

AFTER FORTY YEARS



THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

A DEBT FREE CHURCH

Released for Greater Service February 10, 1946



JAMES CHAMBERLAIN BAKER
Bishop

A Message from Our Bishop

With all my heart I rejoice with First Church—pastor and people—because you are free from debt. May our day of celebration be likewise a day of vision and consecration!

First Church, Glendale, has a noble tradition and inheritance. You also have a glorious present fellowship, as proven not only by the raising of the debt but by your effective participation in so many of the essential ministries of a Church of Christ.

You are set in a place of rare opportunity and responsibility in this time of humanity's startling need. You are rich also in young life who hold the future of all our institutions. I doubt whether you fully realize your great abilities for an expanding ministry to the community and to the world in the name and in the power of Christ our Redeemer and Lord.

May God bless you all and make this day of thankful joy, a time also of solemn renewal of vows and purpose.

(Signed) JAMES C. BAKER

And It Came to Pass

that a foresighted district superintendent and a retired minister from Iowa, after driving along the sandy roads which were mere clearings in the sage brush and cactus of a townsite that was to be Glendale, envisioned a community that needed a Methodist Church.

Dr. John Stafford, Superintendent of the Pasadena District, beat the bushes, and corralled 30 Methodists, who met with him in the Odd Fellows Hall at Wilson and Glendale Avenue (the building still stands) on Sunday, October 11, 1903 and organized the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Glendale. On the following Sunday the new pastor, Dr. Charles R. Norton, was in his pulpit and from that day forward, Methodism was a live growing thing in Glendale.

Immediately, a movement was inaugurated to secure suitable sites for a Church and parsonage. The location selected was Wilson at Dayton Court, just a block east of Glendale Avenue, at a cost of \$1,000. This was raised during the year.

The close of the first year of Dr. Norton's ministry showed a membership roll of 53, which, of course, in Methodist Circles, means that talk of a new Church was under way. In 1905, the conversation culminated into action. Subscriptions were taken and on September 17, 1906, the new Church was dedicated, having been built at a cost of \$8,000.00.

ODD FELLOWS HALL—Corner Glendale Avenue and Wilson
The Church was organized in this building in October, 1903



A Church is Built



REV. CHARLES R. NORTON
First Pastor

Not many are left on our Church roll who were present at the dedication of this earliest edifice. Mrs. Emma Burket, Mrs. A. L. Bryant, Mrs. Hattie Gaylord, Mrs. Ellen Faulkner, Mrs. Lester Jones, Mrs. Ed. M. Lee, M. E. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Reynolds, Blanch Tarr Morrow, Lillian Ward Sherman, Ray Sherman, and A. W. Tower, just about complete the list.

Dr. Norton's kindly ministry ended in 1907 when Rev. N. J. Burton came to serve for one year. He was succeeded by Rev. J. F. Humphrey who spent five fruitful years in the parish. The Sunday School grew rapidly and late in 1909 a Sunday School building was added. At the end of Rev. Humphrey's pastorate in 1913, the church membership was 375 and the Church School enrollment was 450.

Rev. Bede A. Johnson's pastorate marked a rapid growth in both the Church membership and in the School enrollment, making necessary the erection of two bungalows to take care of the increased School attendance.

But with the rapid growth of the city, it was soon evident that the Church and the site were both inadequate. After much discussion it was decided to



Church
No. 1



Dayton
and
Wilson



Sept.
1906

Church No. 2 is Dedicated

follow the population trend and move down Wilson Avenue to the west a short way. The land on which the Sanctuary now stands was purchased at the close of Rev. Johnson's ministry.

With the coming of Rev. B. Dudley Snudden in 1915, the plans for a new church edifice on the Wilson and Kenwood site began to unfold and on August 1, 1916, the ground was broken for a Church building to cost \$50,000.00. On June 10, 1917, this building was dedicated.

World War I was shaking the world and Dr. Snudden was sent to Europe to do his bit for the men of the army. Charles H. Scott followed Dr. Snudden, but served only one year, having been called by the Conference to develop the Pacific Palisades Plan.

Dr. Clyde M. Crist was appointed by the Conference of 1919. During this period Glendale became known as the fastest growing city in the country and by the close of Dr. Crist's ministry in 1922, the membership was about 1100.

Dr. Crist was followed by two great preachers, Dr. Henry I. Rasmus in



Dr. B. DUDLEY SNUDDEN
Pastor 1915-1918

Church
No. 2



Kenwood
and
Wilson



June
1917



Christian Education Building Dedicated



DR. WILL A. BETTS
Pastor 1926-1929

1922 and Dr. Lincoln A. Ferris in 1924, and during their ministry the Church membership grew to 1500 and the Sunday School enrollment to 1200, with an average attendance of 700.

If you will recall that the average attendance in the Sunday School was only slightly beyond that mark on January 1, 1946—you will then realize how crowded and inadequate the Church School must have been, meeting in the original plant.

