Annual Meeting.

At the Stewardship Dinner in the autumn, Herb Lind gave an update report on the Single Board and Constitution changes.

Clarice Stampf, Sunday School Superintendent, reported nine Sunday School classes at this time. Maureen Bird, seminary student, was introduced to the people, and Brim Grow spoke of the help she will bring to our classes.

Corinne McClelland showed a chart of percentages of monies allocated to the various functions of the church and its properties. The Thanksgiving offering was \$1,137, and it will be put into the General Fund.

Larry Hansen, of the Board of Trustees, brought up the paving of the parking lot. It will be upgraded, blacktopped, and drains will be put in. A motion was made, seconded, and passed, that the parking lot be improved, and bids go out.

Phyllis Bendtsen, Publicity Chairman, announced that items of our church activities have been on radio and TV stations, as well as in local newspapers. A few new people have stopped by for church because of that publicity.

In 1990, enrollment totaled 86 preschool students under the direction of Erma Bryan, Ann Mitchell, Dianne Werner, Barbara Tampa, Geri Cody, Alyce Christensen, and Jennifer Ames. Special services were added this term from the Sertoma Club to screen our children for speech. A Hop-A-Thon again was staged with proceeds to the Muscular Dystrophy Fund.



J. Jeffrey Spahn, Pastor

1990 - 1994



Dorothy Palmer, Church Secretary



Rev. Randy Miller with wife Leslie and daughter, Sarah in front of their new church in California, 1990



Sue Miller on a motorcycle behind her son Terry, circa 1993.



Rev. Jeffrey Spahn, Easter 1992



At Palos Friendship Fest 1992



Pastor Jeff and April Spahn share a light moment with the congregation.



Homecoming Committee - Left to Right: Christine Bielik, Alvin Busch, Marian Busch, Valerie Beehn, Claudio Lauciello, Elsie Schraeder, Dorothy Pierson

The Year To Witness

By the end of 1990, the parking lot was paved, and paid for! The one-board structure with the church council has provided closer communication, and given new ideas and thoughtful decisions.

The Christian Social Committee with Marion Busch, Chairman, was very active. A blood drive was conducted, and ten folks offered to donate blood. The members also took part in a hunger walk, chaired by Claudio Lauciello, which realized \$465.25 from church members.

“PADS”, a program to assist the homeless in shelters, sent a speaker to talk about the needs of such people, and again our members obliged by donations of toilet articles, clothing, food, and pads for beds.

One of the most pleasant jobs in working with the Community Resource Department of Palos Hills was allowing them to have the Friendship Festival on our grounds. We cooperated in all ways possible – even setting up tables and chairs in our narthex for the police officers and staff workers to rest and eat their lunch. They were very grateful. Our friendship with the community officials has been a warm one.

A very good sport, Pastor Spahn cooperated in one of the games on the lawn. It was called “Dunk The Pastor” where a well-thrown ball would release the perch where the pastor sits and drop him into a waiting tub of water. There was a long line of younger church members waiting their turn.

To celebrate twenty years of worship as Moraine Valley Community Church, and to anticipate another twenty years of participating in God’s activity in the world, the pastor and church council created a “20/20 Vision Committee”. The first phase is Renewal – to revitalize the rededication and repentance of our church. Plans are emerging on inviting people to attend the Evangelism Meeting for eight days at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Twenty people decided to attend.

Phase Two of “20/20 Vision” will be Homecoming, planned for October 1990. Rev. Dan Buttrey will lead Bible study and encourage members to talk and think of God’s vision of our church, and how our church celebrated that vision for our church needs, combining the old and new, and letting the Spirit enter into our programs and plans of both the familiar and the strange.

Pastor Spahn says, “The Spirit is given that we might witness to the world. This is our challenge for the year ahead!”

1989 -1997



Norma Payne, Organist



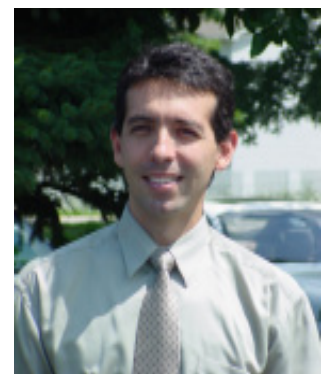
*Senior Choir
Dorothy Pierson, Director; Norma Payne, Organist*



*Dorothy Pierson, Choir Director
for many years until her retirement
in 1996.*



*Ernie and Harriet Rosain. Harriet
played the piano for many years,
whenever needed.*



*Martin Suarez, Minister of
Music, 1997 to present*



Walkin' By Faith sang at many locations around Chicago and regional cities. In 1996 the group was made up of (seated L to R) Susan Olson, Laura Rodgers, (standing L to R) Claudio Lauciello, Valerie Beehn, Virginia Beehn, and Tim Broniec.

FROM THE WORTH/PALOS REPORTER SEPTEMBER 14, 1989

Palos Hills thanks volunteers with barbecue



Members of Moraine Valley Community Church who attended the appreciation barbecue were (clockwise from left) David Diaz, Claudio Lauciello, Val Beehn, Virginia Beehn, Brim Grow and Pastor Jeffrey Spahn. (Photos by Ron Rehfeldt)

We Walk By Faith

In the early 1990's, the Property Committee Chairman, Roy Beehn, reported work that needed to be completed. The Bell Tower was posing a hazard, making safety an immediate concern. Bricks were falling off now and then. The committee was studying what was best – even to removing the entire structure! There were air conditioning problems in the sanctuary and no air conditioning in Associate Pastor Mike Milo's office. Closing off the back sanctuary wall was another job to get done, as well as remodeling some of the classrooms for Sunday School and preschool. Brim Grow thought our congregation would supply the money needed. One family has already promised to match an offering.

Pastor Jeff asked for help in planning the weekly church service as he would be teaching teenagers a course on Baptist beliefs, faith, and baptism. Claudio Lauciello and Valerie Beehn worked with Mike Milo in planning these church services with music for the children and young folks. Pastor Mike also traveled with high school youth to Indiana for a Senior High Convention, and they are planning a workweek at Camp Grow in the spring. The children were asked to help design covers for the bulletins, which turned out delightfully.

"Praise" songs were just starting up in various churches, and our young adults did a fine job in singing them in church services and at other events. Several singers from the church began leading the singing during worship, and began to be known as "The Worship Singers". Often they would practice in the janitor's closet during Sunday School for lack of a more appropriate practice area. Mike Milo would accompany the singers on the piano, and Steve Briggs would play the guitar. Enjoying the music, the Evangelism Committee promoted a musical that they presented at the Palos Hills Fest. They secured two hours of stage time.

With "The Worship Singers" as a base, in 1994 Susan Olson started a contemporary Christian singing group called "Walkin' By Faith", with the voices of Steve Briggs, Valerie Beehn, Claudio Lauciello, Virginia Beehn, Mike Milo, Peter Shaw, Geri Masters, and Laura Diaz. The group performed a concert at our church, and then they went on to perform at the Palos Hills Friendship Fest, and various churches and functions in the Midwest. Between 1994 and 1997 they sang in Daley Plaza in Chicago, at the Chicago Gospelfest, the Harold Washington Library, and they appeared on TV channel 38. The group recorded ten of their songs in a project recorded in Nashville, TN.

The Chancel Choir, with Dorothy Pierson directing, Norma Payne at the organ, and with Harriet Rosain at the piano, continued to sing anthems from the old and new composers at each Sunday service. Dorothy Pierson was directing a children's choir at Englewood Baptist Church when they made the move to join Foster Park. Dorothy was asked to continue, and in 1970 she was asked to direct the senior choir, which she did until she retired in 1997. *That* is a lot of years, and produced many happy memories.

Norma Payne became the church organist just after Rev. Wil Borne became pastor at Foster Park in the early 1970's. She was a lovely lady, and her music was memorable. She also played for the choir and its rehearsals.

Harriet Rosain played whenever needed in the Sunday School rooms, and when Norma was absent. Starting in the 1980's Harriet and Norma played duets together for the preludes and postludes. After Norma retired in 1993, Harriet played for all services and church events until Martin Suarez was hired in 1997.

Martin Suarez, our Minister of Music beginning in 1997, directs our choir, and plays the piano and organ. Born in Bucaramanga, Colombia, the youngest of six children, Martin started music lessons at age 14, with a dream of playing the church organ. At eighteen he went to Medellin, Colombia to earn a B.A. in college. Following two years of teaching, he traveled to California to earn a Masters in Music.

1991 Church Directory



Roy & Valarie Beehn, Jr.,
Nichole & Amanda



Roy & Virginia Beehn, Sr.



Harry & Phyllis Bendtsen, Jr.
& Harry, III



Gene & Ione Beugger



Kathryn Bielik



Richard & Chris Bielik



Steve & Joyce Briggs



George & Marge Brumis



Sadie Bult



Marion Busch



George & Elaine Carey



LeRoy & Marilyn Crettol



Thomas & Laura Diaz
& David



Thurston & Ruth Ekblad



Robert & Katherine Farris,
Kristine & Robert



Richard & Betty Fay



Warner & Debbie Folsom



Helen Gable



Brimson & Maybelle Grow



Thomas & Donna Healy,
Kevin & Elizabeth



William & Betty Hoffman



Darlien Hubbard



Linda Hudecek



John & Mary Hughes



Al Johansen



Jeanne Johnson



Harriet Kay



William Keenan



Virginia Marie Kowalski



Raymond Krause
& Delores Haller



Claudio & Debbie Lauciello,
Michelle, Claudia & Andrea



Eva Lee



Martha Lewin



Herbert & Ruth Lind



David & Renee Macarus,
Steven, Matthew & Lori



Charlene Madonia,
Bobbie, Allison & Shelley



Dorothy Martin
& Collin



Harry & Florence Mazur



Lucy McCann,
Cathy & Timothy



Corinne McClelland



Isabel McDaniel
& Raebelle Garant



Peter & Ginger Mikulic



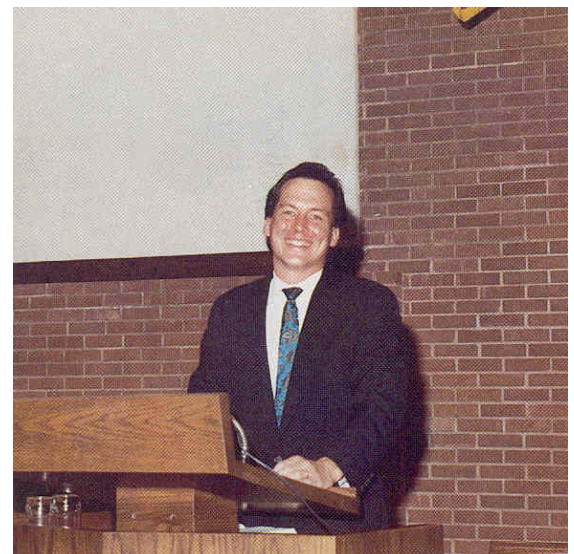
Vern & Carol Miller,
Natalie & Jennifer



Michael & Jill Milo



Grant & Ann Mitchell



J. Jeffrey Spahn, Senior Pastor



Fred Mose
& Emily



Gary & Kathy Motush,
Jason, Daniel, Katie & Laura



Jacqueline Myers



Elsie Schraeder



Andrew Sebby



George & Patricia Shemwell



Tom & Fran Nolan



Blake & Susan Olson,
Lindsay & Zachary



Mildred Oschman



Joyce Skowronski



Charlotte Sommerson,
Judy & Uriah



Jeffrey & April Spahn,
Lauren & Elyse



Dorothy Palmer



Robert & Susan Palmer



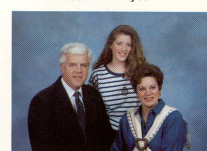
Wendy Palmer



Clarice Stampf



Kenneth & Cele Struthers



Wayne & Marti Szara
& Dana



George & Kay Pavell



Norma Payne



Dorothy Pierson



Bill & Dottie Thill



John & Beverly Thornton,
Andrea & Sara



Clare Troemel



Roy & Anita Pokin



Ernie & Harriet Rosain



John Sacher



Jack & Pamela (Conrad) Van Liew



Ethel Willin



Marie Wilzewske



Mike Milo, Associate Pastor

THOSE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PICTURES



Joyce McMahon



Elizabeth Miller



Linda Miller



Earl & Betty Rosenow

Galatians 5:22

Virginia Beehn in 1992 was elected to be Moderator – the first woman to hold that position in our church. She did a fine job in officiating the various responsibilities, and maintaining a level of reason with any problems.

