

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

1961 was the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Waverly Heights Congregational Church. Actually several dates could have been chosen throughout the year, that would have been appropriate. The first Sunday School met in February 1911. But it was not until some months later that a church actually was organized and chartered. To observe this significant event in fitting manner, three functions were held, two on Sunday November 5, 1961, and another November 7, Tuesday.

Dr. M.A.F. Ritchie, President of Pacific University was asked to be the quest preacher at the Sunday morning worship services on the 5th. His subject was "How Strong Is Our Link" in which he traced the progress of the past, to developments that bring us to the present day and its challenges. Afterward he was entertained by Mr. & Mrs. Kirchner and the college students of our Church who were attending Pacific University.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. an historical pageant was presented, written jointly by Miss Frances Smith and Mr. Stanley McLaughlin, and given under the direction of the Committee appointed for the Anniversary program. I think no person will dispute with me, (and thanks go to many persons) when I give much credit and praise to Miss Francis Smith for her sincere concern in this presentation, the great amount of time and effort she devoted to its preparation, and the expense which she assumed personally to make this the impressive event that it was. Her account of the pageant, combined with the historical narrative itself, follows this report.

On Tuesday evening, November 7th., the congregation gathered for a festive dinner, with the Conference Minister and Superintendent as the guest speaker. Also invited to speak were former pastors. The Reverend Lee Lynn, and the Reverend Thomas McCamant, each of whom spoke appreciatively of the church and its accomplishment. At the conclusion of the hour, Mr. Dexter Daugherty, Treasurer of the Building Fund, announced that funds had been received to the amount that the indebtedness upon the parsonage had been paid in full, and to indicate that he meant just what he said, he presented the paid-in-full note to Mr. Macey Hyde, who had served as its chairman, throughout this project. Thus was realized a dream, a debt-free church.

N. Eugene Kirchner

50TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL PAGEANT

BY

FRANCES E. SMITH

Our Golden Anniversary. The Waverly Heights Congregational Church at S. E. 33rd. Avenue and Woodward Street celebrated its 50th anniversary in several ways. Beginning Sunday November 5th., 1961 with a special memorial service in the morning by an address, given by Dr. M.A.F. Ritchie, President of Pacific University.

Beginning at 4 o'clock in the afternoon a pageant was given that outlined the eleven ministries from 1911 to, and including 1961. Each of these periods featured essential events and achievements in each span of time. These events were brought to mind by means of story, dramatic dialogue, music, solos, pictures, songs, hymns, pantomime, and tableau. On a high wall-screen each successive minister's photograph was shown which gave a sort of mural background to the events that were being related.

The first minister, Rev. T.S. Winey's services began in late summer of 1910 in Portland as a founder of Sunday Schools in newly developed residential districts. His work before that was missionary work in Oregon lumber camps. His Sunday School work was sponsored by the Congregational City Missionary Society of Portland and was in the Richmond District. The Anniversary program featured this part of the work by a dramatic dialogue showing Mr. Winey talking to boys at play, to find out their interest in Sunday School. A second dialogue presented a house-call to find out adult interest in the need and support of a Sunday School. Each event showed favorable reaction. Mr. Winey's efforts resulted in a Sunday School started in October of 1910 in a hall at S.E. 26th. Avenue and Clinton Street.

By February 1911 a Church was organized and recognized with Mr. Winey elected minister and with seven charter members, Mr. Winey, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Arnold, Mrs. Charles DeWitt, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Sahl and Mrs. Morse.

The need of a Church building resulted in the purchase of the lots at the present site and the obtaining of the second-hand lumber dismantled from the first Sunnside Congregational Church. The cost was met by the Congregational Mission Board. A program meeting held at the site before the church building was erected included a solo sung by Lola Edmonds. Fifty years later as Mrs. Paul Wiggins she again sang a solo on November 5th.

As we had no picture of Mr. Winey a picture of the re-erected church building was shown on the wall screen. Although we had a bell-tower we had no bell, but there was a valted ceiling, a large square sanctuary and a social hall almost as large as the sanctuary. To us it was a cathedral and our own house of worship. Mr. Winey was

married after the church was organized early in 1911. He resigned in November 1912.

Our next minister, The Rev. Andrew Bond, arrived with his family, his wife and two small sons. They came December 1912. They stayed only a year and four months. Mr. Bond gave good service. A picture of him was shown on the screen.

