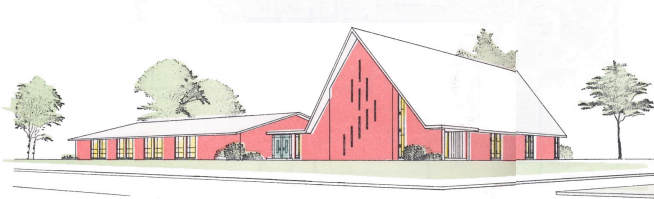


Fairgreen Begins



Proposed Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church

Organizing Pastor
REV. THOMAS E. PROSSER

Fairgreen at Laskey Road
TOLEDO, OHIO

PHONE 344-9373
482-3921

Robert Williams . . . Architect
Mt. Clemens, Michigan

Facts About Our Proposed Church Building

1. Nave will seat 295 worshippers.
2. Chancel will be in accord with our Reformed tradition of pulpit and lectern and free standing communion table and baptismal font.
3. Pastor's study, main church office and waiting room will be directly behind the Chancel area - with the Pastor's study accessible directly to the Chancel.
4. Loft above the narthex will be arranged for a Choir of 50 members. The organ console and the organ will be arranged by the Moeller Organ Company, the original builders of our pipe organ.
5. Combination narthex-foyer will allow a "conversation" area and a lounge area between the Sanctuary and the Christian Education Building.
6. Adequate coat storage will be in the Christian Education Building and the Narthex.
7. Christian Education unit will feature 2 floor areas:
 - a. First floor area has 10 Classrooms, with special rest-room facilities adjacent to the Nursery, 1st and 2nd year rooms.
 - b. Second floor (basement area) houses 7 Classrooms, choir room, rest-rooms, storage and kitchenette and area for small fellowship dinners and programs.
8. Boiler room with forced hot water heat, and necessary mechanical heating devices.
9. Adequate parking space on 3 sides of the building. Easy access to any part of the Church Building especially in inclement weather.
10. Estimated cost of Unit I, the Sanctuary and Unit II, the Christian Education Building \$165,000.

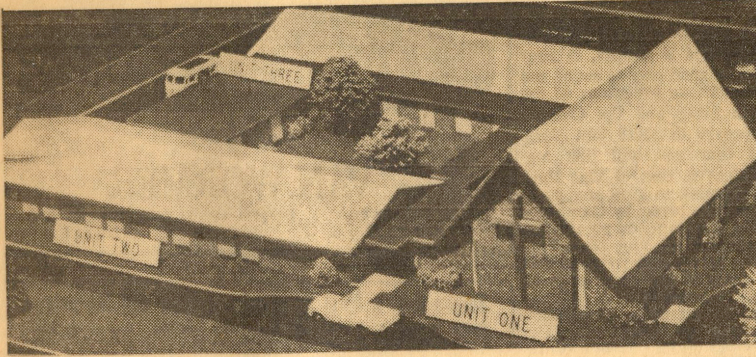
FUTURE PLANS FOR THE FAIRGREEN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. In 3 years Unit III of the Master Plan will be started and consist of a complete Fellowship Hall (seating 275) and connecting units, with additional kitchen facilities.
2. Estimated cost of this Unit III \$75,000.

Steering Committee
Chairmen: Jacob Close and Lowell Roe
Charles Quick Ray Weaver
Mrs. Richard Schifferly

Building Committee
Chairmen: Mrs. Richard Schifferly
Gerald Barnes Lowell Roe James Redway
Arthur Sattler Richard Peoples
And Co-opt Members

Proposed Church Modeled

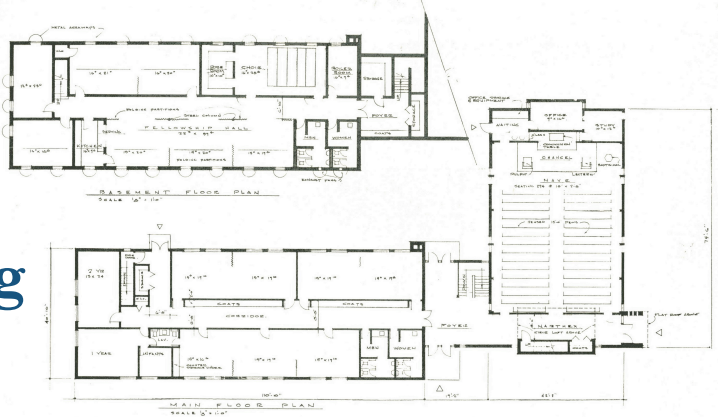


—Blade Photo

A MODEL of the proposed Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church, to be at Fairgreen and Laskey Roads, has been built by members of the congregation, Richard Burch and Mr. and Mrs. George Burch. Work will begin this summer on the sanc-

tuary and educational units. A fund drive in progress through June 13, and building plans will be explained at a smorgasbord tomorrow at 6 p.m. in Hiawatha School. The Rev. Thomas Prosser is pastor. Robert Williams, Mount Clemens, Mich., is architect.

