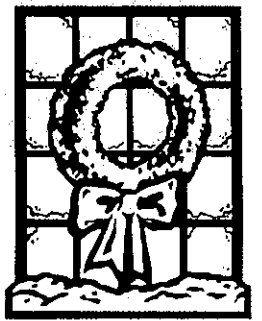
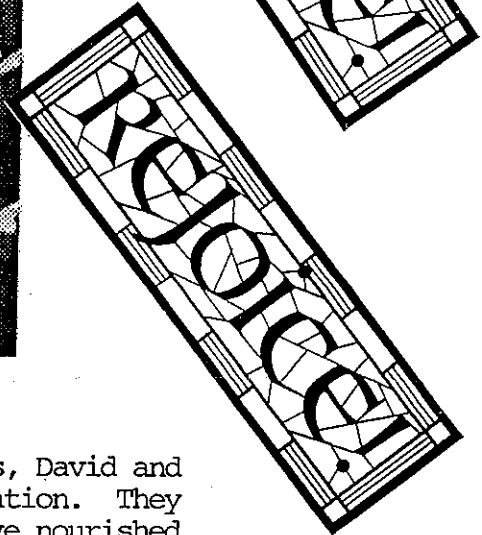
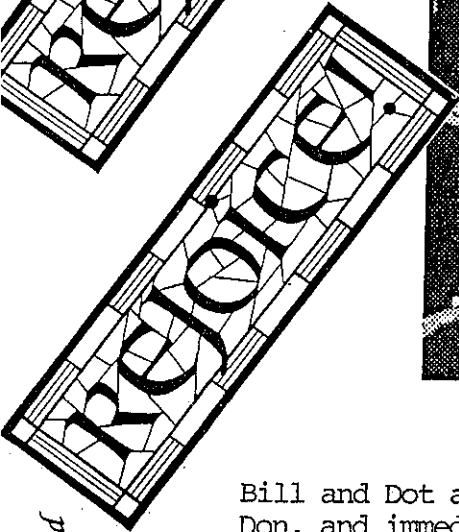
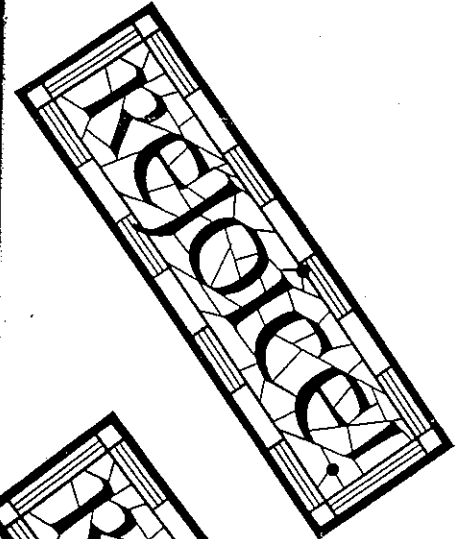
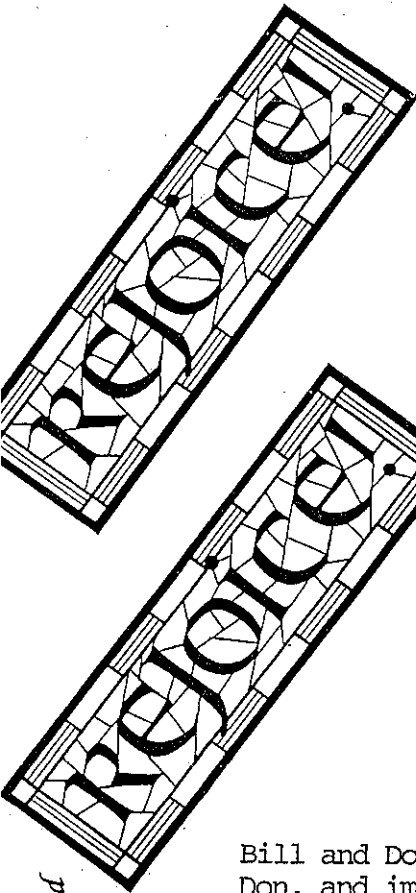




Reminisce



Dr. William D. O'Neal



Bill and Dot arrived in Longview with their two sons, David and Don, and immediately won the hearts of this congregation. They have shown constant devotion to this church, and have nourished this healthy, active, and spiritually growing congregation. Bill O'Neal's deep-rooted family ties from childhood have given him his tremendous gift for love of God, family, country, and friends, which comes through to us in so many of his sermons.

In 1995, Bill O'Neal will retire from First Presbyterian Church, Longview, where he has served this congregation devotedly, wisely, and well for some eighteen years. He has served longer than any of the ministers during our 120 years, and is the first to retire from our church.

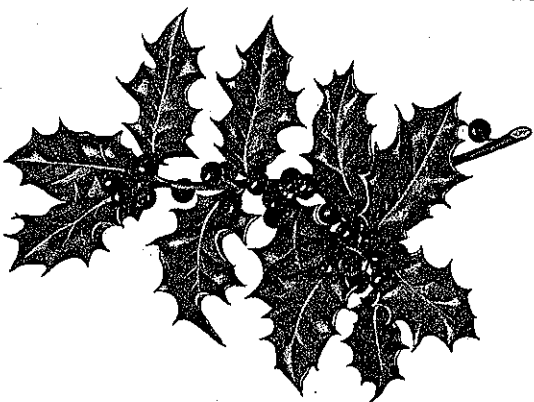
"Let us bless this Holy Season,
The Holly round the Christmas hearth,
Let cedar fill the air,
Rejoice and be glad.
Blessed Holy Season."

And, Lord, we thank you for Bill O'Neal, for his calm and confident hand on dark and sunny days, his kind and thoughtful ways that have touched so many of our lives, the strength he has given us all, and his caring guidance that has nourished our faith. We thank you for all our blessings, another of which is Bill O'Neal's voice on Sunday morning calling us with,

"Let us worship Almighty God."

Time marches on and change is inevitable. But the one thing that is right and sure in this world is family, to remind us of where we've been, to watch where we're going, and to be with us in the end, for comfort and to carry on.

The happiness of an old-fashioned Christmas.



*The Lord lift up
His countenance
upon you
and give you peace.*

-Numbers 6:26



WITH LOVE ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.



Bill and Dot O'Neal

As the Father hath loved me so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my father's commandments and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my father I have made known unto you.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

These things I command you, that ye love one another.

John 15: 9-17



A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Let us go forward feeling that the New Year holds for us many blessings and opportunities for doing great work in the Master's Vineyard.

Mrs. Edwin Lacy

1874 REMINISCENCES 1994

1874 REMINISCENCES 1994



Carolyn Lindsey

First Presbyterian Church - Longview, Texas 1940

Thy KINGDOM COME

In 1977, our congregation welcomed Dr. William Daniel O'Neal, who quickly proved to be an extremely popular and beloved pastor, from his scripture-filled sermons to his inspirational guidance. Under his leadership the church has experienced considerable growth, both numerically and financially.

Dr. O'Neal was joined in 1979 by Dr. Jim Smith as the Director of Christian Education and Music, and Stephen Farrow, organist. These two men were definite assets to our church, and our music program grew substantially, as did the educational program under Dr. Smith, who retired in 1994.

A Mother's Day Out program grew into a Pre-school and Day Care Center in 1979. The Presbyterian Children's Center and the dedicated teachers have served this church and community faithfully and effectively, and it serves to a full capacity.

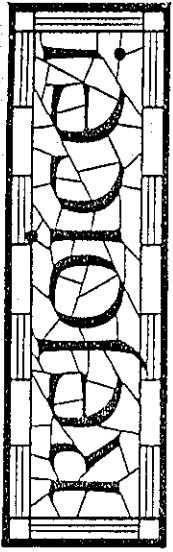
The work of a Long Range Planning Committee for the 1980's led to the remodeling of the sanctuary, including a new balcony. In 1982, our church was greatly blessed with the gift of the lovely Crain Memorial Organ. The Holtkamp instrument was a gift from Mrs. B. W. Crain in memory of B. W. Crain's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Buford W. Crain, Sr.