Dr. Will A. Betts, who was appointed to the pastorate in 1926, realized that we must expand our facilities if we were to keep step with the growing needs of our city. His faith, vision, perseverance and untiring energy soon galvanized the Church into action. A building committee composed of Charles R. Blankenship, Wm. A. Goss, Charles W. Ingledue, Frank P. Taggart, A. W. Tower and Thomas A. Wright

was elected and plans were soon in the making.

To this committee it seemed that the important task was to erect a building that would adequately house the Church School for the next twenty-five years. The present education plant is the result of their planning. To date, it is one of the outstanding Church School buildings in the West. Along with the erection of this unit, the old building was completely overhauled and remodeled.



The
Church
Today

•
Kenwood
and
Wilson

•
1946



CROWDED OUT—The Baraca Class meets in the automobiles on the Church grounds in 1916.



READY FOR THE GROUND BREAKING FOR THE PRESENT EDIFICE IN 1927—Dr. Betts, C. W. Ingledue, Rev. Sumner Reynolds and Ray Sherman in the foreground.



YOUTH AND CHILDRENS' CHOIRS IN THE SANCTUARY.



CATHEDRAL CHOIR IN THE SANCTUARY, JANUARY, 19



ty, 1946—Hilda Preston and Earle B. Immel, *directors*.



Earle B. Immel, *director*; Halstead McCormac, *organist*.

The new and remodeled building was dedicated on Sunday, March 10, 1929. The total cost of the remodeling and the new structure was \$265,000.00. Most of this amount had been subscribed at the time of dedication, but only partially paid in, when the hand of the "great depression" was laid heavily on the country and on our membership. The result was that in 1932 the church found itself staggering under a heavy load of debt and interest, the highest total being \$190,000.00. We trimmed our budget but kept on paying the debt and in the next five years reduced it to \$265,000.00; then for the next three years the interest alone kept us hustling. About this time the little giant, "Penny-a-Meal" joined the Church and with his help and the help of the Security First National Bank which held the mortgage, we paid off \$6,000.00 annually on the mortgage for the next five years. In 1942, *Sanctuary Crusade No. 1* brought in \$30,000.00, leaving an unpaid balance of \$105,000.00.

Late in 1943 the *Security Bank* told us that they would give us the last \$20,000.00 if we would raise \$25,000.00 and pay off the mortgage. This was just the spark we needed and a crusade committee was formed, plans made, and with the pastor, Dr. Paul F. Huebner and Dr. Waldo Weller of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension leading, the *Crusade No. 2* was launched on Sunday, January 23, 1944. Three weeks later on Victory Sunday, February 13th, the subscriptions reported more than covered our obligations. A new loan was arranged with the Board of Church Extension and with this money and the cash collected during the campaign, the bank mortgage was liquidated.

In the last week of 1945 the last check for the balance due on the mort-



SIGNING THE LAST CHECK, DECEMBER, 1945—Seated: Dr. Huebner, Ernest Osgood; standing, left to right: A. W. Tower, Douglas Powell, Fred M. Edwards, Edwin A. Ingham.

gage with Board of Church Extension was signed and mailed. The cancelled mortgage has been received and will be burned on Sunday, February 10th. Enough additional money has been received to cover the balance due on the annuities which were received in the *Crusade*, and the *Church* is now ready to celebrate one of the great days in its history—a day of freedom from debt.

Just previous to *Crusade* No. 2, \$10,000.00 was raised to enlarge and improve the pipe organ. This has been done and we have one of the finest pipe organs in the Southland. The land, buildings, organ and furnishings of the Church are now worth \$375,000.00, figuring the buildings and furnishings at replacement value today.



A YOUTH GROUP AT CAMP RADFORD IN 1945—Dr. and Mrs. Huebner and Martha Jones are with the group.

Primarily, this brief historical sketch is concerned with the building program of the Church, but the two strong pastoral leaders who kept the fires glowing on the altars of the Church through the trying years of the depression, Dr. Hardy A. Ingham (1929-1933) and Dr. W. C. Hodgson, (1933-1943) did a magnificent piece of work. Through their efforts the membership grew to 2,300 and the interest was paid and the debt slightly reduced.

This chronicle would not be complete without a word concerning the part the *Ladies Aid* and lately the *Woman's Society of Christian Service* has played in putting this debt behind us. We have no figures on Churches No. One and No. Two, but we know that the women did more than their share. On Church No. 3, in the first campaign they subscribed \$25,000.00, and paid more; and in *Crusade* No. 1 and No. 2, they subscribed \$7,000.00 and paid it. God bless the women!

Any attempt to name those other than our pastors and the Women's Societies who have rendered unusual service by gifts of time and money would seem to fail of due recognition of the hundreds of others, who not once, but again and again, with sincerity and sacrifice have contributed their full share according to their ability.

Without distinction and with unity of Spirit, let us give thanks to God whose guidance has brought us to this day.