Planning



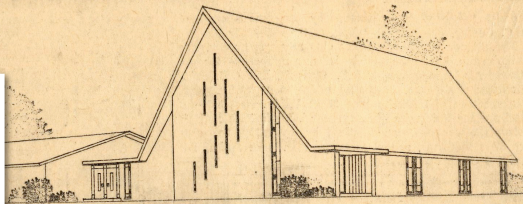
Vol. 42, No. 49

1962-1963

4125 BUCK ROAD

TOLEDO 16, OHIO

Fund Drive Underway For New Fairgreen Church



Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church

Fairgreen Drive at Laskey Rd.
REV. THOMAS E. PROSSER, PASTOR
 4728 Brookhurst Rd. 882-3931

Dedication Sunday

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
 CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES 10:00 a.m.

Dedication Service

Sunday Afternoon... 3:30 P.M.

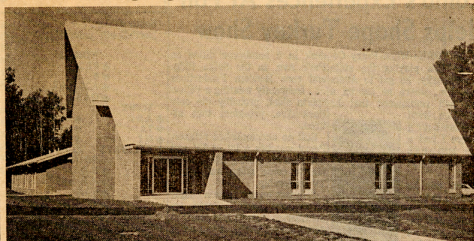
Nursery thru Adult Classes

All Are Welcome!

...green United Presbyterian Church building to be built at Fairgreen and Laskey Road. ... yesterday with Dr. Alex Stenhouse of the Board of National Missions of the United Pres... five.

...ing of the Fairgreen and Rosewood Congregations will be held, along with a smorgasbord, a... l, Fern and Photos. Detailed information concerning construction of the new Fairgreen Chu... taking will take place this month, with construction scheduled to be completed in December

Congregation In New Home



Blade Photo

A VIEW OF THE EVERGREEN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dedication planned for church developed from Rosewood Avenue Church

Fairgreen Church Dedication Slated

**\$200,000 Project
Developed By 500**

Dedication of the Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church is scheduled tomorrow at 3:30 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Richard Moore, associate executive of the Synod of Ohio, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

The Fairgreen congregation of 500 developed from a "colonization" project of Rosewood Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Maumee, and the denomination's board of national missions.

The organizing pastor is the Rev. Thomas Prosser, formerly of Rosewood Church. Services have been in Hiawatha School the last two years.

The building occupies a two-acre site on Fairgreen Avenue at Laskey Road and was constructed at a cost of \$200,000, including parking lots, equipment, and landscaping. The Floyd Bucher Co. was general contractor.

The sanctuary seats 285 persons, and the education unit provides 17 classrooms, nurseries, shade room, kitchenette, and fellowship areas on two floors.

Open house will follow the dedication service with tea to be served by the Women's As-

sociation headed by Mrs. Lloyd Winslow.

Participants in the service will include Dr. John Miller Gold, the general presbyter of this area; Myrow-Patterson-Jacob Close, an elder; and Mr. Prosser who also will preach in the 11 a.m. service.

Fairgreen's Dedication Service

THE FAIRGREEN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3220 Laskey Road

Toledo, Ohio 43613

Phone 475-4436



Dedication Services, October 9, 1966, 3:30 P.M.

Open House, 4:30 to 6:00 P.M.