A holdover from the first Long Range Planning Committee was the proposal to build a quality retirement community for this area. An ideal location was purchased behind the Longview Mall for this facility with seed money provided by the will of Bennette Gardner. This will soon become a reality known as Buckner-Westminister Place, and will include between 40 and 100 apartments. In 1989, another Long Range Planning Committee was appointed to plan for the 1990's. Through this committee, the renovation of the old office and educational wings was completed in 1992, and also the addition of an elevator reaching all floors.

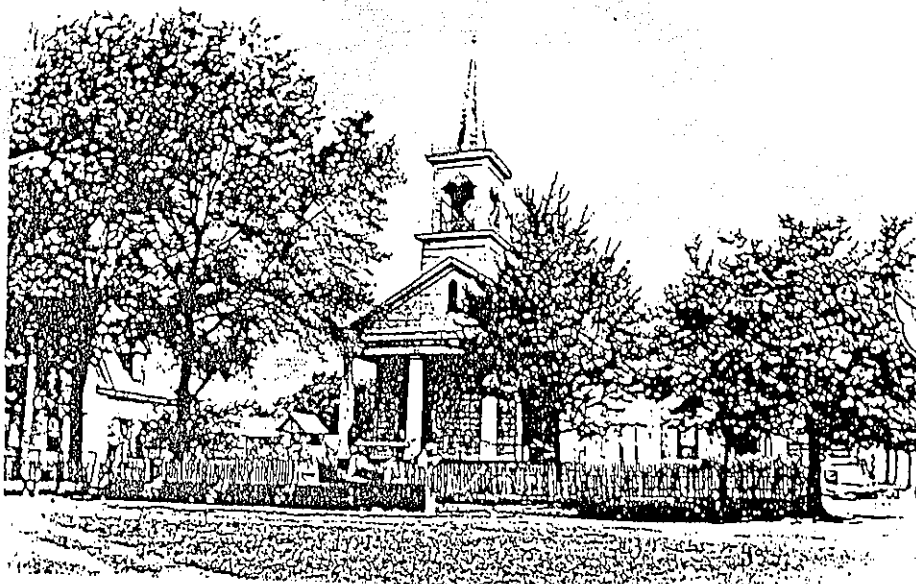
During these years the church acquired two important pieces of real estate, the Crim lots on High Street with the building, and the Bramlette House, given to the church in 1991 by Paula Bramlette. The mission work of the church continues to grow with strong interest in the work in Haiti and on the Mexican border, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation that does medical work through the Presbyterian denomination around the world. Locally, the congregation is involved in ministry through Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Stewpot, Information and Service Center, and other programs.

REJOICE!





First Presbyterian Church - Longview, Texas 1874



"At the break of Christmas Day, / Through the frosty starlight ringing, / Faint and sweet and far away, / Comes the sound of children, singing."

—Margaret Deland

1874 REMINISCENCES 1994

As our year of remembrance draws to a close, let us reflect back to those who came before us, and dedicate ourselves to continue our loving work in their memory. The history of a church is a very personal thing to a particular group of people, as it is the story of their relationship to each other and to God. We will always be indebted to those stalwart pioneers who first organized our church, and the faithful that came after - a long procession of people, to each of whom this has been "My Church." It is the place where we found a faith that has endured, where we gained the things without which life has no meaning, where we found that when we attempt great things for God, we can expect great things from Him. So from my heart, and through these words, I thank you for this past year. I will close with special words from a special lady.

I have gotten into the habit of visiting the past and have found that I like it there.

"Through all the pages of this history you have seen, weaving in and out of the narrative, a golden thread binding together in loving fellowship, pastor, officers, members, and committees, and as each page is turned it seems the cord is growing stronger.

One ply, two ply, three ply, until at last it has become a cable of faith, hope and love, drawing us all ever onward, upward, until it is anchored to the golden throne of our King, at the feet of our Lord.

Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving and into His Courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth to all generations."

Mrs. Kate Womack Lacy
March 18, 1941

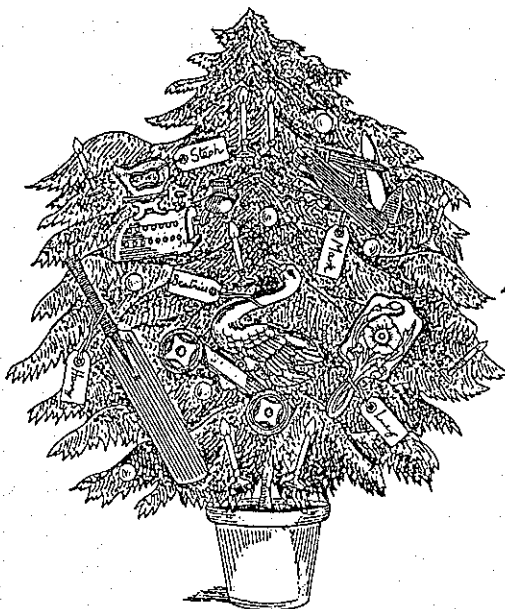
Reminiscences from Carolyn Lindsey

AMEN

AMEN

AND

AMEN



"Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.



"Happy Christmas to all
and to all a good night!"



First Presbyterian Church - Longview, Texas 1940



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LONGVIEW

THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED BY NINE RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE OLD SCHOOL SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS A MISSION IN THE NEW TOWN OF LONGVIEW IN 1872. THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING WAS ERECTED ON LAND DONATED BY THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILROAD IN 1874. THE REV. JAMES H. WIGGINS WAS INSTALLED AS THE FIRST FULL-TIME PASTOR. THE CONGREGATION HELPED ESTABLISH TWO MISSION CHURCHES IN THE AREA BY 1894. A NEW CHURCH BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1900 AND A THIRD AT THIS SITE IN 1940. THE CONGREGATION CONTINUES TO SPONSOR OUTREACH AND MISSIONARY PROGRAMS IN LONGVIEW AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

(1994)

*Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
For the Bible tells me so.*

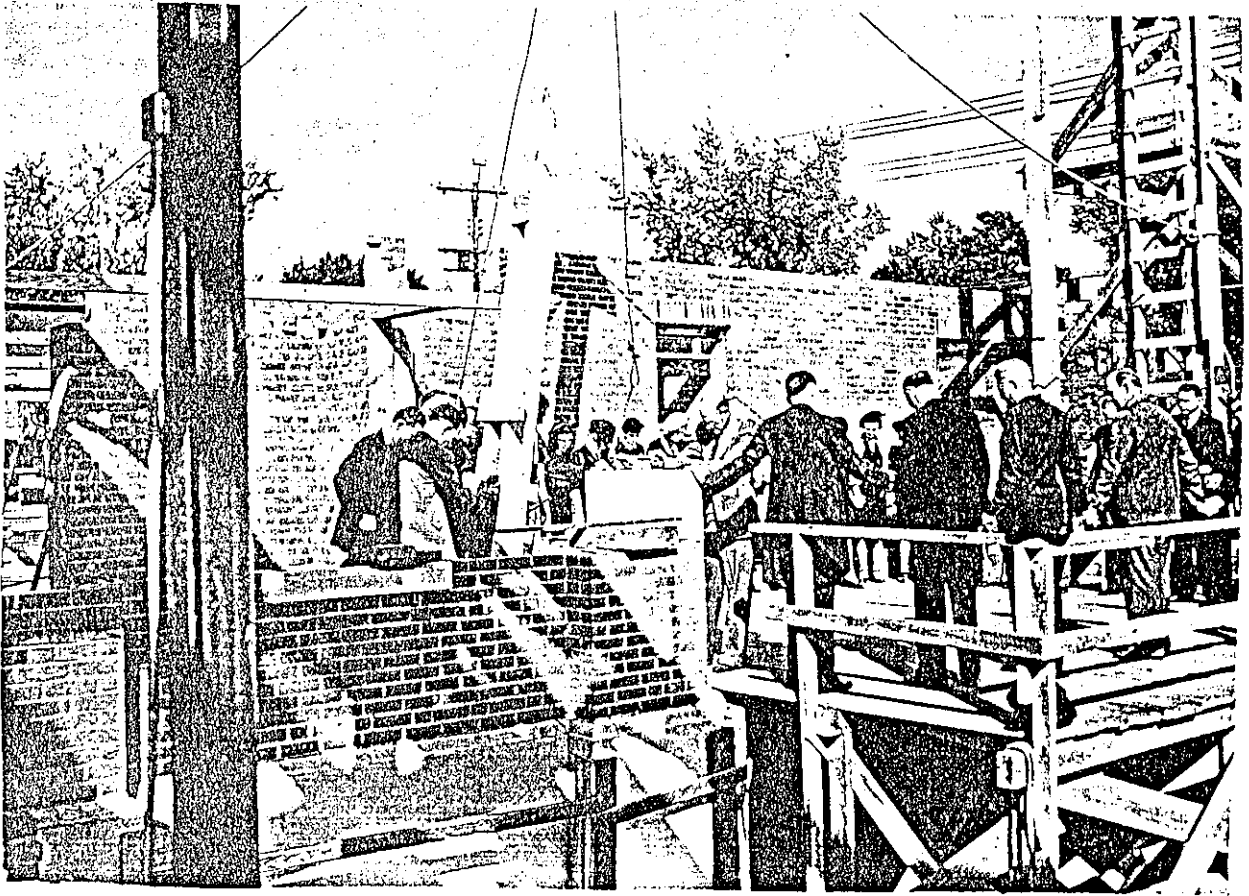
October 23, 1994, dawned cool and sunny and welcomed a thankful congregation to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker. The First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, was celebrating its 120th year of ministry on the same site. The dedication followed the 11:00 a.m. church service, and was held on the front lawn of the church. Dr. Norman Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, gave the welcome and introduction of guests, and was followed by Dr. William D. O'Neal. Dr. O'Neal gave the invocation, the reading of the marker and the dedication to the Glory of God and to those who came before us. The marker was unveiled by Mrs. Carolyn Lindsey, and following a prayer, the choir sang the choral benediction. This marker will stand on the lawn of the church for many, many years, and will be a constant reminder to all that from the first little one room church that stood here in 1894 to the present third church in 1994, God has led us, sustained us, and blessed us. We are the keepers of our church's historical treasures that are going to be passed on to the next generation.