Michael Milo was working well with all ages of children, and the Christian Education Department was busy with plans for a wonderful Noah's Ark presentation, which everyone enjoyed. Katherine Farris' class made small animals to fit inside a wooden ark for the presentation.

One Sunday, Mike's teenager class took charge of the church service, including scripture reading, music, and prayers. The service ended with David Diaz playing the piano and singing a song he had composed.

Easter was a busy time with an Egg Hunt for 71 little ones looking for eggs, coloring them, and singing songs about Jesus, and listening to stories from the Bible. Many adults helped with the event.

In 1993 the church had pasta dinners every other week for several months. The various pastas were prepared by Claudio Lauciello's family business. Two teams of kitchen workers alternated to cook the dinner, serve, and clean up afterwards. The dinners were great, with various members and neighborhood folks attending regularly.

Meanwhile, different groups of people and committees were taking turns preparing the church services. Some dissention arose, with a few older members vocally criticizing the younger peoples' choice of music. A balance between old and new music was earnestly sought, often with great emotion attached.

Pastor Jeff Spahn was working on finding a vision for the church. The "20/20 Vision Committee" was formed, and a plan presented, but the project was not well received by the congregation.

The Chicago Baptist Association of Metro Chicago put us in touch with Rev. Philip Moschenrose, to mediate our various disputes and to guide the council. He was invaluable in his understanding of our problems. A church-wide survey was taken, with each member and friend answering questions about various aspects of the church and its ministry.

In 1994, Mike Milo left the church, and soon after became youth minister at a church in the Detroit area. Both Mike and his wife Jill were well liked.

Rev. Spahn left the church the following year. Dr. David Nichols, aide to the President of Northern Baptist Seminary, and a long-time friend of our members, stepped in to help us as we worked through the turmoil. He agreed to work with us in frequent pulpit supply, and helped part-time in visiting the sick, and counseling the hurting.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

A New Beginning

Linda Hudecek was elected in May 1996 as Moderator. It was a transitional period in our church, and a busy one for the Council. The Pulpit Supply Committee was responsible for a preacher on each Sunday. The Worship and Service Committee lined up the scripture reading, hymns and scripture readers. For any special service, flowers and/or banners were used. Communion was prepared by Chairman Christine Bielak with her committee members. Ted Ekblad was in charge of the ushers, and many people signed up to read the scripture. There were some fine sermons by those asked to serve.

Dr. David Nichols worked at Northern Baptist Seminary, and not only did we enjoy his sermons, but he started a Bible study, well attended, on Wednesday evening before choir practice. Both he and his wife Linnea sang in the choir. At the end of her first year as Moderator, Linda Hudecek wrote: "Our church calendar continues to be full. We are being fed spiritually, and I sense in the air a new spirit of hope and prosperity as God continues to work among us."

After nine months of pastoral transition, Dr. David Nichols became the pastor of Moraine Valley Community Church. The installation service was in October 1996.

Near the beginning of Dr. Nichols' term as pastor, the church called John Mancusi to assist at the church. John, whose wife Debbie is a cousin of Dr. Nichols, was attending Northern Baptist Theological Seminary with the goal of becoming a church pastor. John and Debbie also sang in the choir each week.

John Mancusi could not only preach, but was preparing a flier-type questionnaire for church members, to be a part of the follow-up in creating a data base for their talents, ideas, and desires, leading to the goals of the church. At the end of his first year at the seminary, John Mancusi was called to pastor a Baptist church just a few miles from his home in Wisconsin. He accepted the call, and commuted from Wisconsin to the seminary to complete his studies. He graduated in 2001.

In 1998 Brimson Grow was again honored by Northern Baptist Theological Seminary when Kern Hall was dedicated. Brim had already had the library at the seminary named for him.

By the years 1999 and 2000 the church was buzzing with activity. The church began a food pantry named in honor of Elsie Schraeder. Local businesses and organizations offered their support in this ministry, helping us prepare the shelving, paint the walls, and sort the food. Pastor Dave explained that the food pantry reflects gifts of hope, joy, love and peace to those in need.



Pastor Dave explains the food pantry during Children's Time in the worship service.



Elsie's daughter, Jackie Pyle, and granddaughters, Jennifer and Lauren



Gifts of hope, joy, love and peace.

Lullaby at the Stable

The Christmas play in 2000 was another unforgettable one. Having 40 children participating in the play made it special indeed. Not everyone is pictured here, but there were mice, bunnies, lions, sheep, sheep dogs, shepherds, wise men, angels, Mary and Joseph. Bill Curtis did a wonderful job as narrator and, once again, Martin Suarez proved his musical gifts are without equal!

Geri Schwer and her committee prepared costumes and guided the children throughout the play. Costumes were made by Nancy Janosek, Becky Moss, Margie Janda and Geri Schwer. Additional help on the day of the program came from Mary McGee, Beth Heinrich, Sophia Torres, Marilyn Townsend and Katie Schwer.



Does anyone doubt that these "angels" were well cast?



Katie Schwer applies face paint to make the costumes even better.



The McGee triplets had no difficulty fulfilling their role as "wandering sheep."





Erika Rogers and Ashley Crettol sang a beautiful duet, "Jesus Will Still Be There", at worship service on Sunday Dec. 3rd.



Maureen Bird-Oberg interviews "Joseph", portrayed by Keith Jorgenson during worship on Dec. 17th.



Marlene Berg shares her lovely rendition of the song "On My Knees" on Dec. 17th.



When treacherous weather kept the choir from rehearsing, this choral group quickly filled in.



This picture shows international dolls from the collection of Linnea Berg's grandmother.



Brim and Maybelle Grow with Pastor Dave and Linnea at the dedication of Kern Hall, Northern Baptist Seminary on April 21, 1998



IN SEPTEMBER 1996 THE REPORTER NEWSPAPER PRINTED A NICE ARTICLE ABOUT OUR NEW PASTOR. PART OF THEIR ARTICLE APPEARS BELOW.

Pastor knows churches confront daunting challenges in the '90s

by Wynne DeWyn

In 1989, Dave Nichols' son Joshua, then 11, was carjacked from a parking lot at Oakbrook Shopping Center. The boy's mother and sister were shopping for dresses and he opted to stay in the car to listen to music and read.

With more vehicles protected by car alarms, the two thieves chose a car they knew they could get into and get away with. In the getaway, the driver ran a red light, and was struck by another car.

Nichols' son lost his left eye, and was in a coma for six days. During that time of harrowing uncertainty, Nichols "came to know what support and encouragement could mean as streams of church member arrived at the hospital past midnight," he said. "I just don't know how people with nothing but medical technology to rely on get through something like that. Without my own faith and the faith of the people around me, I just wouldn't have made it."

The new pastor of Moraine Valley Community Church, 8601 W . 107th St., in Palos Hills, Nichols is changing his church to meet the needs of a community in the '90s -- a community living in an isolated, individualistic culture that's wary of commitment. His ideas may make some uncomfortable. "But change is necessary if we want to find ourselves relevant, let alone here in the 20th century," Nichols said.

Some church leaders want a church to have a wide-open, welcoming "in" door with a smaller, more inaccessible exit tucked away somewhere. Nichols would rather stand in the middle of a breezeway where people can come and go as they wish, no explanations necessary. This may raise some religious eyebrows, but Nichols insists it's the only way to respond to a changing culture that doesn't commit easily.

"We as churches are in the relationship business," the Harvard graduate said, "and if you compare it to a courtship, you would never expect someone to propose on the first date. That level of commitment is very uncomfortable." "Church must provide an opportunity to come in at different levels", he added. "That's how relationship grow. It's a pilgrimage, not a jump."

1998 - 2000



Planning for Vacation Bible School 2000. Front row L to R: Joan Knox, Geri Schwer, Nancy Kohr, Jackie Hoffman, Jackie Myers. Back Row: Sophia Torres, Pastor Dave Nichols, Beth Heinrich, Linda Hudecek



Tug of War Games at Camp Grow



Girl Scout Sunday 2000



Pastor Dave with the kids at Camp Grow

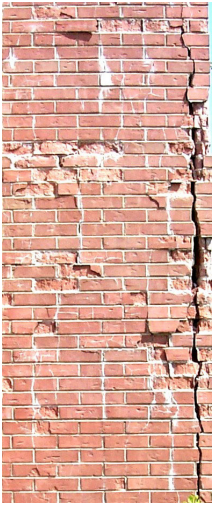


MVCC Campers at Camp Grow



*1998 Moraine Valley Community Church
American Baptist Women
L to R: Dorothy Pierson, Corrine McClelland, Marion Busch, Mildred Oschmann, Clare Troemel, Elsie Schraeder, Hazel Roebuc, Gladys Zink, Darlien Hubbard, Clarice Stampf, Betty Fay, Betty Gray, Ruth Ekblad.*

Before, During, and After



Some of the worst damage was on the bell tower:



The bell tower is about half-way down in this photo



Demolition continues. A foreman was on site during all phases of the project.



Windows were covered with plywood to protect them from falling bricks.



Here the bricks are being grouted. Look closely at the corner of the building left of the top of the window to see a beer bottle left by construction workers 30 years ago.



Workers spent many hours at several feet into the air, cleaning and repairing.



The "after" picture looks much better.



Various steps in repair can be seen here. Bricks have been removed at the left hand section, the vapor barrier has been applied in the middle section, and new brick is in place in the right hand section.



After the work is completed the bricks were cleaned so that you can see the design in the brickwork.

Preparing For A New Millennium

WRITTEN BY VIRGINIA BEEHN FOR "THE BREVITIES" AUGUST 2000

You saw the damage – the crumbling brick on the bell tower — the faces popped off many of the bricks in the building. For a long time we didn't quite know what to do about it. About two years before, the church congregation voted to hire *Inspired Partnerships* to help us determine what caused the problems, and what we could do to fix them.

