

Venture in Faith 1956

Rosewood Avenue Presbyterian Church

Beginning of "Rosewood Chapel" - A Brief History.

To the present Churchfolk,
Who will build,

And to our children and their
children,
Who will use what we build,

This booklet is prayerfully
dedicated.



... When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for the present delight alone.

Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for; and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time will come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say, as they look upon the labor and wrought substances of them . . .

"See! This our Fathers did for us."

- John Ruskin

The history of the Rosewood Avenue Presbyterian Church, with its spacious and beautiful new auditorium, its complete facilities for spiritual, social and recreational community service, dates back to the organization of the Fifth Presbyterian Church.



In the spring of 1889 forty persons signed a petition for the organization of a Presbyterian Church in the vicinity of the present church edifice. Pastors of the First, Third and Westminster churches were among those who attended a preliminary meeting in the old Fountain Hall July 21 that year. Three weeks later a Sunday School was organized in Baumgardner's Hall. George Doolittle, who later became a missionary in Syria, was its first superintendent. . .

The church, with a small and struggling membership, was organized formally October 1, 1889. The Rev. J. W. Cummings supplied the pulpit until the following January when the first regular pastor, the Rev. S. D. Conger, was called.

The members built their first church, a small frame structure, on a triangular lot at Bancroft and Monroe Streets and dedicated it December 6, 1890. The membership increased until this building became inadequate and it was decided by the congregation in 1907 to sell the property and erect as the first unit of a new church a stone Sunday School and Chapel building at the rear of the lot purchased of Edmund D. Libbey and now occupied by the complete new church, at Rosewood Avenue and Bancroft Street. Membership at that time was about 230, with an average Sunday School attendance of 175, despite the fact that after the sale of the old building the congregation was temporarily without a home of its own and services were held in a Baptist Chapel in Auburndale.

It was during the pastorate of the Rev. Lemuel R. Hogan that the church moved into the first unit of the present building. The cornerstone was laid September 15, 1907, and it was dedicated May 10, 1908. The dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rev. Ira Landrith.

It was soon after this that the Rev. D. H. Johnston was called to the pastorate. During Dr. Johnston's pastorate the membership increased rapidly and first tentative plans were made for a new auditorium. First subscriptions of money also were made for that purpose but building operations were deferred on account of the outbreak of the World War, a scarcity of labor and advance in the cost of building material. Dr. Johnston was a sincere and hard worker for the

Lord. He thought the people, not only of his church but of the city, needed a great spiritual awakening and through his prayers and efforts brought Billy Sunday here. He left the church in 1918 after nine years of Christian service.

The Rev. Ralph A. Garrison came in 1919 and remained until 1922. The Rev. Clair B. Gahagen came in November, 1922. Through his consecrated efforts and devotion, the church sanctuary was built. The dedication service was held on Sunday, November 30, 1924. The sanctuary, though marked by simplicity, impresses the worshiper with a sense of reverence. The gymnasium has afforded many hours of fun and fellowship, especially for the children and youth.

The Rev. Charles Clark McKinney, DD., became pastor in 1928 and served until January 31, 1939. At that time the depression hit us, but through his magnificent work and prayer and the splendid efforts of consecrated members, we were able to pull through, though at times we were in grave danger of losing the building.

Charles T. Martz won the hearts of the people and was instrumental in liquidating a \$12,000 mortgage and in building up the church in membership and interest. He remained till February 12, 1944. On July 23, 1944, our pastor, The Rev. J. Kenneth Cutler, was installed.

Ministers Serving The Church:

Rev. Silas Delmar Conger
1891-1895

Rev. William F McCauley
1895-1897

Rev. James M. Douglass
1897-1905

Rev. Frederick A. Hamilton
1905-1907

Rev. Lemuel R. Hogan, D.D.
1907-1909

Rev. David H. Johnston, D.D.
1909-1918

Rev. Ralph A. Garrison
1919-1922

Rev. Clair Boyd Gahagen
1922- 1928

Rev. Charles Clark McKinney,
1928- 1939

Rev. Charles T. Martz
1939 - 1944

Rev. J. Kenneth Cutler
1944 - 1952

Rev. J. R. Bishop
1952 - 1961

Rev. Thomas Prosser
1961 - 1966



The Reverend Jay R. Bishop came to Rosewood Church in 1952, followed by Reverend Thomas Prosser. During his term, the vision for Fairgreen Church began.



Our Growing Responsibility. . .

It is necessary to point out to you that which you already know—that a great opportunity for Church expansion lies in northwest Toledo, where we shall locate "Rosewood Chapel", our new mission branch. Rosewood has a great responsibility in extending the Presbyterian Faith in Toledo.

Our goal is to establish "Rosewood Chapel" in a location at least two or two and a half miles from any other Presbyterian Church, to provide a Church home for those who would join in Rosewood's unique atmosphere of vital, friendly Christianity.

In such a fertile field, our Church has the great opportunity of establishing a strong and leading unit of our Faith, ready to assume its proper place in the life of the growing community. The venture must be made now, lest others take from us the position we plan to assume.

We must go forward, or we go back. We cannot stand still. We must be ready to take care of the new families who will build the community into a greater one. We must be prepared to help these other Children of God who come in search of the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Rosewood Church has never been a large congregation, the membership hovering around the 500 to 600 mark. But it has assumed a growing interest in missionary and benevolent causes. It has given of its sons and daughters in full time service to Christ. Rosewood is proud of her young people who have gone out as missionaries:

Rev. John R. Cole - India

Francis and Ernestine Sauer - China

Dorothy Heslip - National Missions field in New Mexico

Rev. Charles Nims - research work in Egypt

Rev. George W. Cole - Clifton, Arizona.