Wish We Were There ... A Perfect Place to Be



1874 1994

"This house is my friend."
—Theadora Van Runkle

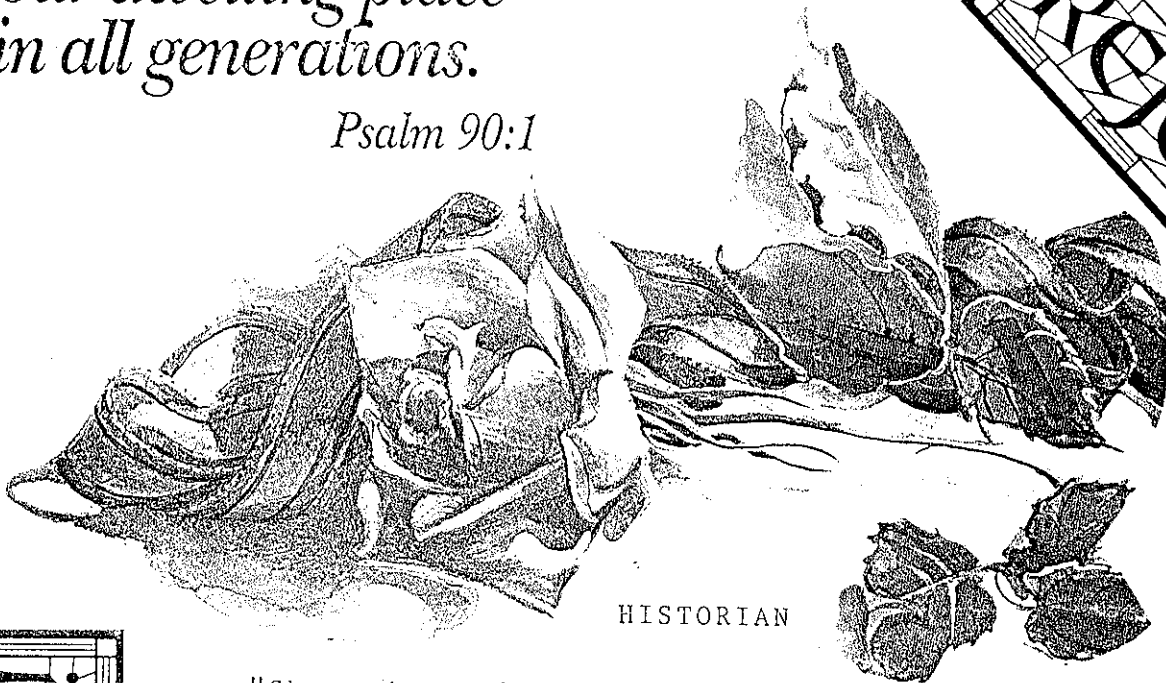


First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas.
The laying of the Corner Stone, October 6, 1940.

The Gift of Time

Lord, you have been
our dwelling place
in all generations.

Psalm 90:1



HISTORIAN

"She writes about the world at large...Some kingdom and its crown...A war that changed the map, or just...the story of her town...She gathers facts and rumors and...she sifts them one by one...And she talks to people everywhere...to get her writing done...A document, a cornerstone...The marker on a grave...The Bible or some newsprint old...that someone thought to save...Her words may not be perfect and...she may not want to swear...That it was just exactly as...she has recorded there...She preserves the memories...of years and years gone by...And as her pages take their place...The past will never die."

...James J. Metcalf

"Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal," writer Pamela Vaull Starr advised.

REJOICE!

REJOICE!

To All a Good Night

Bill and I moved to Longview from Dallas in 1979. (Boy, were we young!) We visited various churches before making our decision to join First Presbyterian. Upon our first visit, we fell in love with Bill O'Neal and felt so "at home" in the congregation. Having transferred from a "Mega-Church" where you can regularly attend but easily get lost in the crowd, First Presbyterian, Longview, immediately gave us the feeling of a true "church family." The size of our congregation is a wonderful asset. We as members must take a more active role to achieve all of the church's goals and needs. This participation encourages friendships and allows for personal growth. (Who ME - teach Sunday School and play hand-bells?) Like anything in life, the more you put into something, the more you receive from it. Our sons were baptized by Bill, we have worked with many wonderful friends and have always felt the love and support of our church family. It is exciting to watch our church grow and achieve many goals, yet always looking to the future. We are thankful to be a part of First Presbyterian - past, present, future.

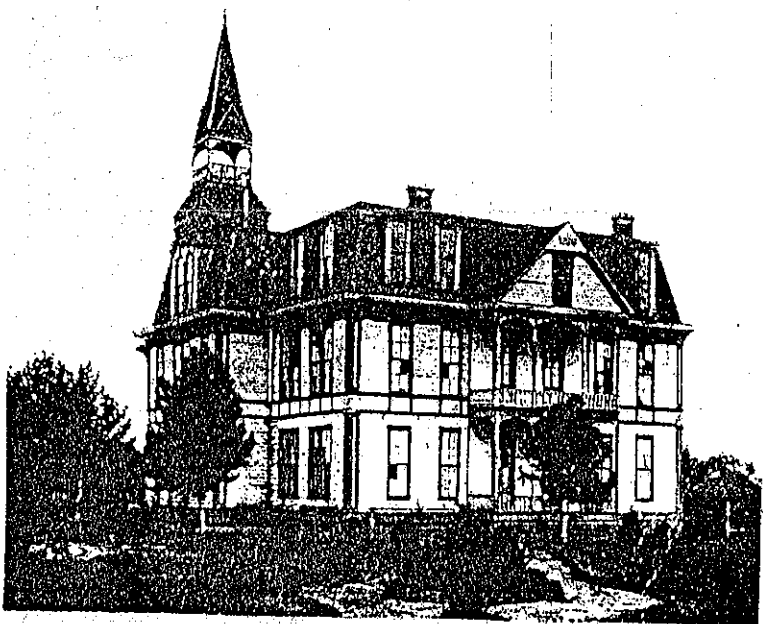
Reminiscences from Bill and Debbie Bankston

*"We wove a web in childhood
A web of sunny air..."
-Charlotte Brontë*

*You must listen to the symphony
That God composed for you—
With melodies that touch your life,
Affecting all you do.*



THE CLASS OF 1902 - LONGVIEW HIGH SCHOOL



First Longview High School located on South Green Street, opened 1890.