Our third minister was The Rev. Albert C. Moses, our first minister to own an automobile. Much was accomplished during his four year ministry. He came August 1, 1914 and left July 31, 1918. Rev. Moses, his wife and her two sisters were a very capable team. Each took over special fields of work, such as Missionary Society, Cradle Roll, visitation and social calls, kitchen management and youth meetings. Mr. Moses had morning and evening Sunday preaching and mid-week prayer service. We had a childrens church choir, a fund-raising bazaar, also dinners and luncheons. At Christmas the Sunday School gave gifts of clothing and food to the Waverly Baby Home.

World War I was in progress. A war service flag hung on the wall in the chancel. There was deep regret when Rev. Moses left us on July 31st. to become a war chaplain.

For the Anniversary Program a staging was given showing Mr. Moses shaking hands with some of his congregation. Background music was "We're Coming Over, Over There." A youth in a khaki blouse said, "Quite a few of us will be in service next week and we need him more than you do. The congregation waved good-bye. The portrait of Mr. Moses on the screen was very life-like and impressive. They left together with a waved salute.

The next five months supply ministers and lay-speakers conducted church services. One of these was Mr. Norman C. Thorne, an assistant Superintendent of Portland Public Schools, one of our members and our Sunday School Superintendent. He obtained useful equipment gifts for the church and inaugurated our yearly summer picnic. A committee selected the place at which it was held.

The Rev. Oliver Perry Avery began his ministry January 2, 1919 at Waverly Heights church. He came recommended to us as a thorough Christian gentleman which indeed he was. His thoughtful friendliness, quiet gentle cheer and penetrating sermons proved it. Rev. and Mrs. Avery, two sons, and a two year old daughter, were the first to occupy the parsonage now known as the "Annex". It was bought in 1920, by the Ladies Aid, at a cost of \$3,250. The Sunday School grew rapidly. In 1923 the average attendance was 145 with a high of 215. Children programs were seasonal events. One of the child soloists was Anne Nordstrom, now Anne Katherns. She favored us with a solo based on Psalm 46.

Mr. Avery and the youth of the church did much to improve our Social room at the left of the sanctuary.

Mr. Avery's brother, Dr. Amos Avery and his family moved to Oregon and to our neighborhood. He and his three daughters were very helpful new members in Youth and Sunday school work.

During this time we had our first Christmas tree and Santa Claus, our first movie picture machine, and heard a brief radio recording on New Year's Eve. A high-light event was the replacement of our large colored-glass windows into new sturdy frames that enclosed artistic translucent glass panels in blended tones of gold and blue-violet. The windows were bought by the Sunday School after months of collecting the cost of \$180. A screen picture of one of the windows was shown to advantage.

Another happy occasion was the Sunday morning unveiling of a large oil-painting of Mt. Hood by Eliza Barchus, an Oregon artist and a member of the Sunnyside Congregational Church, now the Staub Memorial Church. An excellent picture in color of the painting was shown on the screen, so was a portrait of Mrs. Barchus. The Mount Hood oil painting and another picture she gave to us were returned to her daughter in 1949. Mrs. Barchus died in 1959 at the age of 102. One of her paintings is in the church office.

Mr. Avery closed his pastorate here January 1925 because of other interests that called him to California, one being a theological study course. Mr. Avery's screen portrait was excellent.

June 1, 1925 The Rev. Frank Carlson, his wife and two sons in the 6. to 10 year range, were the next family to occupy the parsonage. A year or so later, their little daughter Ruth was born.

Mr. Carlson's enthusiasm and energy, and his dynamic and challenging sermons caused church attendance to flourish as well as that of Sunday School with Mr. J. W. Edwards, our recent city School Superintendent, then supervising the Senior department of the Sunday School. That year we enlarged our church platform to give a Nativity program. Mr. Carlson specified the plans, a series of tableaux illustrating the scriptural story and enriched by Christmas Carols and their wonderful music with Carroll Day accompanist at the organ. The costumes were well made and authentic. The portrayal received high praise.

The first Easter in Mr. Carlson's pastorate 74 members joined the church. Others joined during his following service. Mr. Carlson was called June 1, 1928 to Olympia, Washington. Later he was elevated to the Superintendency of our Congregational Churches in Oregon. Mr. Carlson's screen picture portrayed his dynamic pleasant personality.