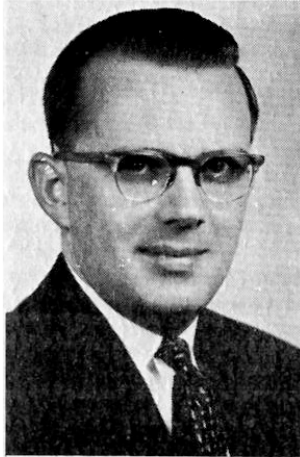
The Reverend Mr. Thomas E. Prosser, Minister

Mrs. Vera Allgower, Director of Music and Education

Mrs. Myrle Shaeffer, Secretary

Mr. Walter Allgower, Custodian

October 1966



A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER

Today we dedicate the Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church to the glory of God. As we look around we observe that much time has gone into the planning, the designing and construction of this church. From the Sanctuary we are inspired to go out into the world to carry light where there is darkness, and to carry love where there is hatred and prejudice, and to seek peace where there is war. The world cries out for our concern...the challenge is ours to meet today. You and I must go out beyond the church pew into the Community to serve, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Friend.

There are many who have worked diligently from the very concept for the development of a new church in Northwest Toledo to this day of dedication. The Presbytery of Maumee receives my personal thanks for the authority to be the organizing minister, and for its gift of \$25,000 to purchase the land for the church. A warm and sincere thanks goes to the chairmen: Jacob Close, Lowell Roe, Fritzie Schifferly....and to every member of the Church Staff, the Session and the deacons, and to every member who visited in the Community to invite others to come.....and to all those who have given time and money and their sincere prayers to build this Church.

Thomas E. Prosser

THE ORDER FOR DEDICATION
of
The Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church Buildings

October 9, 1966

3:30 P. M.

Let quietness and reverence characterize your entrance into the House of God; lift up your heart in prayer and speak with God only.

Organ Prelude	"I Believe in One God"	Everitt Titcomb
	"Gaudeamus"	Gregorian Theme
	"Vigili Et Sancti"	Francis Snow

Call to Worship The Pastor

Pastor: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that everyone who believes in him should not be lost, but should have eternal life.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The darkness is beginning to lift and the true Light is now shining in the world.

People: Thank God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Why did God create us?

People: To praise Him forever.

Pastor: Let us sing praises to our God.

Processional Hymn	"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"	407
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Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Confession of our Faith	Nicene Creed	p. 12
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Gloria Patria

The Word of God Read to His People 1st Corinthians, Chapter 3

Anthem "Surely the Lord is in This Place"	Coke-Jephcott
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The Presentation of the Keys

Greetings

From the Governor of Ohio

From the Mayor of Toledo

From the Presbytery of Maumee

The Presentation of the Offering to God *****

Offertory Solo "Bless Our Church"	May H. Brahe
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Doxology	544
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Prayer of Dedication	The Pastor
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The Sermon Dr. R. E. Moore

Dedication of Fairgreen

The Act of Dedication

Elder Jacob Close

Leader: To Thy glory, O God, the everlasting Father:
To Thy honor, Jesus Christ, our Lord:
To Thy praise, thou Holy Spirit:

People: We dedicate this Church to you, O God.

Leader: For the adoration of Thy Name in praise and prayer:
For the celebration of Thy Holy Sacraments:
For the preaching of the gospel of Christ:

People: We dedicate this House of worship and service.

Leader: For the strengthening of home and family:
For the Christian education of the children:
For the commitment of youth to a great Saviour:

People: We dedicate this House of thine.

Leader: For the comfort of those who mourn:
For light to the perplexed:
For the forgiveness of sins to the penitent:
For courage to the fearful:

People: We dedicate this Church, O God.

Leader: Here may the faithful find trust and the careless give ear to Thy voice. Here may the doubter find faith and the fretful know peace.

People: For this purpose we dedicate this Church.

Leader: Here may the weary find their rest, and the strong a worthier strength in Thee. Here may youth find valor, and the aged light at eventide.

People: For this purpose we dedicate this Church.

Leader: Here may the sacrament of baptism be true welcome of children into Thy Family. Here may marriage vows lead on to enduring love and dedicated homes. Here may the sorrows of death be assuaged by the hope of the risen Saviour.

People: For this purpose we dedicate this Church that Christ may be all, and all in all. Amen.

Hymn of Praise "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

435

Prayer of Consecration

The Pastor

Anthem "With A Voice of Singing"

Martin Shaw

Benediction

Open House of the entire facilities of the Fairgreen Church follows this service of Dedication. The Session of the Church invites you to visit the entire building and to meet the Pastor and his family today.

Women's Association of the Church invite you to join in the fellowship of the punch bowl as you move through the 'open house'.

The Westminster Youth Fellowship members are serving as guides today.

October 9, 1966

THE CHURCH SERVES THE COMMUNITY

- Schedule of Sunday Services:

9:15 A.M. Family Worship Service

Nursery care for children thru 5 years of age.