Keith and I first joined First Presbyterian eleven years ago right after the birth of our oldest son, Clint. We had been visiting the church off and on for three years, and felt very welcome. Everyone quickly helped us become involved in the church school and all other activities. There are so many memories already. One memory is of Mike McClinton keeping Chris in the nursery. Chris wouldn't go to anyone else. Family camp pictures made Keith and me laugh because we stayed in an old cabin the first year that we attended. I had joined the Carillon, and on a trip to Galveston Karen Harris, Linda McCoy Hamilton and I found \$60 and we split it. It was a great surprise. We have been blessed to make good friends who would take care of our boys like their own, so though our time here has been short, the First Presbyterian is the only place to be.

Reminiscences from Keith and Tammy Moyes

Saviors of a bygone season

I was a teen-ager in 1948 when my family returned to Longview from California and joined First Presbyterian Church with Dr. Tom Talbot serving as pastor. Tommy along with the "Christians" made us very welcome. Pearl and Bill that is!

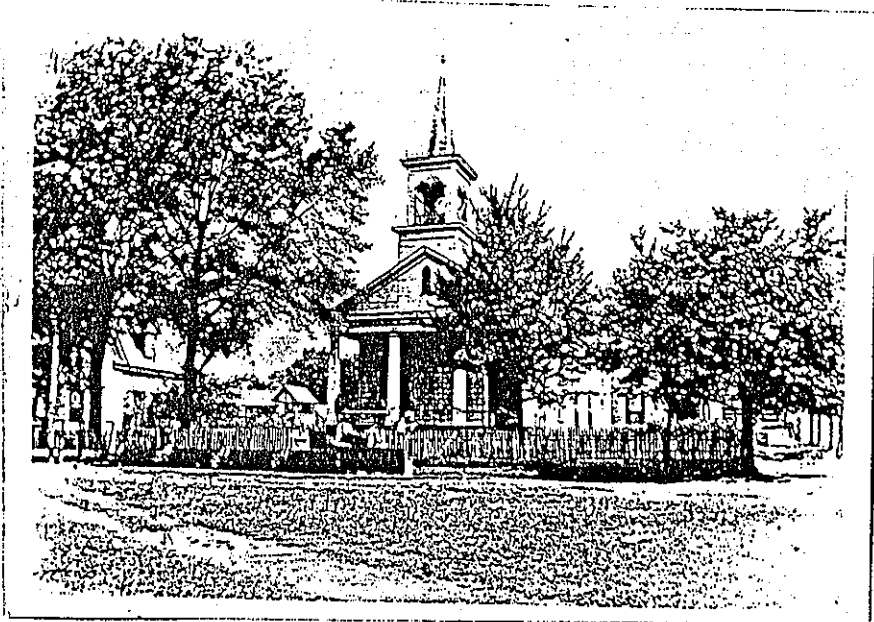
Glynn, along with Jack Bogue and Winton Studt coached church league basketball for several years. Being associated with those two coaches, and the youth of the church during these times provides fond memories for us, as do the years I taught the two year old Sunday School class.

Glynn and I were the first couple to be married in the chapel, and we raised our three sons in this church. Through the years as members of this church, so many people have meant so much to us. There are many memories of sitting beside my mother during church worship service.

Reminiscences from Glynn and Martha Armstrong

*"Who has not found
the Heaven—
below—/ Will fail of
it above—/ For
Angels rent the House
next ours,/ Wherever
we remove."*

—Emily Dickinson



Carolyn Lindsey

First Presbyterian Church – Longview, Texas 1874

Pastor number six to come to the first little church was the Reverend Romulus M. Tuttle. He came from a pious and godly ancestry, noted for faith and good works. When the fierce whirlwind of war broke upon the land in 1861, he enlisted as a soldier in the Confederate service, following the fortunes of his native state in war, until the fateful year of 1865. He was severely wounded several times, and for unusual bravery and efficiency was promoted until he reached Captain of Company "F" in the 26th Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers. He participated in the battle of Gettysburg, leading his company in the charge of July 1, 1863, in which of the 91 men who went into action, every officer and man of the rank and file was either killed or wounded, 31 of the number dying on the field or as the result of wounds.

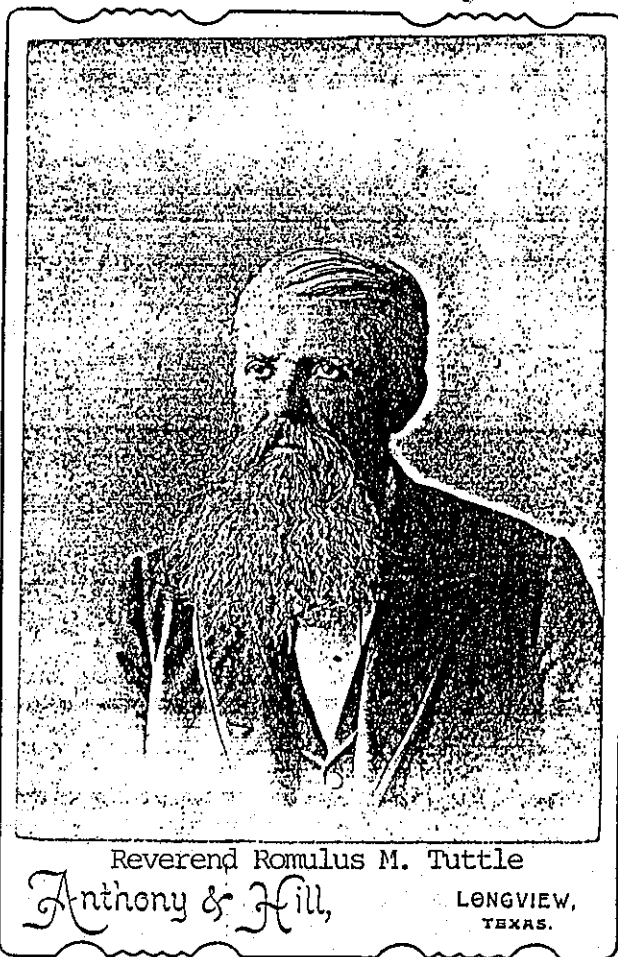
After the war Mr. Tuttle fulfilled a purpose cherished for years, that of preparing for the gospel ministry. He came to the little church during the year 1890. He was a man of decided literary tastes, cultivated by a large acquaintance with good literature, and shown not only by interesting articles and numerous poems from his pen, but also by the chaste English and chastened rhetoric which marked his sermons and his private discourse. He also was indeed a godly man in every word and act of his life.

During his tenure, a foreign missionary society for children was formed called "Texas Bees." They supported and educated two Japanese girls in our schools in Japan. The girls wrote letters and sent pictures, and the personal interest and responsibility for them increased greatly over a period of time. The "Ladies Aid" was still serving, giving parties and ice cream suppers. The average amount taken in during the year was something over \$200.00. Though they were very liberal they always had a good balance in their treasury.

One Sunday a month Reverend Tuttle would preach a sermon at Center Church, which he built at Elderville, six or eight miles south of town. The Sunday organist was paid \$2.00 a month. The preacher was often given the resources of the land at that time which included potatoes, corn, ground peas (peanuts), artichokes, and even a good fat hog. Reverend Tuttle regularly engaged in preaching the gospel until the last nine months of his life, when he was laid aside by a painful illness. He died at age 52.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that
day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his
appearing."

II Timothy 4:7,8



Reverend Romulus M. Tuttle

Anthony & Hill,

LONGVIEW,
TEXAS.

1874 REMINISCENCES 1994

1874 REMINISCENCES 1994

*Angels Come
to Call*



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO RECEIVE TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

Known as "The Friendly Church in the Heart of the City," the First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, will, in 1994, celebrate its one hundred twentieth anniversary. The highlight of the year will be the dedication of a Texas Historical Marker following church services on October 23, 1994.