Staff of First Methodist Church



EARLE H. INGHEL
Minister of Music



HILDA PREITON
*Assistant Director
of Music*



HALSTEAD MCCORMAC
Organist



MARREL F. GILBERT
Church Secretary



A. O. HINSON, D.D.
*Minister of
Visitation*



MARYHA JONES
*Director of
Christian Education*



A. G. TEACHMAN, JR.
Director of Finance



MAY SIMONS
Receptionist



D. S. SWAN
*Church School
Superintendent*



ROBERT J. WIGGINS
Custodian

Leaders Through the Years

ASSISTANT PASTORS AND DIRECTORS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—Carl C. Seitter, Harry I. Rasmus, Jr., C. Sumner Reynolds, Wendell B. Kramer, Miss Ethel Ristine, Rollo Dunham, Mrs. Hazel Paramore Graves, Lewis E. Durham, James B. Wilson, Dr. A. O. Hinson, Mrs. Harold Hemingway, Miss Martha Jones.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE—Clifford L. Chaffee, Dr. Hardy Ingham, Frank E. Gates, Rev. Earl B. Grundy, Albert G. Teachman, Jr.

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC—Mrs. George Moyse, Charles Lamb, C. D. Lusby, Mrs. Leora Cammack, Miss Isabelle Isgrig, F. Vance Evans, Floyd Brown, A. Cecil Marshall, Irving Steinel, Arthur Shank, Charles C. Hirt, Eric Baber, Halstead McCormac, Earle B. Immel.

ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS—Dr. Hawks, C. K. Aston.

CHURCH SECRETARIES—Mrs. Myrtle Brown, Miss Rosa Peck, Miss Anne Meecey, Miss Winifred Fessenden, Mrs. S. Miniken, Miss Mabel Gilbert.

ORGANISTS—Mrs. George Moyse, Frances Hendershott, Lillian Ward Sherman, Mrs. Harriet Randall, Miss Mabel Adsit, Ralph Day, Mrs. Paul Butterfield, Mrs. Rebecca Grimes, Halstead McCormac.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS—Mrs. C. E. Russell, Thomas W. Watson, Alphonso W. Tower, Frank P. Taggart, Howard Butterfield, Kenneth Montgomery, D. S. Swan.

CUSTODIANS—George Ward, Henry Katherlah, Jacob Wilson, George McCormac, Walter Smoot, Robt. J. Wiggins.

WOMAN'S AID SOCIETY—Mrs. Louice Brown, Mrs. Frank Litchfield, Mrs. H. L. Kimball, Mrs. George W. Allen, Mrs. Rebecca Lacy, Mrs. C. D. Lusby, Mrs. Ed. M. Lee, Mrs. Katherine Chamberlain, Mrs. Chare's Starkey, Mrs. George Pomeroy, Mrs. L. D. Haskell, Mrs. J. C. Foulks, Mrs. P. O. Lucas.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE—Mrs. Edwin A. Ingham, Mrs. Ernest E. Osgood, Mrs. Harold W. Hart.

WOMEN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY—Mrs. C. W. Spickerman, Mrs. C. W. Ingledue, Mrs. B. F. Geiger, Mrs. S. C. Wheeler, Mrs. P. O. Lucas, Mrs. W. H. Nichols, Mrs. George A. Foote, Mrs. Bernard Brennan, Mrs. Howard L. Butterfield.

WOMEN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY—Mrs. D. F. Hendershott, Mrs. C. E. Byrkit, Mrs. R. D. Goss, Mrs. Henry Johnston, Mrs. T. A. Wright, Mrs. L. D. Torrey, Mrs. W. B. Collins, Mrs. Helen K. Scripps, Mrs. Edna Stelle, Mrs. E. C. Watkins.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD AND FINANCE OFFICERS—C. D. Lusby, C. W. Ingledue, Bert Matthiesen, Chas. R. Blankenship, T. A. Wright, E. E. Osgood, Dr. C. R. Lusby, A. W. Tower, Frank P. Taggart, Douglas Powell, Alfred Gate, Rex Truesdell, Dr. Verne Wilson, Edwin A. Ingham, Paul Butterfield, Howard L. Butterfield, George H. Little, Harold W. Hart, E. C. Taggart.

No complete records were available from which to compile this list and no doubt deserving ones will be omitted, for which we are sorry. The order in which names appear may or may not be the chronological order.

In Memoriam
THE GOLD STAR BOYS

ROBERT CLAY BAKER
THEODORE C. BROWN
BRUCE BROWN*
VERN C. BROWN
GEORGE DUNDAS
JESSE H. FLOWER, JR.
LOYL KIMBALL*
NORMAN E. KRAMER*
JACK MACKENZIE
J. A. MATHEWS

RICHARD MATTHIEN*
H. WILLIAM OTIS
EDWIN SLOCOMB*
EDWIN R. STAUFFACHER, JR.
TRUMAN M. STELLE
JOSEPH B. STEERS
CHESTER VORBECK*
E. CLYDE WATKINS*
EDGAR CLARK WILEMAN

*Not members of this church