The problem was multi-faceted. There were problems in the design of the building. There were problems in construction and materials. The brick was barely adequate and the mortar was way too hard. Freezing and thawing caused the faces of the brick to pop off (spall).

Then over the years there were problems

in maintenance – too little or the wrong kind. No one problem was at total fault.

We were quoted a price of about one-half million dollars just to repair the damage. A seemingly impossible figure for our little band of Christians! With a challenge to ask God what each one of us could do to help, about \$360,000 was raised in pledges and gifts on "Miracle Sunday" the summer of 1999. The work could proceed.

Other funds were pledged and given, but we were still about \$58,000 short of being able to pay off the work debt-free. We trusted God for the right combination of gifts and loans to finish the project.

The first part of the project was to remove the badly damaged bell tower. This part was finished in short order and came in well under budget.

Near the end of 1999 we took delivery of the needed bricks to assure they would be available when needed, and to lock in their price.

In Spring of 2000 the first bricks were removed starting to the left of the main church entrance, by the Pastor's Study. A heavy blue plastic tarp covered the exposed parts to protect from the elements. Once the face bricks were removed, the blocks underneath were checked for damage and repaired.

Each Sunday morning we found that the area was as cleaned-up as possible, and work had been covered with blue plastic to make the building as safe and attractive as possible for our services. The workers were very considerate of the preschool activities while the school was in session.

After each section was repaired, a pungent thick black compound was brushed on to provide a vapor barrier to protect against further water damage. It was hard to work in or around the church the days the compound was applied, because of the strong smell.

Different crews were responsible for different parts of the demolition, repair, and reconstruction. Several crews worked on the building at the same time by dividing the project into sections.

Finally, the new bricks began to appear. The new mortar partially hid the pattern of the bricks until the final step of washing off the extra mortar.

The finished reconstruction was dedicated in a special service September 24, 2000.



Renovation Dedication

What a day! The weather outside was cool and gloomy, but inside the atmosphere was absolutely sunny. Our guest speaker, Dr. Ian M. Chapman, President of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, inspired and challenged us with his message.



Nearly 150 gathered for a catered dinner of turkey and all the trimmings.



Linnea serves Dr. Ian Chapman, as his wife, Mary Jo, talks with Susan Palmer.



After dinner, everyone gathered outside to join hearts and hands as Pastor Dave gave a prayer of rededication.



Seated at the head table are L to R: Susan Palmer, Mary Jo Chapman, Dr. Ian Chapman, Pastor Dave Nichols, Dr. Linnea Berg, Joyce Skowronski, and Linda Hudecek.

A Vision For The Future

BY DR. DAVID NICHOLS

Our leadership retreat in June 2001 was a great success. The weather was cold and rainy, but it made no difference to the 13 church leaders who gathered in the Steiskal's gorgeous log home in Bridgman, Michigan. They were cozy and comfortable, enjoying each other's company and stimulated by their hopes and dreams for the future. One of the main accomplishments of the weekend was the beginning of a mission statement for our church.

We are a real church of real people who want to know God's love, feel God's power and serve God's kingdom. This is by no means a final product, but a working draft of something that will guide us into the future. Let's take a look at it, phrase by phrase.

We are a real church of real people...

Many stay away from church because they say it is full of hypocrites. That doesn't apply to us, not because we are so perfect (far from it!), but because you can't be a hypocrite if you are honest about your shortcomings. People don't have to "live up to our standards" in order to be part of this church. In fact, we hope to keep lowering our standards until they are as low as those of Jesus. We should never forget that he invited prostitutes, lepers, tax collectors and plenty of other unsavory characters to join him. We may not be there yet, but we have made a good start toward making everyone believe they can find a home here.

...who want to...

We are far less interested in how far people have come spiritually than in how far they want to go. The one thing in common for those who followed Jesus was their belief that he had something to offer them that they could find nowhere else. Maybe some just wanted miracles as shortcuts to prosperity, but others recognized that Jesus was offering a kingdom that was nothing like the kingdoms of this world.

...know God's love...

Everyone wants to be loved, but most of the time we think that the only way we can get someone to love us is to convince them we are something other than what we really are. After all, could anyone who really knew us really love us? The good news is that God can and does. Even if we start hearing about God's love as a child, it still is a lifelong challenge to comprehend the extent of it.

...feel God's power...

The common theme in the Bible for the Spirit of God coming on someone was the bestowing of special powers. Sometimes it was power to win battles, speak new languages or perform miracles; at other times it was power to be assured of God's presence and to live with love, joy and peace. But it was always powerful. The world is filled with powerful forces that seek to tear us apart. But as the chorus we sing says, "Greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world."

...and serve God's kingdom.

"Does my life have any purpose?" is a question many hesitate to ask for fear that the answer would be a resounding "No!" Every one of us would love to believe we can make a difference in this world. God says we can. The key is to follow Jesus into the kingdom he proclaimed. It doesn't mean a life of drudgery and endless sacrifice, but the joyful use of the gifts and abilities God gives us.

This mission statement is a blueprint for our future. We almost certainly can and will revise it to make it better, but it is already exciting to think that this statement describes some of the warmth and light our church can bring now and in the coming years to a cold and dark world.

The History of Englewood Avenue Baptist Church

AS PROVIDED BY BRIM AND MAYBELLE GROW - MARCH, 1994

Englewood Avenue Baptist Church was purchased and that provided rooms of a sort for a number of Sunday School classes. A second frame residence adjacent to the first was purchased in 1917 and used for the same purposes. In 1916 the Wentworth Avenue Mission property was purchased and an evangelistic mission work was undertaken at that site. Also about that time a separate Chinese Sunday School was started which held its sessions on Sunday afternoons.

During Dr. Ford's ministry 1,847 new members were received and the debt on the building was paid off. A new campaign for funds to build a proper educational building was started immediately and there were proposed drawings and all sorts of money raising schemes for our new building.

George R. Stair was called in 1920 and served until 1923 or 1924. The growth of the church continued under his ministry and probably reached its numerical height in 1922 with a membership of 1,617 and 1,426 active members of the Sunday School.



Rev. W. E. (Wil) Borne



Rev. Theo V. L. Harvey

About 1923 or 1924 a capital funds campaign was launched to raise the necessary money for the new educational building. Professional fund raisers were hired and a well organized campaign was carried out seeking pledges over a three (or perhaps five) year period. The campaign was a great success but there is no present record of the total amount pledged. However, sacrificial giving was involved on the part of a great many members.

Charles A. Brooks was called in 1924 and served until 1929. Under his leadership the new educational building was finally built in 1925 on the site of the old frame houses. It was ideally designed with excellent classroom facilities as well as a chapel and lounge, offices, kitchen facilities, a gymnasium, a stage and just about everything one could ask for. The cost was \$220,000 and it was necessary to take on a mortgage of \$100,000 to make up the needed funds.

Howard A. Vernon was called in 1930 and served until 1944. At that time we entered the great depression and with the substantial debt there was a very severe financial struggle. The point was reached where payments could not be made on the \$77,000 balance on the mortgage. Fortunately, the holders of the mortgage were convinced by some of the church leaders that they did not want to take over the church property so they agreed to credit two dollars on the church obligation for each dollar paid if a certain minimum amount could be raised. On a Sunday in March 1939 something over \$19,000 was subscribed and paid to take advantage of the offer and the balance was refinanced so that the church property was saved.

In 1944 Milton Wilkes was called as pastor. He was a good platform man and led us into the operation of a Community Center to make daily use of our educational building and to meet the needs of the area which was changing drastically at that time. We organized the Community Center as an independent operation with its own full time director. A program of athletics, crafts, special interest groups, etc. was developed and it did have a significant impact on the community.

In 1949 Rev. Wilkes left to take a pastorate in Providence, RI and T.V.L. Harvey was called. He led us through a difficult time as the area continued to decline and so did the membership. It finally became clear that we simply could not continue in spite of our fine facilities and a merger with Foster Park Baptist Church was worked out. They were more than generous to us in working out the details of the merger as we merged our various boards and still maintained the operation of the Community Center for sometime after the merger in 1955.

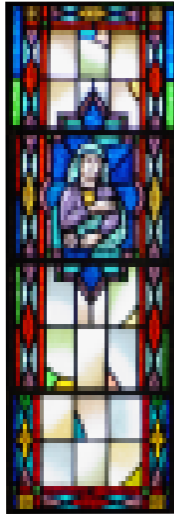
The property was sold to Antioch Missionary Baptist Church for about \$200,000 from which a sum was deducted as a termination gift for our long time building superintendent, Walter Anderson, and the balance was equally divided between the Chicago Baptist Association and the new merged church. Incidentally, the money from the sale was largely used by C.B.A. to help Mannheim Church get started.

While a great deal of sacrifice and effort went into the old Englewood properties we can take much comfort in the fact that they are still being used today in a fine way to glorify God and meet the needs of the people now living in that community.

ADDENDUM TWO

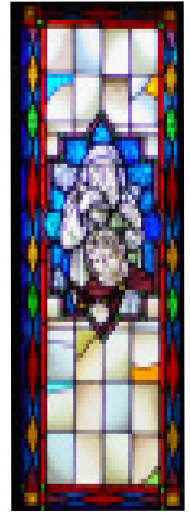
Stained Glass Windows by Sue Miller - October, 1994

These are our stained glass windows,
The ones to the south and north.
Let's try to analyze each one
To determine the scene henceforth.
When the Foster Park Church was sold,
The windows were removed and
brought here,
And installed in this sanctuary,
For us to admire and revere.
This is my interpretation.
Maybe you have another.
Between us we can find who's who,
Then share what we discover.



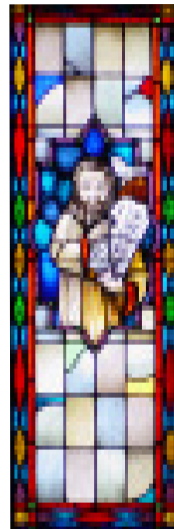
1 Samuel 2: 26-35

Samuel was brought to Eli, the judge,
To be given to the Lord.
He grew in favor with his God,
Following his Teacher's word.
Eli said he'd raise a priest,
Faithful in heart and mind.
Samuel proved to be that one,
A prophet to mankind.



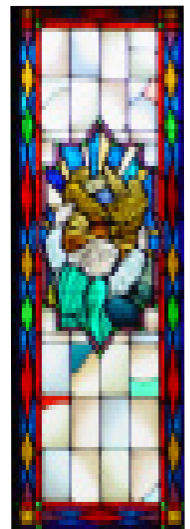
Exodus 20

The first shows us Moses
Holding the tablet of stone,
On which God projected His rules
For guidance toward His throne.
They're known as the Ten Command-
ments.
We all should know them by heart —
To put God first in our lives,
And from evil to depart.