10:00 A.M. Church School Classes

Infant thru Adult Classes are available.

11:00 A.M. Worship Service

Extended Church School for all children thru 6th grade.

- Six Choirs

Adult Choir

Kirkettes, for Girls, 9 - 13 years

Crusader, for Boys, 9 - 13 years

Calvin, for 7 and 8 year old Boys and Girls

Celeste, for 5 and 6 year old Boys and Girls

Kirksingers, for High School Students

- Fellowship Groups

Westminster Fellowship Groups for Junior Hi and Senior Hi youth

- Presbyterian Men's Council

Presbyterian Women's Association

Six Women's Circles

Gifts to Fairgreen

GIFTS TO THE NEW FAIRGREEN CHURCH BUILDING

- The Chancel Cross Fairgreen Women's Association
 The Communion Table Mrs. Phillip King and Arthur Cone
 The Pulpit Mr. and Mrs. Wm. (Eveline) Gibson
 The Lectern Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Prosser
 The Baptismal Font Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sommerfield
 The Holy Communion Service in brass Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bugbee
 The Pulpit Bible Rosewood Women's Association
 The Carpet Mr. and Mrs. Ray J. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Samples,
 Mr. Ralph Heinzeroth and anonymous friends of the Fairgreen
 Church
 The Kitchenette Fairgreen Women's Association
 The Designer chairs (narthex), walnut console, bench . . . and the benches in
 the women's rest rooms . All given by donors of S. & H. and T.V. trading
 stamps.
 The Moderne styled chairs (Choir room). Members and friends of the Adult Choir
 The Moller Pipe Organ Rosewood Avenue Congregation

* * * * *

THOSE WHO PLANNED, DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED THE BUILDINGS

- Mr. Robert Williams, Mt. Clemens, Michigan . . Church Architect
 The Floyd P. Bucher Company, Toledo, Ohio . . General Contractor
 Meinhart Electric Electrical Toledo, Ohio
 Soule Floor Covering Tile, Carpet Toledo, Ohio
 Sauder Furniture Co. . . Sanctuary Furniture . . Archbold, Ohio
 Toledo Pipe Organ Co. Toledo, Ohio
 Hank's Plumbing & Heating Sylvania, Ohio
 Turner-Brooks Co. Ceiling Tile Toledo, Ohio
 Adam Loos & Co. Folding Doors Toledo, Ohio
 Toledo Mirror and Glass Toledo, Ohio
 Vicon Steel Door and Hardware Toledo, Ohio

* * * * *

THE BUILDING DESIGN AND BUILDING STEERING COMMITTEES

- Chairmen: Mrs. R. (Fritzie) Schifferly, Jacob Close, Lowell Roe.
 Charles Quick, Ray J. Weaver, Clinton Dickey, Gerald Barnes, Dale Keiser,
 Richard Burtch, James Redway, Richard Peoples, Robert Martz, Mrs. Hazel
 Garber . . . and co-opted members of the Congregation.

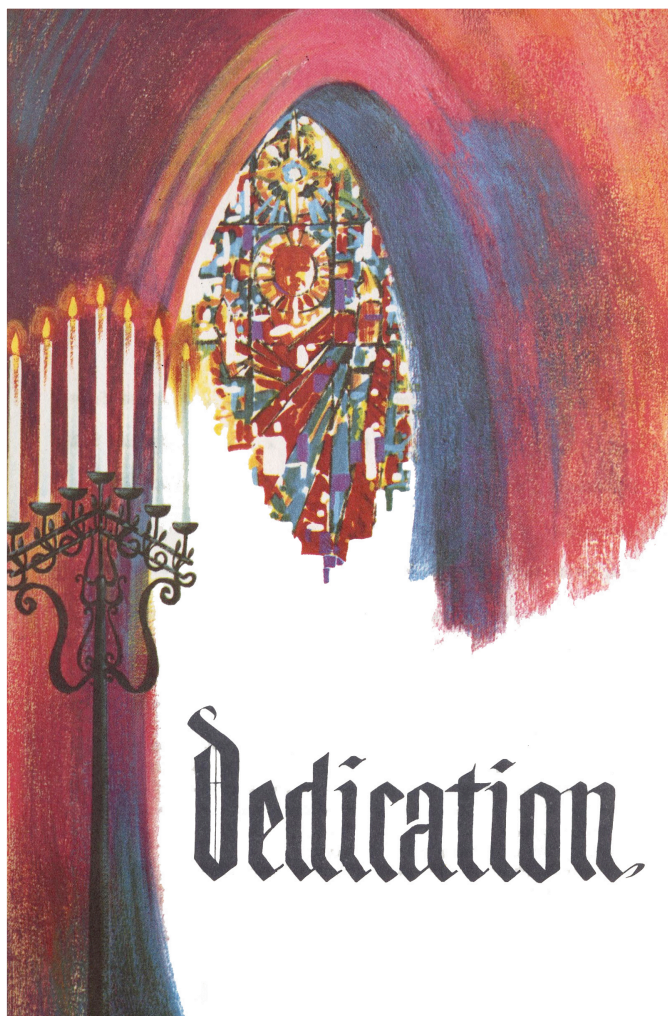
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THE CHURCH STAFF