The first church was founded by eight resident members in Longview in 1872. The land for the church was donated by deed in 1873 by the Texas and Pacific Railroad, and the first little white frame, one room church was built in 1874 on the same site as the present church. The second church was built in 1900. After the oil boom hit East Texas in the 30's, the second church quickly became inadequate for the times, and in 1940 the present church was built.

The First Presbyterian Church has been faithfully ministered to by twenty pastors, the first being Dr. James H. Wiggins in 1874. Today the church is led by Reverend William D. O'Neal who came to First Presbyterian in 1977, and today has the honor of pastoring the church longer than any of the twenty pastors before him.

The First Presbyterian Church has kept a spiritual vigil on the same site in downtown Longview for one hundred and twenty years, and looks forward to the twenty-first century with a sense of excitement about the work of Jesus Christ in the community and throughout the world. The public is invited to the dedication.

November 17, 1873

CHURCH HISTORY

November 17, 1948

In October 1872, resident members in Longview, Texas, of the Old School Presbyterian Church of the Southern Church, assembled for the purpose of establishing a local Mission Church in Longview, there being no Church of that denomination in the newly laid out town. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Davis, Mrs. Jno. M. Duncan, Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brice, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mr. Lawson Henderson, Mrs. E. B. Ragland, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Witherspoon, Mrs. H. F. Briley, Mr. McKinley, Mr. George Moore, Mrs. T. A. Flewellen. The Rev. James Knox was requested to conduct services one Sabbath in each month.

April, 1873, a meeting of members to proceed to have the Mission Church established, was held. The East Texas Presbytery had authorized the founding and establishment of the Church and the Rev. James Knox was appointed to hold services on the fourth Sunday of each month.

November, 1873, a meeting of the members of the Church was held. The Texas and Pacific Railway Company donated by deed a lot on the corner of Methvin and Center Streets to E. R. Davis, R. B. Levy, John Witherspoon, and E. B. Ragland, Trustees of the Old School Southern Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas. This deed was recorded in the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, November 17, 1873. Plans were made for a small temporary building to be erected for services until a permanent Church building could be erected.

March 15, 1874, a meeting of the congregation was held and the Church building was dedicated. Dr. W. K. Marshall, organizer of the Church, acted as chairman and Rev. James H. Wiggins was installed as regular full-time pastor by the committee appointed by Presbytery. Mr. John Levy, grandfather of Judge Levy, was one of the first Elders and a faithful and consecrated officer. A little later the following became very active members during Rev. Wiggins' pastorate: Mrs. Tom Campbell, Mrs. Henry Smith, mother of Mr. Bruner Smith and Mrs. B. W. Crain, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Womack, Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Lawrence, Mrs. DeLoach and Mr. and Mrs. Briley. Rev. Wiggins served as pastor of the Church from 1874-1880. The Church fronted south, now on West Methvin Street, and in front of it stood some pine trees planted by "Grandfather Levy." The original building was of wood, rectangular in shape, approximately 36 feet by 60 feet, with portice and large columns, and a high steeple in which hung the bell which still calls our people to worship.

Among the first children to be baptized were Mrs. R. J. Wilson of Dallas, a granddaughter of Dr. Marshall, and Mrs. Gaines Turner, daughter of Mrs. R. B. Levy, a charter member.

During the first pastorate there was no organized "woman's work," but the ladies were very active. As there was no "sexton" the janitor's job fell to them and the Church was kept immaculate, floors swept and lamp chimneys always clean. Mrs. Kate Lacy was baptized by Mr. Wiggins on a return trip to our town, after he had resigned his pastorate here.

1881, Rev. J. C. Buchanan served a short pastorate and nothing of importance is recorded other than the holding together of the congregation.

1881-1883, Rev. Charles J. Heiskell served as pastor of the Church. Though his pastorate was of short duration, the year 1883 marked a wonderful and "vital" event—the organization of the "Ladies Aid Society." On February 2, 1882, four ladies of the Church met for the purpose of organizing the "Aid Society." They were Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mrs. Hetty Oney, and Mrs. J. M. Duncan. Mrs. Carter was made president, Mrs. Levy, treasurer, and Mrs. Duncan, secretary. The initiation fee was 25c. Thursday of each week at 3:30 p.m. was the time of meeting—the place of meeting to be decided at each meeting. Mrs. Duncan drew up the constitution and by-laws. The following ladies were charter members: Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mrs. J. M. Duncan, Mrs. T. A. Flewellen, Mrs. Winslow, Mrs. T. M. Campbell, Mrs. H. L. Smith, Mrs. F. C. Kilgore, Mrs. A. B. Carlisle, Mrs. Gladney, Mrs. Tillery, Mrs. Hettie Oney, Mrs. W. Horne, Miss Carrie Wilson, Mrs. E. G. Ragland, Mrs. John Ragland, Miss Lura Durham, Mrs. A. A. Womack, mother of Mrs. Edwin Lacy, and Mrs. Mary Caldwell. Dues were 5c per week and it was decided to let the men become "honorary" members. They were T. M. Campbell, H. L. Smith, M. Abey and E. H. Carter.

1885-1890, Rev. James W. Sexton served as pastor. It was during this pastorate that the Ladies Aid bought the Communion table linen and a carpet. Then, too, the Missionary Society was organized. Mr. P. K. Whitney was the Sunday School superintendent at this time. A young people's society was organized and the members were from every denomination. Mr. Witney was president and Miss Elise O'Bryan of the Episcopal Church was secretary and treasurer. The Sunday School attendance was from 30 to 40 and the collection averaged 60c.

1890-1894, Rev. R. M. Tuttle served as pastor, a man of decided literary tastes and indeed a Godly man in every word and act of his life. While with us he organized a Foreign Missionary Society for the children, known as the "Texas Bells." We supported and educated two Japanese girls in our schools in Japan. The books, "The Lone Star" and "Texas Presbyterian" were written by Mr. Tuttle.

1894-1899, Rev. S. M. Tenney accepted the pastorate of the Church. Although only 22 years of age and just out of Princeton Theological Seminary, he was always consecrated, earnest and enthusiastic in his work. It was during this pastorate that the Longview Church was made a full time Church, supported entirely by its own congregation. The salary for the first three months was \$33 1/3 per month, thereafter \$50.00 per month. The manse was rented for \$10.00 a month to our organist, which was applied on the pastor's salary. Of course the pastor paid his room and board out of his salary. Mr. Tenney made his home for the first three months with the family of one of the Elders, Capt. W. I. Bruner, grandfather of Mr. Bruner Smith, a present Elder of the Church. Capt. Bruner was greatly loved by Mr. Tenney and a great help to him. Electric lights were installed in the Church during this pastorate. Mr. Tenney taught the Bible Class in the Sunday School, of which the follow-

CHURCH HISTORY (Continued)

ing were members: Mrs. M. M. Lawrence, Miss Alice Morrison, Charlie McKinley, Mrs. Kate Marshall and B. D. Marshall. Later Mrs. Marshall, Miss Ada Mack and Mrs. Tenney became teachers. Viola Eckman became superintendent of the Sunday School. Mr. Tenney believed that we have Biblical authority for "deaconesses" and succeeded in securing the consent of the session for the election of same, though the session did not consent to their being by legal form inducted into office. Miss Clementine Bramlette and Miss Essie Carlisle were elected. They collected the pastor's salary and benevolences not handed in during public worship and reported all cases of sickness to the pastor. At the close of his work here, the need of a new home of worship was pressing, so Mr. Tenney began the task of raising the necessary funds—by collections and by selling a religious book through the town. This need was not realized until a few years after he had resigned this pastorate. He married a Longview girl, Miss Mary McWhorter, a sister of Mr. E. O. McWhorter, a present Elder of the Church.

1900, Rev. George H. Steen served a very short pastorate, from February to December of 1900. Nothing of great importance happened during this time.

1902-1906, Rev. T. F. Gallaher was quite young when he came to this Church and was greatly loved by the young people, irrespective of denomination. During his pastorate here he was married to Miss Irma Burke of Tyler. Their son, Thomas Burke, followed in his father's footsteps and is now a minister in this Synod. Rev. Gallaher was elected Moderator of the Synod in 1933, served as pastor in the Oak Cliff Church in Dallas, where he is greatly loved. Dr. Gallaher filled the pulpit here this past summer during our pastor's vacation.