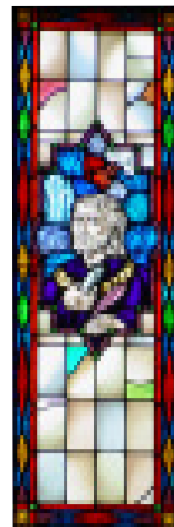
Exodus 25

A sanctuary was made for God
To dwell among His nation.
'Twas called the Arc of the Covenant
And was kept for His exultation.
At each end of the mercy seat
Sat a cherubim of solid gold,
Symbolizing God's holy presence
To Him their praises extolled.



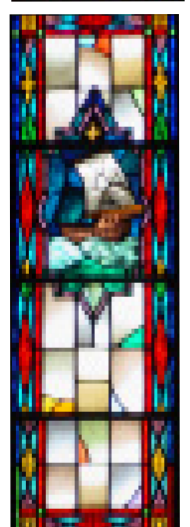
Acts 9 - 11

St. Paul was a missionary.
He traveled to many lands,
Praising God and teaching,
With his own selected band.
He taught in foreign countries
Of God's love as the good news.
His words have retained their impact,
And strongly affect our views.



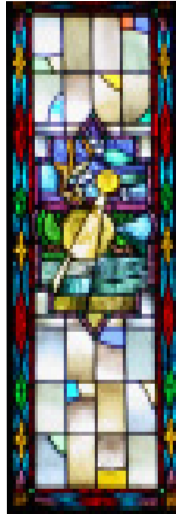
1 Peter 3: 20, 21

I've puzzled over this window.
Just what does it represent?
I've asked a number of people
But no one seems to know what it
meant.
Then looking at "boat" in the Bible
In 1 Peter 3, I found a clue,
Noah's family was saved by water
Which depicts baptism that saves me
and you!



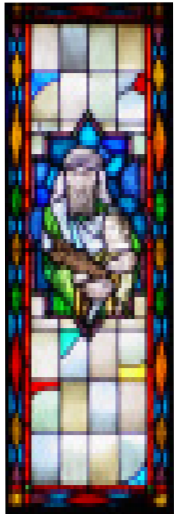
Genesis 2 and 3

I think this may indicate
The creation of the world,
Giving light to a formless mass,
And land from the water unfurled.
The light appeared in the sky,
To separate day from night.
The animals, fish and plants are seen,
To share in man's birthright.



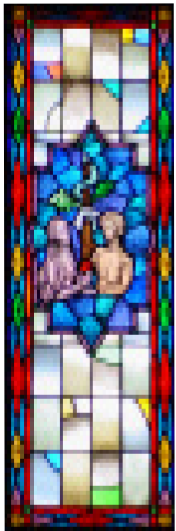
Genesis 22

This window shows Abraham,
With Isaac, his beloved son,
Ready to be sacrificed
According to God's direction.
An angel appeared to stop him,
A ram was provided instead,
Abraham proved he was faithful
When he had obeyed his Godhead.

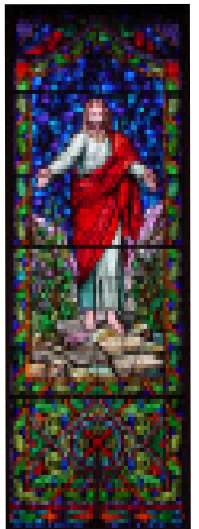


Genesis 2 and 3

God planted a garden in Eden.
In it He put Adam and Eve.
He breathed love's breath of life in them,
Yet a snake helped them to deceive.
They ate from the tree of life
Which was forbidden by command.
Thus sin was instilled in the world,
And man was sent from this Holy Land.

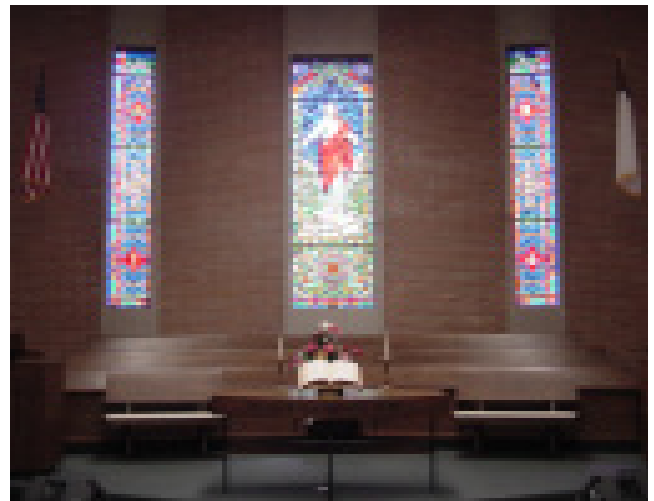
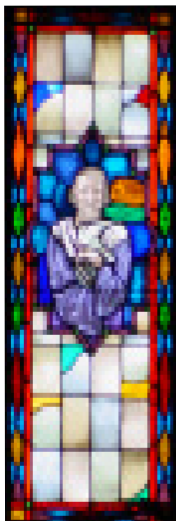


This is only a beginning
Of further consideration
About these beautiful windows
Awaiting your examination.



Genesis 7 and 8

Noah is shown in this window.
I'm sure you have heard this story.
He built an ark at God's command
And ended up in glory.
His story was about the flood
That covered all creation.
It rained for forty days and nights
Destroying civilization.



ADDENDUM THREE

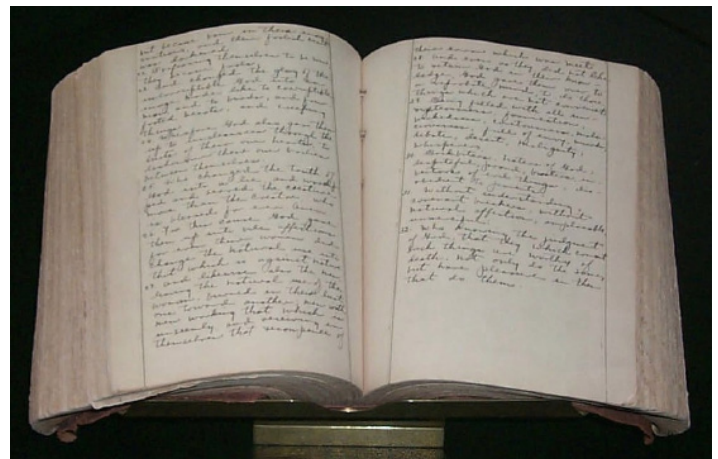
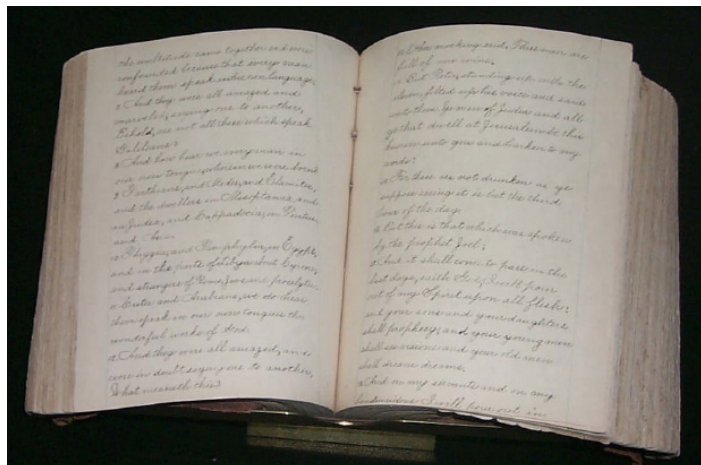
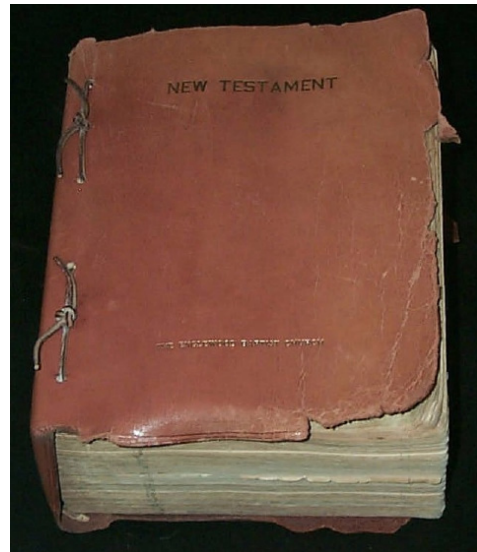
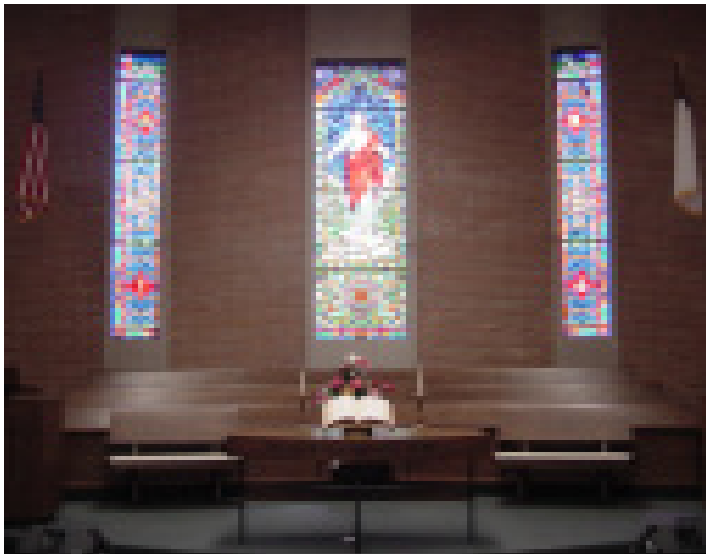
Heirlooms of Moraine Valley Community Church

AS PROVIDED BY BRIM AND MAYBELLE GROW — MARCH, 1994

During the first half of this century (1900's) Englewood Avenue Baptist Church was a very large and strong church, with membership and Sunday School close to a thousand.

In 1935 someone at the Englewood Avenue Baptist Church had the idea to make a hand-written New Testament, so paper was secured and distributed to members who each took one chapter and wrote it by hand.

The pages were bound together and it has been kept on the pulpit through the merger of the Englewood Avenue Baptist Church and Foster Park Avenue Baptist Church in 1955, and as they moved to Palos Hills in 1969 as Moraine Valley Community Church.



ADDENDUM THREE, CONTINUED.

The women's class taught by Mary B. Grow from about 1910 to the 1940s was large and very active. In the 1930s they made a quilt with names of all the class members on squares making up the quilt.