- Minister Rev. Thomas E. Prosser
 Director of Music and Education . Mrs. Walter (Vera) Allgower
 Secretary Mrs. Eugene (Myrl) Schaefer
 Custodian Mr. Walter Allgower

Organ Dedication

October 2, 1966



Recital Presented

By

Anne Makowski

DEDICATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1966

4:00 P.M.

THE PRELUDE

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

REV. THOMAS E. PROSSER

HYMN OF PRAISE

470

RESPONSIVE READING

SELECTION 34 & 35

RECITAL

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD KARG-ELART
(HYMN 9)

WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING JOHANN BACH

SHEPHERDS, HE IS BORN NOW. FLOR PEETERS

JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING JOHANN BACH

HOW BRIGHTLY SHINES THE MORNING STAR JOHANN BACH

THE DEDICATION OF THE ORGAN

MINISTER: FORASMUCH AS GOD HAS PUT IT INTO OUR HEARTS TO BUILD THIS INSTRUMENT OF MUSIC AS AN AID TO OUR WORSHIP OF HIM IN THIS HOLY PLACE, IT IS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD NOW DEDICATE IT TO HIM AND SET IT APART TO THIS HOLY USE FOR WHICH IT IS DESIGNED.

PEOPLE: TO THEE, O GOD, BE HONOR AND GLORY FOREVER.

MINISTER: TO BEAR UP THE MELODY OF PSALM AND HYMN AND SPIRITUAL SONG IN SUCH WAYS THAT MEN MAY BE FORTH FROM THIS HOUSE OF GOD WITH HIGH RESOLVE TO DO HIS HOLY WILL.

PEOPLE: WE DEDICATE THIS ORGAN.

MINISTER: WITH FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO HAS INSPIRED MEN TO OFFER IN HIS PRAISE THEIR BEST IN MUSIC AND IN SONG:

PEOPLE: WE DEDICATE THIS INSTRUMENT.

MINISTER: TO BEAR UP THE MELODY OF OUR HYMNS AND SONGS
IN SUCH A WAY THAT MEN WILL STRIVE TO BRING HONOR
AND PRAISE TO THEE ALONE.

PEOPLE: WE DEDICATE THIS ORGAN.

MINISTER: TO COMFORT THE SORROWFUL AND TO CHEER THE
FAINT, TO BRING THE BEAUTY OF LOVE INTO FULL
FRUITION, AND TO LEAD ALL WHO HEAR IT TO THE WAY
OF ETERNAL LIFE.

PEOPLE: WE DEDICATE THIS ORGAN.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE OFFERTORY
DOXOLOGY

RECITAL

VEXILLA REGIS EVERETT TITCOMB

HOSANNA EVERETT TITCOMB

O SACRED HEAD NOW WOUNDED DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE

ALLELUIA FROM THE LITURGICAL SUITE FOR EASTER BENOIT
(HYMN 194)

THE BENEDICTION

* * * *

PRESENTING THE DEDICATORY RECITAL IS ANNE MAKOWSKI,
RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE TOLEDO CHAPTER OF THE AMERI-
CAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS, ORGANIST-DIRECTOR OF TOLEDO AREA
CHURCHES FOR THE 10 YEARS, AN ARTIST IN HER OWN FIELD,
RECORDING FOR FM RADIO OF TOLEDO, AND A FORMER PIANO
STUDENT OF OUR CHURCH ORGANIST, MRS. WALTER ALLGOWER.
ANNE IS A NATIVE OF TOLEDO. SHE TOURED WITH THE UNIVER-
SITY OF TOLEDO "ROCKETS" FOR 4 YEARS. SHE IS PRESENTLY
A TEACHER OF PIANO AND ORGAN IN OUR CITY. WE WELCOME
ANNE AS GUEST ORGANIST FOR THIS ORGAN RECITAL TODAY.