1907-1911, Rev. J. S. Baird served as pastor. It was during this pastorate that the young ladies of the Church organized an "Aid Society." Miss Kate Womack and Miss Della Pegues were the presidents the first years. The society was organized by Mrs. Jim Motley. It was during this time that several families were received into the Church from the Cumberland Church which had united with the Northern Church (1909).

1913-1916, Rev. J. F. Coughley, born and educated in Ireland, came to Longview from the Bryan, Texas, Church. During this pastorate the choir was flourishing and for the first time a regular director, Mrs. Melton and Miss Verta Eckman, our present organist was organist then. Every Sunday there were anthems, solos and duets. It was at this time that the enthusiastic young ladies society did big things. Among them was to pay for a \$5,000.00 pipe organ, the first in the city. Though not paid for at one time, the principal and interest were kept up.

1918-1921, Rev. T. L. Green was called to the Church. During the first year of his pastorate, he succeeded in having the ladies take up the "Auxiliary Plan" of organization; just 36 years, one month and three days after the "Ladies Aid Society" was organized. A monthly schedule of study was arranged, a constitution and by-laws were adopted and the membership divided into circles. The following were the officers: President, Mrs. Morton; vice-president, Mrs.

J. C. Francis; secretary, Miss Effie Shaw, and treasurer, Miss Beatrice Graham. Dues being 25c per month. During this pastorate the manse was repaired and enlarged, a second story being added. In 1919 the Church began the "Budget Plan and Every Member Canvass."

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Sunday, November 14

11:00 A.M. Dr. David L. Stitt
 6:30 A.M.—Vesper Mr. Hampton Bowman
 For All the Young People of the City
 7:30 P.M. Dr. David L. Stitt

Monday, November 15

7:30 P.M. W. G. Vollmer
 President T. & P. Railway Co.

Tuesday, November 16

7:30 P.M. Dr. W. B. Guerrant
 President Austin College, Moderator Synod of Texas

Wednesday, November 17

7:30 P.M.—Cavalcade of Presbyterian Progress in
 Longview. Seventy-five Years of Progress

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THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS HAVE SERVED THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LONGVIEW, TEXAS

Rev. J. H. Wiggins, D.D.....	1874-1880
Rev. J. C. Buchanan.....	1881
Rev. C. J. Heiskell.....	1883-1884
Rev. John T. McBryde.....	1884-1885
Rev. J. W. Sexton.....	1885-1890
Rev. R. M. Tuttle.....	1890-1894
Rev. S. M. Tenney, D.D.....	1894-1899
Rev. George H. Steen, D.D.....	1900
Rev. T. F. Gallaher, D.D.....	1902-1906
Rev. J. S. Baird, D.D.....	1907-1911
Rev. T. F. Coughley.....	1911
Rev. T. L. Green, D.D.....	1917-1920
Rev. R. M. Hall, D.D.....	1921-1929
Rev. M. W. Castrodale (Supply).....	1929-1931
Rev. R. L. Owen.....	1931-1938
Rev. A. F. Fogartie, D.D.....	1939-1945
Rev. Thos. H. Talbot.....	1946-

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ORDER OF SERVICES

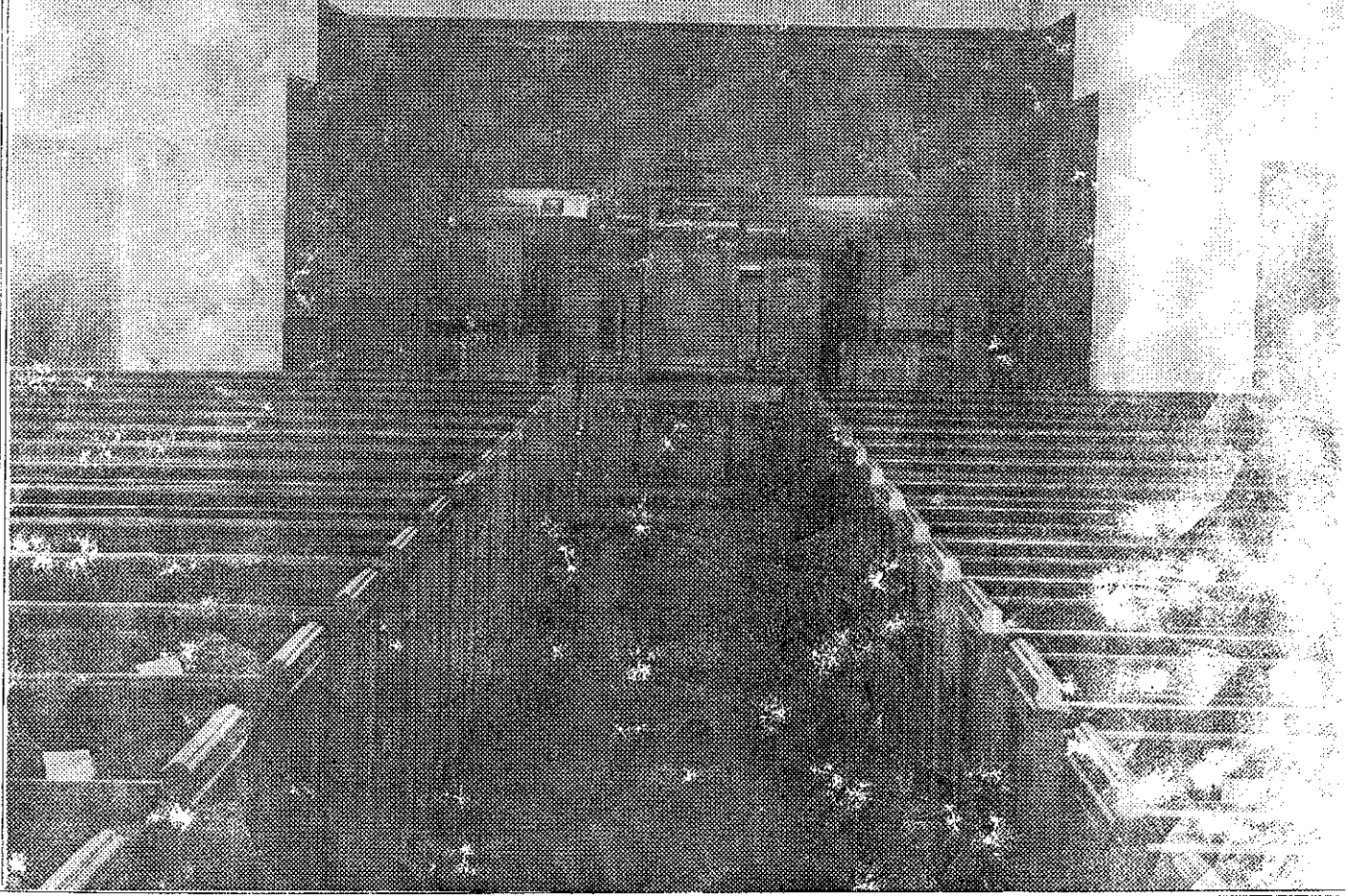
Sunday:

9:45 A.M. Church School
 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
 6:30 P.M.—Presbyterian Youth Fellowship Vesper
 Services
 7:30 P.M. Evening Worship

Wednesday:

7:30 P.M. Mid-Week Prayer Service

Diamond Jubilee



The First Presbyterian Church

Longview, Texas

1873-1948

The First Presbyterian Church

Corner Methvin and Center

Longview, Texas



“The Friendly Church in the Heart of the City”

“Whosoever thou art that entereth this Church, remember it is the House of God;
be reverent, thoughtful and prayerful: and leave it not without a prayer to
God for thyself, for those who minister, for those who worship
here, and for all men everywhere.”