We believe each woman embroidered her own name on a single square, which was then included in the final quilt. One of the middle squares reads, "Englewood Baptist Church". Another middle square reads, "Class 27, 1932". Names on the various other squares are as follows:

Elinore Ahlberg
Julia Mae Allan
Mae Allen
Maude Ames
Evelyn Ballou
Jessie Betts
Isabelle Bickford
Florence Boyd
Maude Busch
Ruby Boerema
Ethel Chapman
Hilda Clark
Margaret Clayton
Winifred Cobner
Ethel Cochran
Anna Couldry
Carrie Cripe
Lillian Dahlgren
Mae Edge
Esther Ekstrom-Smith
Mildred Ellwood
Meta Engelke

Alice Flannery
Mary Fletcher
Helen Fox
Helen Fox
Hallie Gardner
Mabel Grass
Mary B. Grow
Anna Hack
Flora Haddlesay
Florence Hall
Gertrude Hall
Lottie Hall
Hazel Harrel
Irene Hayden
Elva Hendershot
Anna Hurst
Marie Johnson
Rose Klinck
Dorothy Knittle
Mae La Belle
Frances Leach
Susan Lightfoot

Edna Linderoth
Lura Lindquist
Hattie Lovewell
Lydia Mann
Mary McCann
Edith Mead
Edna Miner
Daisy Nagle
Catherine Nash
Anna Nelson
Irene Nordstrom
Charlotte Olson
Esther M. Olson
Louise Peterman
Lillian Peterson
Gertrude Pierson
Anabel Ramsay
Evelyn Randle
Olive Rendleman
Marie Scott
Hulda Sesberg
Ella Shaw

Hazel Sherwood
Lillian Sibley
Anna Siebert
Madeline Simpson
Ethlyn Sinclair
Becky Smart
Florence Smith
Helen Smith
Leah Stanley
Marie Steel
Agnes Sweeney
Fleta Swanzey
Dorothy Throop
Elizabeth Van Camp
Esther Van Vielpan
Mildred Wagner
Maude West
Leah Wetterling
Maude Wheeler
May Whitney
Ann Wilson
Margaret Wrede



One of the middle squares reads, "Englewood Baptist Church." Another middle square reads, "Class 27, 1932."



The quilt is hand sewn. The back of the quilt is made of the same lavender material used to frame the white squares.

ADDENDUM FOUR

The Wall Sculptures Near The Sanctuary

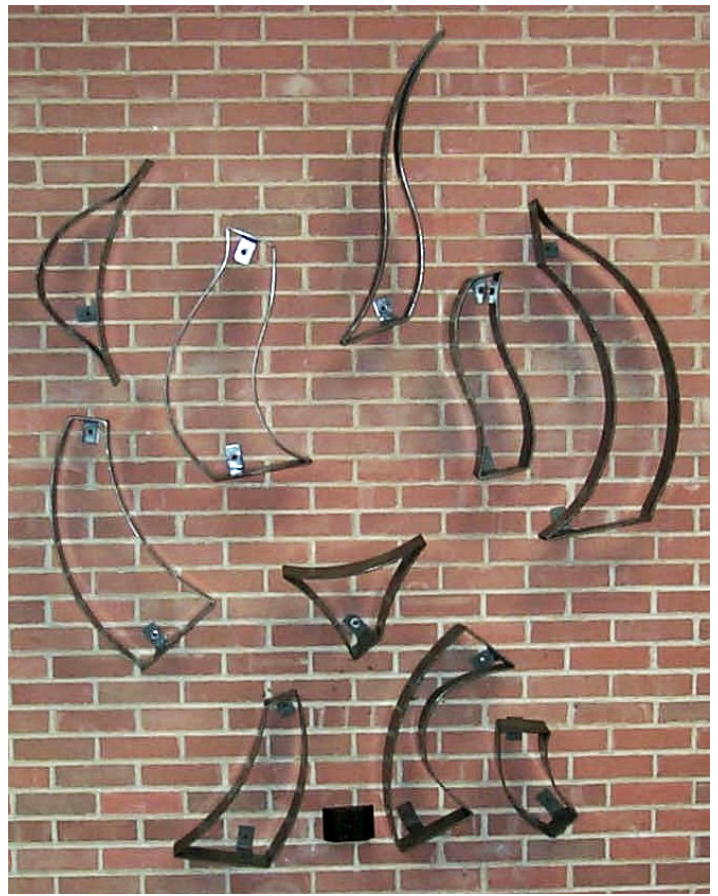


The Great Commission

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."
Matthew 28: 19-20

The sculpture presents the image of a cross rising out of and spreading its arms over the Earth. There are twelve separate pieces for the twelve apostles, making up both the earth and the cross. The form of the Earth is divided into halves; one angular and rigid; one organic and flowing. The "continents" are surrounded by a perimeter broken as of the dissent and differences common to all men. Out of this world rises a cross-form, similarly segmented by diversity of sect and denomination, which spreads its arms universally. The individual pieces make up the whole, which send forth the work, "Love One Another."

Sculpture by Arthur P.C. Pierson Jr. 1970



The Burning Bush

"And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush, and he looked and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God." Exodus 3: 2-6

Made of ten unconnected parts, the sculpture combines visually to form a unified symbol of the flickering motion of a flame, which represents the Ten Commandments. This has a double meaning in that the image of Fire and Smoke is vital to the story of God's presentation of the Laws to Moses, and also to the ever-changing difficulty in applying these commandments to daily life. Nevertheless, the segments do appear to connect and combine as they twist and curve, just as the commandments relate and tie into one another. The commandments apply differently in every situation; but, the overall impact of the Ten Commandments is one of unity, just as is the overall image of the flame.

Sculpture by Arthur P.C. Pierson Jr. 1970

ADDENDUM FIVE

The Handpainted Cross

Pastor Dave had the pleasure of unveiling (literally) a unique work of art on Palm Sunday, 2000. Bev Minik, a single mother who is new to the church, told Pastor Dave that her goal was to have a career as a mural painter. She showed him several examples of murals she has painted in homes and public buildings. It didn't take the Pastor long to come up with an opportunity for Bev to put her skills to work at the church. The large cross (10 feet high and 6 feet across) was taken to Bev's house; it didn't leave room for much else in the living room! Less than two weeks later, the project was complete.

As Pastor Dave explained in his Palm Sunday message, the left side of the cross pictures the religious leaders who sought to kill Jesus and the right side shows the angry mob that shouted "crucify him!" when Pilate asked what should be done with Jesus. The faceless soldier on top represents the unknown Romans who mocked and ridiculed Jesus, gambled for his clothes, and carried out the crucifixion with ruthless precision. The bottom portion of the cross has three disciples with expressions of shock, grief and shame.



Beverly Minik stands beside the extraordinary cross she painted in less than two weeks.

Dateline

March 23, 1928	First meeting to plan – nine families at home of Linds.
May 7 th , 1928	Officers elected. Baptist Mission to be at 83 rd and Ashland Ave.
June 1 st , 1928	Sunday School organized at Cook School, with Dr. Otto. 125 present.
July, 1928	Dr. Ralph Nordlund came as a student from Northern Baptist Seminary. He stayed not quite a year.
June 1 st , 1928	Dr. Otto came every now and then – especially in the beginning. He was Superintendent of the Chicago Area of the American Baptists.
Sept. 26, 1928	Mission organized as F.P.B.C. – will use land at 84 th and Justine.
November 1928	Thanksgiving – ground broken for church.
May 12 th , 1929	Final meeting at Cook School
May 19 th , 1929	Historic Day – first service in the church itself
April 1930 – 1937	Dr. Greg Wimmer came in April 1930 and stayed seven years.
August 1938	Dr. Powers – dedication of 10 th Anniversary
1945	Rev. Guy Wimmer returned for a while
1948	Rev. Adam Baum
1952	Ground-breaking – new sanctuary, Johnson Hall
1952	Sanctuary and Johnson Hall enlarged
February 1953	Dedication of new sanctuary
1954	Rev. Wil Borne
1954	Rev. Borne is ill. Tony Feine takes over until Rev. Borne returns
1955	Englewood joins Foster Park
1962	Rev. Tony Feine arrives as Associate Pastor
1966	Rev. Borne leaves – Fred Largen is interim
1966	Bought five acres in Palos Hills
1966	Rev. Earl Wickstrom arrives – leaves in 1976
1970	Dedication of new church – first service June 5 th
1976	Rev. Dennis Johnson arrives – leaves in 1986
1986	Rev. J. Jeffrey Spahn comes – leaves in 1996
1991	Michael Milo comes as Assoc. Pastor – leaves in 1994
1995	Dr. David Nichols comes as interim
1996	Dave Nichols is asked to stay

ADDENDUM SEVEN

Seminary Students / Interims

	<u>Interim</u>	<u>Student</u>
Fred Largen	Late 1940's	
Bernard Barron	1955	
Tony Feini		1962
Phil Nofsinger	1958 – 1962?	
Peter Brown		1974
Lyn Buzzard	1975	
Preston Van Loon		1981
Randy Miller		1983
Matthew Collins		1986
William Nelson	1986	
Mark Tubbs		1989
Maureen Bird		1987 – 1988
John Mancusi		1996 – 1997
Dan Buttry, Special Program	1992 – 1993	
Peter Shaw		1993
John Mancusi		1996

Foster Park Baptist Church
1540 West 84th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60620

Form No. 3547 Requested

BREVITIES

W. E. Borne, Pastor

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
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Chicago, Illinois
Permit #9663

January 27, 1964

PASTOR BORNE RESIGNS

Mr. Brimson Grow, Moderator
Foster Park Baptist Church
1540 West 84th Street
Chicago 20, Illinois

Dear Mr. Grow:

We have broken our bread together and now we part,
We have broken the bread of the mind and the bread
of the heart,
We may never meet again till another star,
But we shall be friends together wherever we are.

There is no time for lamenting, no moment for sighs,
Let us trust and be glad, see the truth in each others
eyes,
Let us smile as we wave farewell where the long road
bends,
Let us sing to the vow that makes us forever friends.

The above poem by Edwin Markam says exactly what Florence and I and our girls feel as we offer our resignation to accept a call from the Shroyer Road Baptist Church of Dayton, Ohio. To add anything is but to prolong the pain of this moment, but we do thank all of you for the moments and years we have shared with you our service to God. They have been years of precious blessing to us, and we shall treasure every memory of them and you.

In God's grace and care,

WE Borne

ONE OF OUR DENOMINATIONAL PAPERS said a few years ago that there are always some people in a church who feel that all will collapse if the pastor leaves; and there are usually a few who think it will collapse if he doesn't. Of course, neither is true. God needs more than one trumpet to play the full concert of the gospel and make all facets of the Christian Gospel heard. At this moment there is a man being prepared for this church.

Many have expressed their sorrow as our nine-year ministry draws to its close. Believe me, Mrs. Borne and our girls feel the same pain of parting. We have loved you people. You have been our family. We will miss you just as you miss us.

A very encouraging thing happened this last week. One of our members expressed the thought that the church would not be the same without me in the pulpit, as she had received so much help from my sermons and teaching. She doubted whether she would continue to attend Foster Park or not. A few days later the same person called to say that she had been thinking. "I have come to see," she said, "That you would not have been a very good pastor or teacher if my faith and love for the church ended when you left. You can trust me, I'm going to stay and continue to work."

Nothing could have pleased me more. The work I have done here will have been empty noise if I have only gained disciples for myself. You will demonstrate that I have succeeded only if you continue to work and pray for this church. In fact, my absence will draw forth added determination on your part to stand up and be counted in the Lord's work. I would feel a failure if it were otherwise.



