

APRIL 18, 1925

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRINITY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It will be very hard to give a full history of a Church of twenty-six years when the records can not be found, but I will endeavor to give a general account of the work. It will be impossible to mention every worker who labored here, we only wish they could see the work as it is to-day.

About twenty-six years ago Dr. L. B. Turnbull, <sup>Heartt</sup> F. D. Hart and Mr. George W. Watts began a Mission Sunday School in one of the homes, which was later organized into a Chapel. Mr. <sup>Heartt</sup> Hart and Mr. Watts conducted Pray Meeting each Friday night and Sunday School each Sunday after-noon. Mr. Hart acting as Superintendent of the Sunday School and Mr. Watts teaching the Bible Class. After being a mission for many years, it was organized into the Second Presbyterian Church, Mr. Watts giving the building. The following ministers served during the life of the church;

Rev. A. S. Maxwell, R. G. Matherson, T. F. Haney, C. T. Wharton, J. L. Yandell and C. D. Whitely.

About this time the future of the Church did not look so promising—many members having moved away. A Committee was appointed by the session of the First Presbyterian Church to investigate the conditions and prospects of the Church. After a through investigation by the committee and by a vote of the session of the First Church, and by order of the Presbytery, it was dissolved.

For a while following this dissolution, a few of the faithful members continued to conduct Sunday School and Pray Meeting and Rev. R. S. Carson supplied the pulpit once a month, or more, for several months.

About this time a second appeal was made to the First Church for assistance. Rev. O. G. Jones was engaged for a revival meeting. As a direct result of this meeting the church was reorganized into Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, with approximately fifty members. The old Session book could not be found neither authentic dates nor information could be given here relative to the original organization and the dissolution of the Congregation. However, on May 16, 1921 the Church was reorganized with the following ministers and Elders present: Rev. O. G. Jones, D.D., D. H. Seanlon, D.D., R. S. Carson and Elders G. F. Warner, Geo. H. Beal and E. G. McIver.

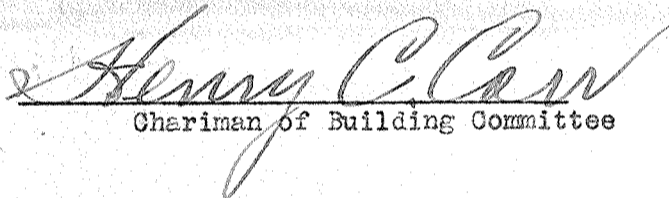
After the organization, Z. A. Rochelle, W. L. Cadwalender and Marshall B. Wyatt, were elected, ordained and installed as ruling Elders in this Congregation.

October 16, 1921 at a congregational meeting, the present pastor Rev. Geo. L. Cooper was called- he being the first full time pastor. He came into the field a Godly, consecrated Man, and the fact that the Church is so spiritual is due to his unceasing work and prayers. His zeal has never waned; his untiring efforts never ceased and he is always ready to be the warm friend of every member at any time. His will surely be a great reward.

Mrs. W. L. Caldwell has been a great worker in this church for a long time. Only Eternity will reveal her devotion and earnest efforts here. She was wight with the Church during its trying period. Miss Rachael Beall was supported in this field forawhile by Mrs. George W. Watts.

In January 1924 a few of us realized that help was needed at this church, and about seventy-five members from the First Church decided to come down and share in the burden and the joy of building up a church for a greater service. We have found plenty of work to do and our work here has ever been a source of pleasure and inspiration.

I know this data is very incomplete but it does show that the church has had a struggle for life until January 1924.

  
Chairman of Building Committee