The 50th Anniversary program gave a Tableau. It showed at the left an angel in white with uplifted arms. Then the Holy Family with shepherds at the left, and the three Kings at the right. With audience participation one stanza each of the following hymns were sung, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "Away in a Manger", and "We Three Kings of The Orient Are." This in a limited way reminded us of December 1925.

January 4, 1929, The Rev. Hugh Lovell began his pastorate at Waverly Heights. There were four members in the Lovell family, Mr. Lovell, Mrs. Lovell, a teenage daughter and a younger son. Mr. Lovell has spent part of his life living in Australia. He is a well-read person with a keen appreciation of classical literature and of music. He directed the Senior Sunday School's singing of hymns in the sanctuary where those classes met. Mrs. Downing was organist.

Mr. Lovell had an opportunity to buy a used pipe-organ for the church at a cost of \$1,200. Carroll Day, our organist supervised the installing of the organ. Mrs. Downing and Carroll Day collaborated in playing for the church services.

The first Waverly Heights Church wedding was solemnized in the sanctuary May 11, 1929. Participants were William Warren McCulloch and Margaret Kressman. Prior to this time home, or parsonage weddings were the general rule.

Our most festive occasion was the evening when all the Waverly Heights parents and children celebrated their twenty-first anniversary with a delightful program of music recitations and reminiscences. Refreshments were served from an attractive table resplendent with a large cake in the middle, surrounded by Twenty-one candles. Waverly Heights had come of age. This part of the Anniversary Program was shown by a staging in which a child and her mother looking at a large white cake decorated by twenty-one red candles talk about the up-coming celebration in which the cake will be served with the other refreshments.

Mr. Lovell closed his pastorate October 1, 1933, after having served on third less than five years. His screen picture was so realistic it looked as if he were about to speak.

The next four months the Rev. T. Arthur Dungan served as interim minister until February 1, 1934. His work was earnest and friendly. Occasionally he arranged for excellent special music provided by his wife who is an organist and a violinist.

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a salary cut for him, but despite limited funds he managed to pay Mrs. W. E. King for her assistance in various church duties, one of which was Vesper services for nine to twelve year old boys. They called it Junior Church.

The Pilgrim Fellowship was very active during his tenure. A major project was assisting older members to remove earth beneath our organ floor to prevent moisture damage and to promote air circulation. The cave that resulted was then enlarged to build a room under the east portion of the church. The room faced on the courtyard and was called, "The Gold Room."

The Anniversary program presented this project in song and pantomime. To the strains of "I've Been Working on the Railroad", three of the original workers sang, "I've Been Working on the Gold Room", with words describing the activity. The labor was re-enacted (1) with hammer and board - (2) with saw and board - (3) and with the vigorous swing of a pick-axe. Also the present Mayflower group presented an account of the same event in a rhymed choral reading part of which was in unison, and other parts in solo voice.

The Gold Room served many useful purposes.

At Camp Adams the fine rock fireplace in the main room of the Waverly cottage was a contribution of the Rev. Lynne and Ross Anderson who personally built this strong and imposing structure.

The Rev. Lynne served a term of almost eight years. He closed his pastorate January 1, 1942. His screen picture was much the same as he now looks. He was a guest among the congregation November 5th. 1961.

In September of 1942 The Rev. George W. Halstead began his first pastorate, serving Waverly Heights for two and three-fourths years. It was during his ministry that the first substantial efforts were made in planning and raising funds for our new church.

A stage setting of this undertaking was shown in the Anniversary program as follows in pantomime. A woman on stage was dusting 2 or 3 chairs. Background music "I ain't Got a Barrel of Money". A man in hat and overcoat, carrying a clip-board solicited money, which house-wife paid from her purse.

Mr. Halstead closed his ministry June 1945. His screen portrait, an excellent likeness, showed his earnest zealous dedication to his chosen field of work.

The Rev. Thomas McCamant, a widower, with a family of school age children three sons and a daughter, answered our call to Waverly Heights September 1945. At this time, much work of soliciting money, organizing, planning and actual building of the new church structure remained to be done. During the time this was being accomplished Sunday services were held in the Oregon Theater at S. E. 35th. and Division Street.