Bring the entire family to our

M I S S I O N S

ADULTS WILL MEET from 6 to 7:30 in Johnson Hall. Discussion period 6 to 6:30 p. m. Refreshments from 6:30 to 6:50. Special Guests or Films from 6:50 to 7:30 p. m. BOTH B. Y. F. Groups will meet at the usual hour and join the adults at 6:30 p. m. for the program. CLASSES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN are conducted by the Children's Com. Feb. 2 Rev. Harold Blatt, missionary from the Philippines, will show films and tell of our mission work. Feb. 9 Pastor Borne leads the discussion the first half hour and the colored film "Village of the Poor" being shown the last period. Feb. 16 John Brooks will lead the discussion and show films on Central and South America. Feb. 23 Dr. W. A. Diman will show pictures and lecture on his study of Christianity in Europe.

REV. FREDRICK LARGEN was called as Associate Pastor by vote of the church at the business meeting, Jan. 22. He has rented a house and will be moving from Pennsylvania very soon.

TIP TO INVESTORS! Buy Charcoal. The tobacco companies are spending millions extolling the virtues of charcoal. You can't go wrong.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2, all newly elected officers and those whose terms carry over will be installed at the 11:00 o'clock service. They are urged to sit with their families in the first ten rows of the sanctuary. The Pastor will have a short devotional on the meaning of Communion and the Lord's Supper will be observed.



SCOUT SUNDAY, Feb. 9 This annual Sunday always brings many visitors to our church.

Please wear your best smile and introduce yourself and invite them to Johnson Hall to have coffee after the worship hour.

THE BOY SCOUT BANQUET will be held in Johnson Hall on Feb. 17th at 6:30 p. m.

OPERATION DOORBELL Tuesday, Feb. 4th will see a large group of our members making friendly calls on people who have attended our church. Small copies of the Gospel of John in the Phillips translation will be presented to those we call on. The Bible tells us that Christ sent out his followers two by two. All who believe in Him are commanded to go out and compel people to come. Not by coercion but by the concern we demonstrate. It is something everyone can do— young or old. If you are able to say "Hello" and smile you can do it for Christ and His Church. It is not an option, but every Christian's task. It is more than a task, it is an opportunity, for in this act of obedience you will grow spiritually and bring a blessing to others. Supper will be served at 6:30 p. m. Feb. 4th for training and an early start. Make reservations Sunday, Feb. 2nd.

HAROLD STASSEN, president of the American Baptist Convention, will speak when the Chicago Baptist Association meets in our church Feb. 11. Afternoon sessions begin at 2 p. m. with the banquet at 6:30 p. m. sharp and evening service at 7:45 p. m. Our deacons will serve communion during the evening service.

During the day we have been invited to park in the lot of the Stone Church, 84th and Ashland; Service Electric Co. lot is available for parking at night.

PRAY FOR THESE KNOWN ILL:

Mrs. Ruth McDougall, 8441 S. Wolcott
Mrs. Edna Love, Billings Hospital
Mrs. Jane Wiffin, Presbyterian-St. Lukes
Mrs. Bror Peterson, 9148 S. Throop

DEDICATION OF INFANTS was a part of last Sunday's service, with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bosse bringing Mitchell Eric; Mrs. Robert Murray with Robert William and Mr. and Mrs. George Williamson with Keith James.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to members and friends of our church family who have lost loved ones. Mr. Carey West, a long time member of Englewood died Dec. 4. To the family and loved ones of Arthur Stanek who died Jan. 16th; of Mrs. A. F. Kelly, mother of Mrs. Wm. Bartimus, who died Jan. 20th; and of Mr. Howard Reichel who died January 19th.

ADDED TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

David Parkansky, 8141 S. Bishop
Stephen Robertson, 8219 S. Bishop

SERMONS TO COME

WORSHIP 11:00 a. m. Dr. Borne preaching

Feb. 2 Communion and Installation of officers. Devotional - "The Meaning of Communion"

Feb. 9 "How the Church Saves Us." Boy Scouts participating.

Feb. 16 "How To Know God's Peace"

Foster Park Baptist Church
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BREVITIES

Earl J. Wickstrom, Pastor

March 4, 1968

REPORT

OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE, WED. FEB. 28, 1968

RESOLVED that the officers of FOSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH be and they are hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into a lease with the Board of Education of the City of Chicago for week day use of such space as may be agreed upon for such term and providing for such consideration as may be deemed in the best interest of the Church.

RESOLVED that the officers of FOSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH be and they are hereby authorized to negotiate with the Board of Education of the City of Chicago for the sale of the Church property to the said Board of Education provided that no binding contract shall be entered into unless and until the terms of such a contract have been approved by the vote of the Congregation.

RESOLVED that the officers of FOSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH plan in general terms to condition the sale of the church property upon receipt of a satisfactory lease from the Board of Education for portions of the premises needed for the Church's worship services and other general use, and that the officers of the Church take steps immediately looking toward the construction of a new Church building on the Church's property in Palos Hills, Illinois provided that no contract shall be entered into for the services of an architect, or otherwise binding the Church unless and until the matter is brought before the Congregation for further action.

A VOTE was taken and it was agreed that these resolutions should be carried out.

THE OFFICERS of the church will keep you informed of the step by step progress and solicit your prayers and cooperation.

YOUR CHURCH has spoken. We may not agree always with the decision. Though we are many members yet we are one body and each member is important to the functioning of the body. Let us unite and move ahead together as one body in Christ.

BIRTHDAYS for MARCH

Sue Ann Clark	3/1
Mrs. F. Madill	3/3
Steven Busch	3/4
Martha Lewin	3/5
Dorothy Palmer	3/6
Steven Beyers	3/8
Roger Bergquist	3/11
Ann Storer	3/11
William Nicholas	3/12
Mrs. Pearl Simon	3/12
Emily Jane Mose	3/16
Nancy O'Neal	3/16
Alvin Busch	3/18
Enar Anderson	3/19
Gilbert Johnson	3/19
Frank Von Westernhagen	3/21
Earl Erickson	3/21
Mrs. Joan Dykes	3/23
Mrs. John Brooks	3/24
Thomas Day	3/26
Mrs. Alex Mezny	2/26
Fred C. Mose	3/26
Mrs. Harold Carlson	3/28
Mrs. Alfred Cowles	3/30
Mrs. Russell Slinn	3/31

MEMBERSHIP CLASS for youngsters will begin on Saturday, March 9th at 11:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. If you have a boy or girl that should be attending this class, bring them. It will close promptly at 12 noon.

OUR BUDGET NEEDS

BUDGET NEEDS Jan & Feb. 18,044.00
INCOME for Jan & Feb. \$10,079.51
Deficit 7,964.49

March 31 will end the first quarter. Why not make an effort to get all pledges paid up by that date?

REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATES OF

March 17 thru 20

for the meetings of the Preaching Mission to be held by Dr. Cranford. You will be getting more information on this in the next few weeks.

OUR MISSION SOCIETY will be hostess to a luncheon on March 19th, for all Southside churches.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the Bartsch family in the death of Mr. Herbert Bartsch in Sacramento, Cal. Mr. Bartsch was a member of this church for many years and maintained an interest after moving away. Mr. Bartsch's body was brought back to Chicago for burial. Mrs. Bartsch lives in California. Her address is 2508 Cabernet Way, Rancho Cordova, Cal. 95670.

HERE A card from Ray and Helen and Anderson tells us they are having a wonderful timing visiting old friends in Florida as well as golfing and fishing. . . . We are looking forward to the return of the Ericksons and Edith Engholm soon. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sherman have returned from a trip to the southwest and Calif. visiting relatives and old friends. They bring greetings from Jewell Holmes and Agnes Larsen. . . . We have been missing the Ernie Rapkas who have been vacationing in Arizona. . . . and how about a hand for all of us who have been staying home in the cold and attending church regularly. Please note: Esther Strom's new number is 233-2585. . . . We are happy to report that Gladys Schaefer is home from the hospital but still very much shut-in. . . . Mrs. Anna Siebert is still in Grant Hospital but recovering nicely from her broken hip. . . . we are sorry Sid Shepherd fell and broke his hip and is in Jackson Park Hospital. . . . Paul Nielsen is in Little Co. of Mary Hospital. . . . Madeline Veer is in Peace Memorial. . . . Pray for these and our other Shut-ins and remember them with a card. . . . Remember Tim McClelland, Richard Wood and Al Levy who are in Viet Nam. . . . Mrs. Ann Hanley expresses her appreciation as does Mrs. Nell O'Hare for the cards, calls, and prayers in the loss of their loved ones. . . . Mrs. Signe Rosain writes now much it meant to her during her hospitalization to receive so many cards from her friends here at Foster Park. . . . Betty Harrison is now at the U of Ill. in Champaign taking her Masters in music. Her address Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison, Sherman Hall, Rm. 514, 909 S. Fifth St. Champaign, Illinois, 61820.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY NEWS

The Board of Managers will meet on March 14th at 12:30 p. m. Woman's Society date is changed this month. It will meet on Tuesday, March 19th so they will be able to have Dr. Cranford as their speaker. Other C.B.A. churches will meet with us. Hope Reformed Church has invited our women to a Lenten Breakfast on March 21st at 9:30 a. m. A program has been arranged and nursery care provided. If you would like to attend let Clarice Stampf know by March 13th, so she may turn in your reservations. . . . If you have any Woman's Society books on your shelf that you have read please return them at once. See other column for new library books purchased for your reading.

BOOK WORMS, ATTENTION! ! !

The Woman's Society of Foster Park has purchased fourteen new books, two for each circle. Several circles have theirs already. These books are to be CIRCULATED and as soon as a member finishes reading one, she should pass it on to another member of her circle. Please do not keep them more than a week, so that everyone may read them as soon as possible. Some are on the Best Seller list right now. The new books are:

Leafy Rivers
Christy

The Chosen

To Love is to Listen

Triumph in a White Suburb

The Fianl Beast

Road to Bitynia

Gift of Prophecy

Vietnam Doctor

The Source

Tower of Babel

Mr. Gallio's School

'Sippi

Shadow of God.

Other Woman's Society Books are available in a bookcase in the Church Parlor.

THE B & P CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, March 5th. The film strip "The Break Through" will be shown. The script and pictures are drawn by our own missionary Anne Hansen. It is the story of Indian Woman's emancipation. All women of the church are welcome and men as well. Dinner at 6:30 p. m. in Johnson Hall. Make reservations.

THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME at Lake Villa have an Annual Egg Fund drive before Easter. It costs \$18,800. a year for food at the home and the food value of the egg symbolizes the whole budget. They ask churches to send eggs prepaid by Parcel Post or money which will help them meet this budget.

IT IS SPRING AGAIN

It is Spring again,
And the air is permeated
With the soft, sweet smell
Of earth being warmed and made
ready.

To mother seeds and bulbs and roots
And raise them to full maturity,
Of growth and beauty and usefulness.

It is Spring again,
And the birds stir restlessly,
Wanting to seek new nesting places,
To try their wings, to seek their
way,

To home again.

But there is snow on the ground,
And ice in the wind,
And they wait patiently,
Patiently for the kind World Father
To say: "Go my children"
It is Spring again.