* * *



Organ Constructed in 1923.

THE PIPE ORGAN PRESENTLY LOCATED IN THE LOFT OF THE FAIRGREEN CHURCH WAS DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED BY THE M. P. MOELLER COMPANY OF HAGERSTOWN, MD., IN 1923. THE ORGAN WAS PRESENTED TO THE ROSEWOOD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BY THE WOMEN'S PHILATHEA BIBLE CLASS IN 1924.

THE PIPE ORGAN WAS MOVED TO THE FAIRGREEN CHURCH BUILDING IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. IT HAS BEEN TONALLY REVISED AND COMPLETELY RENOVATED AND INSTALLED BY THE TOLEDO PIPE ORGAN COMPANY UNDER THE VERY ABLE DIRECTION OF MR. JULIAN BULLEY.

THIS MOELLER ORGAN CONTAINS OVER 1,000 PIPES OF WOOD AND METAL. IT IS A 9 RANK INSTRUMENT. A NEW SPENCER ORGAN BLOWER HAS BEEN INSTALLED BENEATH THE LOFT IN THE NARTHEX OF THE BUILDING TO SUPPLY THE AIR NEEDED FOR THE GREAT AND SWELL CHESTS OF THE ORGAN.

THE 2 MANUAL CONSOLE WAS COMPLETELY REWIRED IN THE PROCESS OF THE INSTALLATION IN OUR NEW BUILDING. THE STOPS THAT ARE CONTAINED ARE:

PEDAL		SWELL	
CONTRA BASS	16'	OPEN DIAPASON	8'
BOURDON	16'	ROHR FLUTE	8'
GEDECKT	16'	SALICIONAL	8'
FLUTE	8'	VOX CELESTE	8'
OCTAVE	8'	CORNOPEAN	8'
SPITZ PRINCIPAL	4'	OBOE	8'
PEDAL COUPLERS	4 & 8'	VOX HUMANA	8'
GREAT TO PEDAL COUPLERS		SPITZ PRINCIPAL	4'
SWELL TO PEDAL COUPLERS		FLUTE D'AMOUR	4'
		SPITZ PRINCIPAL	2'
		SWELL COUPLERS	16' & 4'
GREAT			
OPEN DIAPASON	8'	CONCERT FLUTE	8'
DULCIANA	8'	OCTAVE	4'
HARMONIC FLUTE	4'	SWELL TO GREAT COUPLERS	
GREAT COUPLERS	16' & 4'		16' & 4'
HARP CELESTE			

THE MOELLER ORGAN HAS BEEN REVISED WITH EXCELLENT TONAL QUALITIES FOR WORSHIP SERVICES OF THE CHURCH. MRS. VERA ALLGOWER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC OF OUR CHURCH HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH MR. BULLEY IN PLANNING THE REVISIONS IN ORDER TO ASSURE US OF A BRIGHT FULL ORGAN TONE FOR CONGREGATIONAL ACCOMPANIMENT.



Moved
to
Fairgreen Church in
January 1966



Education

ORGAN CONCERT

Honoring
Mary Patridge and Vera Allgower De
 at the
Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church
 3220 Laskey at Secor, Toledo, Ohio

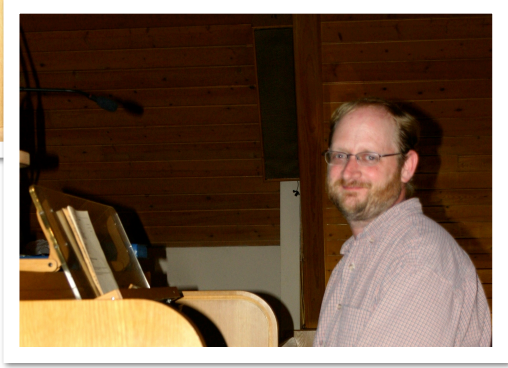
Featuring
Dr. James J. Hammann
 Internationally known Organist
 at the M.P. Moller Organ
October 20, 1991 — 7:30 p.m.