There was considerable joy early in 1948 when Virginia Edwards promised to be our minister's wife. The wedding reception in the social room of the original church provided a high-spot of the social season. Further blessing was added when a year later a son, Robert, was born.

The Rev. McCamant and our members worked hard on the building project which was ready for use by November 20th, for the first service Mr. McCamant officiating. We were proud and happy on January 29, 1950, the date had been set for a formal dedication ceremony, when a large crowd inspite of bad weather, attended. Sargent Patterson sang "Bless This House."

In our Anniversary program Roger Kirchner favored us with the same solo. The Rev. McCamant stayed with us until the fall of 1953. He was then called to organize a church in Medford. His screen portrait brought to mind his fine ministerial service in Waverly Heights Church.

From October of 1953 until the following June 1954 Dr. Harold Tuttle served as our interim minister. He is fondly remembered for his analytical talks on religious art and for his selection of poems which he included in his sermons.

It was during Dr. Tuttle's tenure we finished paying the mortgage on our church. After a pot-luck dinner the amount of money to complete the debt was pledged. The Rev. McCamant returned to help with the ceremony. It was conducted as follows. Various members rose, in the meeting, and made pledges sufficient to cover the needed amount to clear the debt.

An urn on a tray supported a lit candle. It was held by Mr. McCamant. At his right a member held a scroll marked "MORTGAGE," which was burned in the candle flame. At his left a member read a short poem of thanksgiving for the cancellation of the debt. Our anniversary program repeated this ceremony with Mr. McCamant taking part as was originally performed.

The Rev. N. Eugene Kirchner answered our call to Waverly Heights in June of 1954. His family consisting of his wife, and their two sons, Nick and Roger, resided in the old parsonage for about two years. Rev. Kirchner's first service with us was on Sunday June 6th. Under his leadership much progress has been made, such as joining the United Church of Christ. A new parsonage was built at 2840 S.E. 33rd Place. The Kirchner family moved in March 16, 1956. He has led us to a growing social consciousness that we are our brother's keeper in the sight of God.

Mr. Kirchner's picture was in color, was full length, and showed him wearing his pulpit robe. The picture was taken outdoors standing near the annex looking at us with a welcoming smile.

The closing number of our program was given by a large group of Sunday School children, on the platform singing the hymn "This is our Father's World." This was led by Mr. Kirchner. The flag of the United Nations was displayed in the background. The audience participated in singing the last two stanzas.

What ever success our pageant-program may have achieved, much was due to the splendid support of our organist, Mrs. R. C. Payne.

At the close of the program, tea and refreshments were served in the social hall which was beautifully decorated with flowers and gilded symbols of the event. Here guests, friends, and members met to reminisce and view old time pictures and mementos of by-gone days. These pictures were attached to bulleting boards on easles.

Frances E. Smith

December 1961

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Frances let us September 21, 1962. For some months prior to her death she had been failing. One realizes that much of the preparation of this account, and the production of the pageant, albeit a labor of love, was most demanding upon her energies. The pictures referred to here in the story above were slides that she had had made, assuming the cost and responsibility personally. It may be that in time they will be offered to the church for its records. The displays exhibited in the social hall are in possession of Miss Violet Hyde, who comes near to being the most knowledgeable person regarding Waverly Heights and its past. From time to time materials are turned to her that there may be a central gathering place, and pertinent material does not become lost.

It is my conviction throughout much of my ministry that the YEARBOOK serves a most useful purpose from an historian's standpoint, as being a complete repository for the records of any year's accomplishments, under one cover, concisely told.

People are seldom aware of the significance of an event as it is occurring. Quite often the fatigue of the hour causes records to be thrust aside hastily with the thought that the in the future we shall make report of it. Which hour may never come. We note for example that national libraries (part of the National Archives) have been established for the last four presidents so that records may be preserved. What I am trying to say has been best said by Irving Stone in his book "Men to Match My Mountains", a quotation which has been shared with this congregation before. "Wait! Don't let this get lost! Set it down on paper, preserve the records, establish the facts, write the biographies before the cast has been scattered, capture the color of the land before its riches have been dissipated and it is too late to document the story - "

Frances was almost the last of those who were first. Survived by her twin sister, Florence, when she leaves us, the chapter will be closed forever!