- Hazel Sherwood

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Chicago, Illinois 60620

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BREVITIES

Earl J. Wickstrom, Pastor

June 27, 1968

SUMMER SUNDAY MORNINGS

WHAT ABOUT THAT SUMMER SLUMP? Sure, we expect and would want you to get away for some time in the summer. But, when you are in the city, remember the doors of the church are open. Then you will be having friends and relatives visiting you. Invite them to come and worship with you. This is one way of witnessing.

Let's not resign ourselves to the "summer slump"--Let's beat it!

To help beat the summer doldrums, we are planning a preaching program that we trust will be of great interest and inspiration to all-----

COME TO WORSHIP

GO OUT TO SERVE.

JUNE 30th

"THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES"

What about our church? Where do we go from here?

JULY 7th

"I TAKE THE CUP"

Communion Sunday

This is one Sunday I would expect every member to be in the house of the Lord.

For the next three Sundays we will deal with subjects that people are talking about today.

JULY 14th

"TO OBEY OR NOT TO OBEY"

What about our responsibility as citizens. Suppose all of us would follow the lead "of doing as we please", what then? What about the role of conscience?

JULY 21st

"STAR GAZING--RIGHT OR WRONG"

Why is Astrology becoming so popular in America today? What does the Scriptures have to say about the subject?

JULY 28th

"CAN ISRAEL SURVIVE?"

There are 100 million Arabs and 2,200,000 Jews in the near East. In light of recent events, what about the future of Israel. What does the Scripture say about this nation.

And don't forget, we will be having special music each Sunday!

Pastor Wickstrom

RESOLUTIONS AT WEDNESDAY NIGHT BUSINESS MEETING, JUNE 26

RESOLVED that the Research Committee of Foster Park Baptist Church recommends to the congregation that the plot of approximately five acres at or about 84th Avenue and 107th Street in Palos Hills be accepted as consideration for the land (approximately of 4.8 acres) presently under contract of sale to the Church situated at 88th Avenue and 107th Street in Palos Hills in lieu of cash.

RESOLVED that the Research Committee of Foster Park Baptist Church recommends to the congregation that the officers of the Church be authorized to enter into a contract with the Board of Education of the City of Chicago for the sale of the Church land and building at a price of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) Dollars exclusive of pews, furnishings and stained glass windows (the latter to be replaced with plain glass if requested by the Board of Education) with transfer of title and payment of purchase price to be made on or about April 1, 1969.

RESOLVED that the Research Committee of Foster Park Baptist Church recommends to the congregation that the chapel and secretary's office be turned over to the Board of Education for use and occupancy under their lease in addition to other rooms here-to-for agreed upon.

THESE RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED. The Moderator and Pastor with two others chosen by them will appoint a general chairman for a Building committee and then five other chairmen will be chosen to work in special fields. Because we must vacate the building by April 1st, the Research Committee will begin to look for a place we may worship. It will take the School Board five months to rebuild and make ready to open school in the complete building by Sep. 1969.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wiley Simmons	July 1
Mrs. James Mackie	July 2
Miss Edith Frish	July 3
Dr. R. Anderson	July 4
Jonathan Palmer	July 4
A. R. Olson	July 4
Jack Veer	July 5
Mrs. Kenneth Kohr	July 5
Steven Briggs	July 6
Percy Lythberg	July 7
Jack Boerema	July 7
William C. Capman	July 9
Stephen Roche III	July 9
Thurston Ekblad	July 9
Warren Weaver	July 9
Donna Skowraonski	July 11
Mrs. Ernest Rosain	July 11
Mrs. A. Porter	July 11
Mrs. Edith Engholm	July 14
Mr. A. Porter	July 15
Mr. Leo Cade	July 17
Mrs. Robert Schraeder	July 18
Mr. Bernard Olson	July 18
Miss Maude Ames	July 20
Deborah Sherman	July 20
Miss Phyllis Zink	July 21
Miss Sara F. Hollis	July 21
Mrs. Harold Willin	July 22
Mrs. S. H. Shephard	July 22
Douglas Palmer	July 23
Mrs. H. E. Bartsch, Sr.	July 25
Diane Capman	July 26
Mrs. Marshall Fox	July 26
John A. Schraeder	July 29
Mr. Edwin Stupp	July 31
Mark Alan Skowronski	July 31
Mr. Kenneth Rehorst	July 31

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

From College:

Richard Harrison from U. of Illinois
Champaign in Architecture.
Carol Schraeder, University of Iowa
with a B.A. Carol will be teaching in
Elmhurst this Fall.
Joanne Stampf, University of Iowa.

From High School:

Barbara Schraeder
Richard Stampf
Garry Pokin

We offer our heartiest congratulations
and wish Life's best for these young
people as they begin another phase of
their life. We hope we have not missed
any of our young people and wish they
would let us know if we have.

TIM MCCLELLAND after his furlough
home from a year in Viet Nam has re-
ported back for duty and is stationed
at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

CONGRATULATIONS also to Mr. and
Mrs. Donald Arrasmith who had little
Kristy Lynn dedicated on June 12th.
Kristy Lynn was born April 18th and is
the granddaughter of Mrs. Jean Chalfant.
and also to Mrs. Stanley Dalzell, who
has again been elected president of the
Brainerd Woman's Club. Mr. and Mrs.
Dalzell just returned from two weeks in
Boston where Mrs. Dalzell attended the
National convention of Federated Women's
Clubs.

E LUNCHEON AND SALE at the

Maywood Retirement Home was a great
Success. Mrs. E. Rapka who is Chair-
man of the Ways and Means Committee
of the Auxiliary is to be congratulated.
A number from our Church attended and
had a chance to visit with old friends.
Mrs. Reeves, Janet Hutchison, Bessie
Amery, Bessie Kaeding and Edith Mus-
sing were all on hand to greet us. Miss
Lucy Thompson is confined to the hos-
pital and was unable to be down. It was
good to see them all looking so well.
Edith had been busy making new carna-
tions for our greeters. They all sent
greetings to their friends here.

IT WAS GOOD to see Jon Porter and
his wife in church a few weeks ago. Jon
is now out of the Navy and making his
home at 207 Oak, Normal, Ill. To
have so many of our college young peo-
ple back in service. . . The Pfeifer's
have been vacationing at Lake Tomahawk
Wisconsin, and say the fishing has been
good. . . The Al Busch Family and Mrs.
Denmark have returned from a vacation
at Key West, Florida and Dick and Ruth
Lewis have just left with their family
for Key West. . . The Howard Sheppards
are having a vacation in California. . .
H. C. and Berti Lee Miller are in Old
Kentucky for a wedding and to visit fam-
ily. . . Art and Dottie Pierson have
arrived back from exotic Hawaii. . .
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Nelson, Sr. visited
our church a couple weeks ago. . . We
do appreciate Duane Wickstrom leading
our Choir during this past month. He
has done a fine job. Laura Erickson is
vacationing in the East. . . the Lewis'
are happy to have son Robert and his
family back in this area after having
lived in the East the past few years. . .
It was a beautiful day for our Outdoor
Worship and Picnic although we could
have wished for the rain to have held
off for another half hour. . . we were
happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Gene
Froetter come forward to profess their
faith in Christ. . . We remember in
prayer our sick and shut-ins. . .
Carless Clark is undergoing surgery in
Christ Community Hospital this week.
. . . Mrs. Mose, who has not been so
well. . . Louise Pringle who suffers
more under the heat and humidity. . .
Marshall Fox. . . Percy Lythberg. . .
Tureh Lundberg. . . Mrs. Gladys
Schaefer and Mr. and Mrs. Walter
Sanders, while not able to get out are
doing well. Also we are happy to report
that little David Perry is doing well
after heart surgery. . . If there are
those who can donate blood, contact the
Perrys, Ga. 2-5641, for a great deal
was used during David's surgery. . .
We are always so happy when Newell
Gray leads our singing. . . He brings
out the best in everybody. . . and we
can't forget Harriet Rosain who is al-
ways so willing, ready and able to
accompany us. . . Our singing to-
gether adds so much to our fellowship.
And we would like to add a big thank you
to Mrs. Schraeder who always helps us
get out the Brevities to you.

Foster Park Baptist Church
1540 West 84th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60620

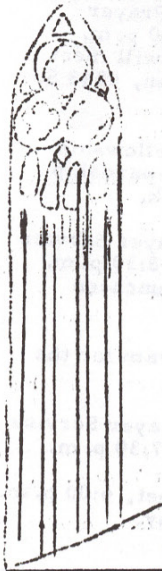
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BREVITIES

Earl J. Wickstrom, Pastor

August 27, 1968



COME TO WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| SEPT. 1 | "A SONG OF PRAISE" | |
| | Communion Sunday | |
| SEPT. 8 | "A PRAYER" | Nehemiah 1:1-11 Fellowship time |
| SEPT. 15 | "A PURPOSE" | Nehemiah 2:1-10 |
| SEPT. 22 | "A PLAN" | Nehemiah 2:11-20 |
| SEPT. 29 | "A PERFORMANCE" | Nehemiah 3:1-19 |
| | "Homecoming Sunday" | |

Bring your Bibles each Sunday and take part in the scripture.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:45 A.M.

LEAVE TO SERVE

MORaine VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH is the name chosen by vote of the church for the new location at 86th Ave. and 107th Street in Palos Hills. This property adjoins the new Moraine Valley Junior College which is opening in September. New homes, apartments and townhouses are being built close by and should be a fertile area to begin a new work for God.

THE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE of the Building Council have been meeting with a number of different architects to get their ideas and estimates. They will submit them when they feel they have obtained the best.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE has met a number of times and have visited various churches for ideas that might be helpful and have submitted many of them to the Construction Committee.

THE SURVEY COMMITTEE has had a report from Mr. Lewis the chairman and he gave it at the Planning Session held at the C. J. Erickson home in Sawyer, Michigan

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

On Sept. 28 & 29th Foster Park Baptist Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Herb Lind is Chairman of the Committee to plan the festivities. If you have ever been a member of Foster Park Baptist Church you will want to come and join in the celebration. So far the plans are:

6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28th A BANQUET.
Special speaker, special music and
Pictures taken of Foster Parker's over the years

9:45 a.m. Sunday Sept. 29th Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 a.m. Fellowship Time with coffee in Johnson Hall.

WATCH FOR MORE ON THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

CHICAGO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION EYF have a number of things planned for the youth of Chicago Baptist Churches. Coming September 14th - A PICNIC-SINGSPIRATION.