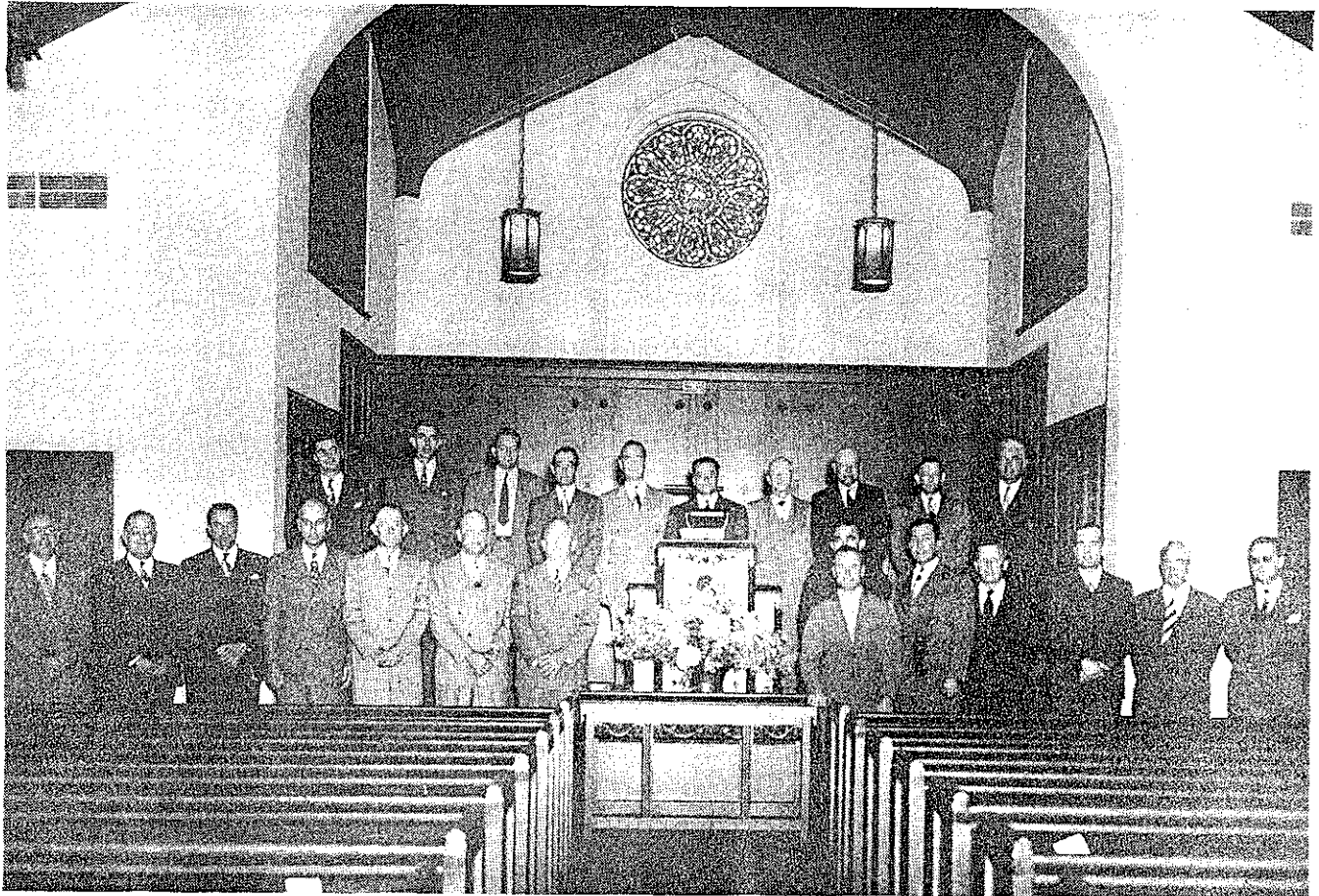
ENTER TO WORSHIP

DEPART TO SERVE

1100 Turner Drive
Telephone: 3124

Thomas H. Talbot, Minister

Church Office
Telephone: 4213



THE SESSION

T. H. Talbot, Moderator	Joe Finley	J. A. Mansinger	Dr. H. H. Niehuss
Conrad Vernon, Clerk	O. H. Grissom	B. D. Marshall	O. L. Norton
Don Braziel	H. L. Herron	M. M. Martin	Rembert Rea
Paul Culver	Elmer Isgren	Curtis Morris	Charles Seward
Joe Dunsworth	R. L. LeTourneau	E. O. McWhorter	W. Bruner Smith
	Judge R. B. Levy		J. Melroy Thompson

(Meets first Wednesday evening of month)

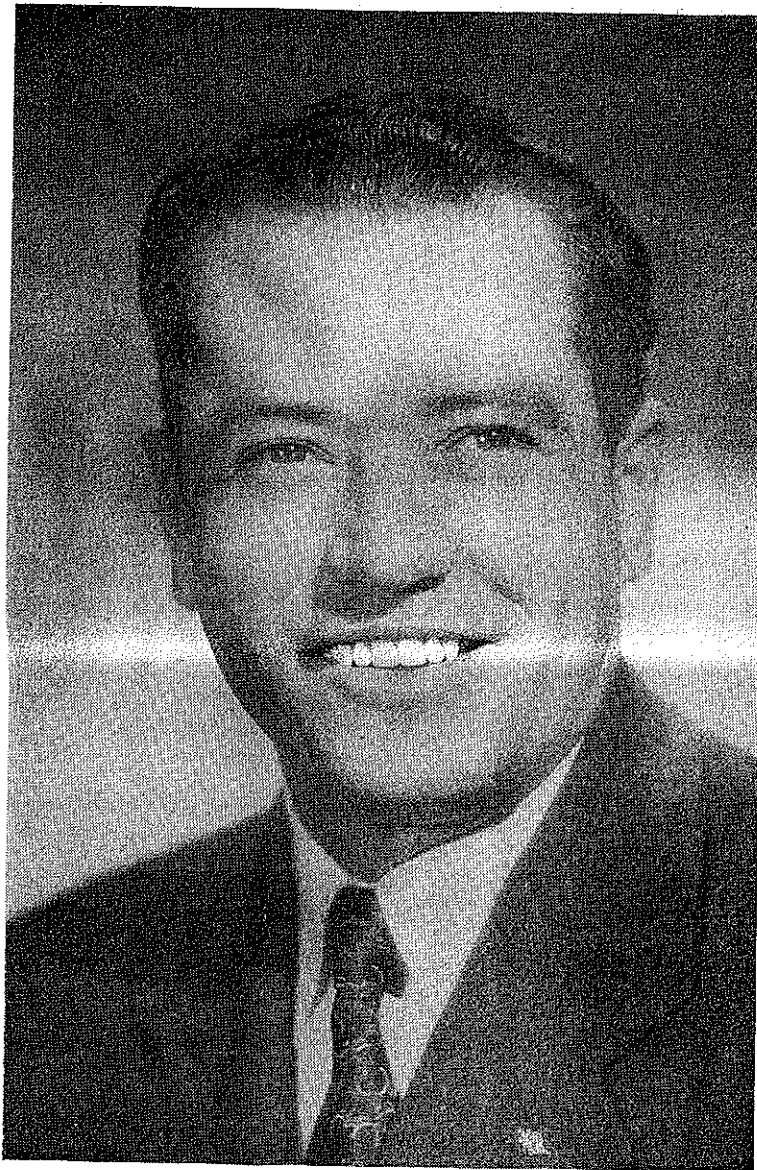
THE DIACONATE

H. D. MacDonald, Chairman			Merrill Matthews, Treasurer
George Sammons, Benevolence Treasurer			Talmage Horn, Secretary
L. J. Barbary	E. T. Flewellen	J. W. Hutchings	J. D. Saxon
Searcy Birdsong, Jr.	Dr. J. C. Francis	F. M. McCain	Lawrence Skipper
J. W. Booth	Dr. Tom Francis	E. R. McWhorter	Hamp Smead
Walter Brooking	Dr. Charles Gray	Sam Moore	J. L. Tune
W. H. Christian	Dr. R. S. Hardwick	Frank Rains	R. L. Whitehead
John B. Dickson	Robert Herr	Lawrence Rogers	L. S. Whitson
Robert Flanagan	Roger Henderson	Clark Sample	R. W. Whitworth

(Meets second Monday evening of month)