DR. JAMES J. HAMMANN, a native of Sidney, Ohio, holds a doctorate in organ performance from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan. He has appeared in recitals throughout the United States, and during the summer of 1987, was the featured soloist with the Lawton Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra on a tour of Germany. He has given over 75 performances in a variety of settings, including a presentation where he donned a wig, played the organ and harpsichord, and recreated the life of the composer's life.

DR. HAMMANN has appeared in concert at the First Presbyterian Church in New York City. He holds the Organ Diploma from the American Guild of Organists and he serves as the national vice president of the Organ Historical Society.

DR. HAMMANN served as director of music at First Baptist Church, Toledo, the First Presbyterian Church, Toledo, Greenfield Congregational Church, Dearborn, MI, North Methodist Church, Columbus, OH, and is currently the organist for the St. Charles Baptist Church in New Orleans and Adjunct Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina.



Planning New Addition

Where, What, When, Why and How about the New Addition

Building at Fairgreen - 1985

1. Why are we planning the addition at this time?
The needs exist the economy is favorable for loans' the construction costs are reasonable and the congregation is willing. The plans are not new, but the time is right.
2. When is the construction planned to begin?
Late Spring 1986. Completion by Nov. 1986
3. Will this addition change the parking capacity?
No, the unit will be placed in the lawn area of the church property.
4. How many will fit in the multi purpose room?
The capacity is 250 people for a meal.
5. Are more additions planned for another time?
NO, this is the final proposed unit. Plans for such a unit were included in the original plans for Fairgreen in 1965.
6. How much will it cost?
\$452,000 including financing.
7. How will it be financed?
Repayment is planned for 9 years or less. There will be a maximum of 3 – 3 year pledge periods. The goal of the first 3 year period is \$175 000.
8. How much of the Kemper Fund will be used?
\$30,000 will be given. If we all give generously, this will help lower the 9 year repayment period.
9. What are the members of Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church being invited to pledge in this campaign?

The Building Fund Committee and the Session are recommending a three year pledge goal of 4 1/2% of family annual income, in addition to maintaining the regular financial stewardship pledge.

10. The Campaign Director met with members of the Session, the Building Fund Committee, and other interested members of the congregation. After working through estimates of average family income and the requirements for new addition, the group concluded



that 4 1/2% would be a realistic goal that would allow us to move ahead with our plans.

11. What is the cost of this campaign?

The General Assembly receives a fee of \$7.00 per church member for the services of the Church Financial Campaign Service, which provides the campaign Director. The local church also pays the Director's travel and residence expenses as well as our local campaign costs. Typically' the total campaign cost runs 3 to 5% of the funds raised by the campaign.



12. Where does the campaign money come from?

From the existing building fund.

13. How much is in the present building fund?

\$60,813.50 as of December 31, 1985.

14. What is the overall financial position of Fairgreen?

It is in sound financial standing.

The proposed construction is well within the current potential of this congregation.

15. Can we afford the increased utility and custodial expenses?

We believe we can sustain these increases. They are part of the 1986 budget.

16. What will the operating budget be for 1986?

\$101,513 - which is only a 1.03% increase over 1985.

17. How should each family determine its pledge gift?

This is entirely an individual decision. We invite you to read, listen, pray and carefully consider all the information presented, then we invite you to Pledge as best you can to the building and to the current operating fund.

18. What happens if we don't raise enough?

We think we can reach our goal. Any other outcome would require rethinking and revoting on our plans.

19. When do we start paying pledges?

March 1, 1986 for the building fund.



Dedication
of
New
Addition



— Blade Photo

NEW ROOM DEDICATED At Fairgreen United Presbyterian Church, congregants gathered Sunday to dedicate this \$350,000 multipurpose room.

From left are Kenneth H. Campbell, building chairman; the Rev. David C. Young, pastor, and Ed Wolff, trustees board chairman.

✧ Fairgreen Presbyterian Church ✧

30TH BIRTHDAY PARTY & HOMECOMING (*Reprinted*)

13 OCTOBER 1996

The roots of Fairgreen were planted and nurtured in the faith and spirit of the Rosewood Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Rosewood Church was organized on October 1, 1889 and was located in the area of Bancroft and Monroe Street. There were 40 people who signed the initial petition to form the church which was known as the Fifth Presbyterian Church. In 1907 it was decided to sell the church property and relocate the church across the street on property purchased from Edmund D. Libby.