At the Forest Preserve Dam #2, along the DesPlaines River. 3 to 8 P.M.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Mrs. Arthur Busse	Sept. 1
John McClelland	Sept. 3
Mrs. Gladys Schaefer	Sept. 3
Mrs. Howard Sheppard	Sept. 3
Mrs. Herbert Lind	Sept. 4
Mrs. Betty Harrison	Sept. 4
Ray O'Neal	Sept. 5
Mrs. Wm. Nicholas	Sept. 6
Mrs. F. Westernhagen	Sept. 7
Mrs. F. Vandenoever	Sept. 7
Jackie Schraeder	Sept. 8
Mrs. Eleanor Schraeder	Sept. 10
Mrs. H. W. Lang	Sept. 12
Mrs. Fred C. Mose	Sept. 12
Mrs. Elmer Lind	Sept. 12
Helen Gable	Sept. 12
Robert Schraeder	Sept. 15
Mrs. Kenneth Rehorst	Sept. 17
Mrs. H. T. Webb	Sept. 23
Miss Linda Grow	Sept. 23
James Olson	Sept. 23
Mr. Arthur Hillman	Sept. 24
Harold Willin	Sept. 25
Mrs. J. A. Boerema	Sept. 26
Mrs. Carl E. Capman	Sept. 26
William Brown	Sept. 26
Mrs. Grant Mitchell	Sept. 27
Miss Linda Gordon	Sept. 28
Mr. H. C. Miller	Sept. 29
Miss Dorothy Zink	Sept. 30

WEDDING BELLS rang for Miss Barbara Durham and Arthur P. C. Pierson on August 17th in College Chapel at Beloit, Wisconsin. They are honeymooning in Pentwater, Michigan and will return to Beloit. Our best wishes go to these young people.

MISS SUSAN STAMP accompanied MR. and MRS. DAVID RISLEY to California where David was to embark for service in Viet Nam. Karen and Susan returned and Karen will be making her home with her parents while David is gone.

A NUMBER of our people spent Missions Week at Green Lake and some thru the following week-end.

WE ARE HAPPY to report that the little grandson of Leo and Gen Cade is recovering nicely from heart surgery. Gen and Leo have been busy shepherding the grandchildren at their summer home near Dowagiac.

ETHEL COCHRAN writes: Thank you so much for the lovely plant sent me as a token of your sympathy in the loss of my dear son. It was a great help knowing my friends were thinking of me when I needed them most.

A CARLOAD of Foster Parkers went to Maywood and had a visit with some of our friends. They report all are doing well. Edith Mussing writes that it was a pleasure to see them. Bessie Amery is situated in her new room which is beautiful.

IT HAS BEEN nice to have Jessie Kent from Florida visiting us for a few weeks. Also Flora Haddlesay.

A NOTE from the Fienis tell of a move to Grand Rapids, Michigan. They is

BUSY DAYS AHEAD:

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1	Sunday Worship - Communion
Sept. 4.	Christian Education Committee
Sept. 6.	First Choir Rehearsal - Pot-Luck Choir dinner.
Sept. 8	Sunday Worship. Fellowship Time after Worship.
Sept. 10	Business and Profession Women meet in Johnson Hall for dinner 6:30 p. m.
Sept. 11	7:30 Bible Study & Prayer Bd. of Trustees 8:30 p. m.
Sept. 12	Board of Managers will meet with Dorothy Pierson, 9243 S. Oakley, 12:30 p. m.
Sept. 13	Choir rehearsal
Sept. 15	Sunday Worship, Fellowship Time following, Stewardship meeting at Oak Park.
Sept. 17	Keenakers
Sept. 18	Bible Study and Prayer Service Board of Deacons, 8:30 p. m.
Sept. 19	Woman's Society Luncheon
Sept. 20	Choir rehearsal
Sept. 22	Sunday Worship
Sept. 23	Faith & Work Program for the leaders.
Sept. 24	Circle meetings
Sept. 25	Circle meeting, Prayer Service and Bible Study at 7:30 p. m.
Sept. 27	Choir rehearsal
Sept. 28	Homecoming Banquet, 6:00 p. m. Homecoming Sunday.
Sept. 30	Ministers Retreat.

THE MUSIC COMMITTEE is happy to report that they have hired Mr. Ray Brown to be the new Choir director. They will start their season with a Pot Luck dinner at the church on September 6th. If you have sung in the choir or would like to sing in the choir, come to rehearsal on Fridays at 8:00 p. m.

THE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN invite you to attend their meeting on Tue's. Sept. 10th at 6:30 in Johnson Hall. Dinner \$1.50. Herbert Lind will show pictures of the Lake Superior Region. Husbands are welcome.

HERE AND THERE - It is hard to keep track of all our members during the summer time as they are always on the go. The Newell Grays are missed in Sunday School and Church while they are on a five week vacation to the west coast. Newell says the new Volkswagon is performing beautifully. . . We welcome back the Steve Briggs family who have been vacationing in Maine and the John Schraeders who have been wandering. . . the Andrew Sebbys had to forgo their trip to Houston as Andy took sick the night before leaving and ended up in Englewood Hospital where he has been quite ill. We are sorry. We are happy to have Florine Dancey back after her visit to the East with daughter, Jeanne and family. The Willins are on a trip west. . . Rev. Wickstrom spent a few days in Michigan visiting his brother who has been ill.

THE CHURCH BOWLING LEAGUE will begin bowling the first Tuesday of Sept. If you would like to bowl with them con-

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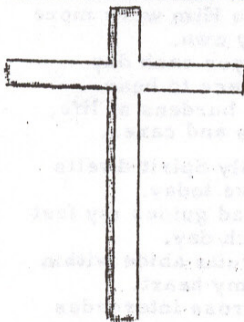
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BREVITIES

Earl J. Wickstrom, Pastor

March 18, 1969



The service on Good Friday evening will be a very special one for our church. Although our last service will be held on Easter Sunday, Friday evening will be the time when we will be having a service of farewell to our church building.

Four of our members will speak representing various age groups, a time of reflection and thanksgiving, and a brief litany of gratitude and rejoicing are to be part of the program. Come and share with us in this important meeting.

Ordination of Baptism

The Lord's Supper

The GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 8:00 p. m. APRIL 4th

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Worship Services 11:00 a. m.

Sermon, "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD"

Dedication service for our callers as we launch our Building Fund Drive.

Decision Sunday for those wishing to unite with the church.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30th, PALM SUNDAY

Sermon, "BLESSED BE THE KING"

The CHOIR will sing two anthems

The Trio will sing "The Holy City"

SUNDAY, APRIL 6th EASTER SUNDAY -(Last service in this building)

Sermon, "CONQUEROR OF DEATH" Special music by the Choir

ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES will meet at 9:45 a. m. in the Sanctuary for a special Singspiration and program.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13th First Service to be held at the new location, 9100 S. Bishop

Sermon, "WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE CHURCH"

We hope you will all be with us at this opening service in our new location.

THIS SUNDAY men from our church will be making calls on you in behalf of our Building Fund. A great deal of work has been spent on the Planning of this drive and a good number of men are giving of their time to make these calls. It seems that God has led us mightily in our efforts so far. Many things have fallen into place as we needed them. Let us now do our part in making some sacrifice in our lives to give to this work. Pledges will begin on April 6th.

GOD looks not to the quantity of the gift but to the quality of the giver.

MANY PEOPLE have been giving many hours to the work of our church moving. On Saturday, March 8th Christian Forum Class had a crew of men and women at the church to pack dishes, move furniture, and stored articles over to our new location at 91st and Bishop. A number of people came to help the Christian Forum Class with the work. This saved our church a good deal of money in moving. Men and women will again be working to move things On Saturday, April 5th and after Easter, the professional movers will take the big things.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS AFTER APRIL 5th- Foster Park Baptist Church,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Richard Burnett	Apr. 4
Mrs. Richard Fay	Apr. 5
Charles Brown	Apr. 5
Arthur P. C. Pierson, Sr.	Apr. 6
Mrs. Wm. Hofmann	Apr. 9
Miss Laurel Kay	Apr. 10
Mrs. Walter Bösse	Apr. 10
Miss Marie Wilzewske	Apr. 10
Mrs. Eunice Triantis	Apr. 12
Mrs. Stanley Dalzell	Apr. 17
Mrs. Clare Troemel	Apr. 19
Miss Karen Ekblad	Apr. 19
Mrs. Lillie Cowburn	Apr. 26
Mrs. A. Royall Gay	Apr. 28
Mr. Tureh Lundberg	Apr. 28
Dr. C. E. Bancherel	Apr. 28
Mrs. Thomas Nolan	Apr. 28
Elmer C. Lind	Apr. 29

IF YOU have a birthday that has not been listed write it on the back of your card or let the office know.

THANK YOU NOTES have come to the church from Hazel and Frank Vandenoever for the many cards and calls during their illness. . . Clara Lyon who has been shut in at the Washington Jane Smith Home with a heart condition writes of her appreciation of the calls made by the Pastor and friends and the beautiful cards sent to her. . . Alein Frohlich tells of how much the letters and cards of sympathy meant to them at the loss of Mr. Frohlich. . . Marie Ling also expressed her joy in receiving cards during her hospitalization.

PICTURE

The fire burns low
And the mystery of contentment
Fills the air.
The room is quiet and
Day is done.
The fire, having burned itself out
Now says: "Good Night".

The grate fire
Is in itself a picture of the day
The brilliant fire of morning
The hot searing flames of noon
And the quiet ebbing of heat and flame
Until, at last the caress of dark and sleep.

Hazel Sherwood

THE KEEN-AGERS will hold their April 1st meeting in Johnson Hall at 11:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Gay will bring pictures of the Holy Land. Bring your sandwich. Cake and Coffee will be served. For all retired and Semi-retired people.

DON'T FORGET the GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE at 8:00 p.m.

I read once in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good. It distresses me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about.

Toyohiko Kagawa

IN MY HEART

In my heart there lies a cross
The Cross of Calvary
On which my Savior bled and died
A ransom there for me.
He bore my guilt and paid the price
For all my sins and shame,
That God might say to me some day,
"My Son did take your blame."

In my heart my Lord does live
Jesus is King of my throne.
I wish my service to Him were more
But I know He is my own.
I talk to Him in prayer each day
And He gives me grace to bear
The daily hurts and burdens of life,
For I know He loves and cares.

In my heart, the Holy Spirit dwells
Thus, Christ is alive today.
He walks with me and guides my feet
The path I tread each day.
Through Him His fruits abide within
His love does rule my heart.
The Christ of the Cross intercedes
for me

So I'll trust Him, and do my part.

Grace Shilson

Grace wrote this poem after meditating on "What the Cross Means to Me" as given by Edith Frish at our Wednesday Lenten Service.

PRAY FOR THESE HOSPITALIZED

Louise Pringle, Christ Community
Katherine Lake, Woodlawn Hosp.
Mrs. Josie Singleton, Osteopathic
Hospital
Mr. Geo. Michielsen, Christ Com.

NOTES - We were happy to see Ray and Helen Anderson back from their sojourn in Florida. . . word from the R. N. Carlsons and Mrs. Edith Engholm who also have spent the winter in Florida, say they will be with us for Easter. . . Edna Kuellmar is home from the hospital, as is Inez Glossop and Carless Clark. Lois Lebby was back in church after a bad bout with the flu. . . a good group of our members have been attending the Wednesday Lenten services, going away feeling them most helpful. . . good to have the J. Gordon Ericksons with us a few Sundays ago. . . Carrie Johnston and Celia French were absent on a recent Sunday when they went to Fourth Presbyterian Church when Dorothy Throop became a member. Dorothy now lives on the North side. . . Marbelle Lewis had the misfortune of twisting her arm causing a painful bursitis. . . A good number of Foster Parkers went to the Choral Concert put on by the South Chicago Community Choirs and enjoyed it thoroughly. Anyone who enjoys music and has the opportunity to attend at a later time should do so. Herb and Ruth Lind would have information.