In the new location, a stone Sunday School and chapel were built, and the church was renamed the Rosewood Avenue Presbyterian Church. An interesting note, at that time the church had 230 members and had 175 people in attendance at Sunday School. On September 15, 1924 the corner stone was laid for the addition of the Sanctuary and the basement gymnasium. With this addition, the church structure was completed.

In its life, Rosewood was an active church and contributed numerous missionaries who served the Church throughout the world. There were times when the Rosewood Church experienced difficulties. It suffered, as did others, through the great depression and the effects and emotional drain of World War II. In spite of adversity, it stayed strong and survived.

A major change in the life of Rosewood came during the 1960's, when the neighborhood of the church, the area of Bancroft and Monroe Streets, which was an integrating neighborhood, also became a neighborhood with a high crime rate. The later was a serious problem as the church did not have a parking lot. Consequently, all parking was on-street. For safety reasons, this necessitated the curtailing of evening activities at the church.

At that time, it became apparent to the pastor and the session that if the church was to survive in this location, it would have to become a truly integrated church.

When our pastor, Reverend Jay Bishop, left us to serve in another church, the criteria for our next pastor was that he or she must be a person who understood the nature of an integrated neighborhood. In the person of the Reverend Thomas Prosser, we felt as if we had found the pastor who was qualified to take the church through the steps of integration. Although Reverend Prosser's church was not integrated, it was situated in an integrated neighborhood, and he had excellent relations and understanding with his neighboring churches. Reverend Prosser was called on March 5, 1961 to lead Rosewood through a period of transition.

With the arrival of Tom Prosser at Rosewood, a conscientious and serious effort was made to integrate the Rosewood Church and to serve all people in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the efforts to integrate the church met with insurmountable problems, not the least of which was a lack of cooperation from other churches and minority organizations in the neighborhood. It is not necessary to dwell on this subject as it is now moot, and to fully explain it would take a lengthy message of its own.

When it became apparent that Rosewood could not survive at its location, the Pastor and the session considered the means of salvaging the congregation as a Presbyterian congregation. The obvious best solution was to relocate the church.

When this solution was taken to Presbytery for concurrence, Presbytery refused to sanction the move. The attitude of Presbytery was that Rosewood must remain at Bancroft and Monroe Street. This attitude persisted in spite of all the information presented as to the inability of the church to continue to survive in the neighborhood.

The session of Rosewood felt that it could not assure survival of the church, and offered to turn the church property over to Presbytery for its continuing use as a church. The Presbytery declined to accept this offer.

Reverend Prosser worked diligently to resolve the stalemate. After many months of consultation and negotiation he was able to work out a compromise with Presbytery.

The Rosewood Church would establish a mission church in an agreed upon location. Upon successful establishment of the mission church, the members of the Rosewood congregation could transfer their letters to the mission church.

The mission church was started in the Hiawatha School. Concurrently, the Rosewood congregation furnished the seed money for the land and building for a new church. It also established a building committee and employed an architect. The location of the land inspired the name for the new church, The Fairgreen Presbyterian Church.

When the new building was completed and the mission church was firmly established, the congregation of Rosewood transferred its letters and joined with the Fairgreen Church.

There are some significant facts relating to the founding of Fairgreen:

The Fairgreen Church was not a satellite of Rosewood Church. It was an independent mission church.

The members of the Rosewood Church joined Fairgreen, not vice-versa.

The Rosewood congregation contributed the means of bringing life to Fairgreen.

As the members of Rosewood joined with Fairgreen, they contributed essential leadership in the forming stages, including: the pastor, elders, deacons, and church staff.

They also contributed a traditional, friendly and concerned basis of church operation, and a large number of willing workers - dedicated to helping Fairgreen grow.

As a side note, the Rosewood building still stands in all its glory. It now has a large adjacent parking lot provided by urban renewal. However, removal of the then existing buildings and the gift of the land was not an option available to Rosewood thirty years ago.

You might consider the founding of Fairgreen as being similar to a family in which the parents give life to a child. And as in a family, the parents guide the child in growth, fully expecting the day to arrive when the child is independent. This child, Fairgreen Church, is now thirty years old and has long ago become a mature and self-sufficient entity. This does not eliminate a relationship, it merely accepts what is normal in the growth pattern.

As the founders of the Fairgreen Church, the former members of Rosewood take great pride in their achievement in successfully establishing a mission church, and in the growth and success of the church that belongs to all of us, the Fairgreen Presbyterian Church.

J. Close