THE CHURCH STAFF

Minister	Reverend Thomas H. Talbot
Director of Religious Education	Miss Nell McCall
Church Secretary	Mrs. Wm. J. Houliston
Organist	Miss Verta Eckman
Choir Director	Mrs. J. F. Collier



THOMAS HARDY TALBOT

Rev. Thos. H. Talbot, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, was born in Dallas and attended Adamson and Sunset High Schools of that city. He attended SMU for one year and then engaged in the cotton business for three years with Weil Brothers of Dallas. In 1930 he decided to enter the ministry. He attended Austin College in Sherman and received his B.A. degree in 1933. He then entered Austin Theological Seminary at Austin, from which he graduated with the degree of B.D. in 1936. While a student at the seminary he took post-graduate work at the University of Texas. He was ordained by Western Texas Presbytery in April 1936. His first pastorate was the Presbyterian Church at Luling, Texas, from 1936 to 1940. He then accepted a call to the East Dallas Presbyterian Church where he served as pastor from 1940 to 1945. He was on leave in military service from 1942 to 1945. He entered the service of his country as First Lieutenant as Post Chaplain at Camp Hood from then until the spring of 1945, when he went overseas to Honolulu, where he served for nine months. When discharged from service in 1945 he carried the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

On March 6, 1941, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Douglas Felkel of Anderson, S. C. Mrs. Talbot is a graduate of Scarritt College, Nashville, Tennessee, and was in full time service as Director of Religious Education at the Travis Park Methodist Church in San Antonio, prior to their marriage. They have two children, a little girl, Catherine Douglas (Cappy), who was four years old last March 16, and a son, Thomas Hardy, Jr. (Tommy), who was one year old last September 20th.

Mr. Talbot accepted the pastorate of this Church March 15, 1946. One year later he dedicated the Church, which six years before, March 16, 1941, held its first service in the new Church. Rev. Talbot was commissioned to the General Assembly this year, May 1948.

Rev. Talbot is a 32nd. degree Mason and a member of Hella Temple Shrine in Dallas. A member and director of the Civitan Club, vice president and director of the Longview Chamber of Commerce, and a former Chaplain and director of The American Legion. Both he and Mrs. Talbot are greatly loved, not only by the Church, but by the people of Longview.

PRAYER OF RE-DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

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“God of our Fathers, who through the years, hath led Thy people, we come to Thee.

Our Fathers trusted in Thee, they trusted, and Thou didst deliver them.

May the Spirit who kindled their faith descend upon us.

We bless Thee, for the ministry of former days, for the memory of heroic deeds, saintly lives, service that was accepted of Thee.

Thou has redeemed us from the weakness of the past, wherein earlier days, we were but a few scattered believers in the heart of the wilderness, surrounded by savage beasts and still more savage men.

Thou hast set our feet in a large room.

Thou hast made of us a great people.

The log cabin has become the gracious Christian home.

Places of learning have multiplied.

The forest aisles, wherein our fathers worshipped, have become temples of brick and marble and granite.

Saints and scholars have come forth from their portals to lead our hopes and aspirations through the years.

Wealth, power, honor has come to Thy Church.

Even our rude tongue hast Thou moulded, until it rings like iron and shines with the sheen of gold.

The savage kneeling in the far off places of the earth, hears the story of Jesus told in every tongue.

Yet forbid it God that in this hour of joy, we should speak any words or think any thoughts that hold not Thee in awe.

Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be the honor and glory.

As we think of the price paid to plant Thy vineyard here, give us to see the needs of those who come after. May we pass on the heritage received, enriched, strengthened. From these days of recollection, may we gain an added sense of responsibility for the years which lie ahead.

Receive us, shelter us under Thy wings. Hide us in Thy Heart.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, we pray.”

AMEN.

In October 1872, resident members in Longview, Texas, of the Old School Presbyterian Church of the Southern Church, assembled for the purpose of establishing a local Mission Church in Longview, there being no Church of that denomination in the newly laid out town. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Davis, Mrs. Jno. M. Duncan, Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Brice, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mr. Lawson Henderson, Mrs. E. B. Ragland, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Witherspoon, Mrs. H. F. Briley, Mr. McKinley, Mr. George Moore, Mrs. T. A. Flewellen. The Rev. James Knox was requested to conduct services one Sabbath in each month.

April, 1873, a meeting of members to proceed to have the Mission Church established, was held. The East Texas Presbytery had authorized the founding and establishment of the Church and the Rev. James Knox was appointed to hold services on the fourth Sunday of each month.

November, 1873, a meeting of the members of the Church was held. The Texas and Pacific Railway Company donated by deed a lot on the corner of Methvin and Center Streets to E. R. Davis, R. B. Levy, John Witherspoon, and E. B. Ragland, Trustees of the Old School Southern Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas. This deed was recorded in the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, November 17, 1873. Plans were made for a small temporary building to be erected for services until a permanent Church building could be erected.

March 15, 1874, a meeting of the congregation was held and the Church building was dedicated. Dr. W. K. Marshall, organizer of the Church, acted as chairman and Rev. James H. Wiggins was installed as regular full-time pastor by the committee appointed by Presbytery. Mr. John Levy, grandfather of Judge Levy, was one of the first Elders and a faithful and consecrated officer. A little later the following became very active members during Rev. Wiggins' pastorate: Mrs. Tom Campbell, Mrs. Henry Smith, mother of Mr. Bruner Smith and Mrs. B. W. Crain, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Womack, Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Lawrence, Mrs. DeLoach and Mr. and Mrs. Briley. Rev. Wiggins served as pastor of the Church from 1874-1880. The Church fronted south, now on West Methvin Street, and in front of it stood some pinoak trees planted by "Grandfather Levy." The original building was of wood, rectangular in shape, approximately 36 feet by 60 feet, with portice and large columns, and a high steeple in which hung the bell which still calls our people to worship.

Among the first children to be baptized were Mrs. R. J. Wilson of Dallas, a granddaughter of Dr. Marshall, and Mrs. Gaines Turner, daughter of Mrs. R. B. Levy, a charter member.

During the first pastorate there was no organized "woman's work," but the ladies were very active. As there was no "sexton" the janitor's job fell to them and the Church was kept immaculate, floors swept and lamp chimneys always clean. Mrs. Kate Lacy was baptized by Mr. Wiggins on a return trip to our town, after he had resigned his pastorate here.

1881, Rev. J. C. Buchanan served a short pastorate and nothing of importance is recorded other than the holding together of the congregation.

1881-1883, Rev. Charles J. Heiskell served as pastor of the Church. Though his pastorate was of short duration, the year 1883 marked a wonderful and "vital" event—the organization of the "Ladies Aid Society." On February 2, 1882, four ladies of the Church met for the purpose of organizing the "Aid Society." They were Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mrs. Hetty Oney, and Mrs. J. M. Duncan. Mrs. Carter was made president, Mrs. Levy, treasurer, and Mrs. Duncan, secretary. The initiation fee was 25c. Thursday of each week at 3:30 p.m. was the time of meeting—the place of meeting to be decided at each meeting. Mrs. Duncan drew up the constitution and by-laws. The following ladies were charter members: Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mrs. J. M. Duncan, Mrs. T. A. Flewellen, Mrs. Winslow, Mrs. T. M. Campbell, Mrs. H. L. Smith, Mrs. F. C. Kilgore, Mrs. A. B. Carlisle, Mrs. Gladney, Mrs. Tillery, Mrs. Hettie Oney, Mrs. W. Horne, Miss Carrie Wilson, Mrs. E. G. Ragland, Mrs. John Ragland, Miss Lura Durham, Mrs. A. A. Womack, mother of Mrs. Edwin Lacy, and Mrs. Mary Caldwell. Dues were 5c per week and it was decided to let the men become "honorary" members. They were T. M. Campbell, H. L. Smith, M. Abey and E. H. Carter.

1885-1890, Rev. James W. Sexton served as pastor. It was during this pastorate that the Ladies Aid bought the Communion table linen and a carpet. Then, too, the Missionary Society was organized. Mr. P. K. Whitney was the Sunday School superintendent at this time. A young people's society was organized and the members were from every denomination. Mr. Witney was president and Miss Elise O'Bryan of the Episcopal Church was secretary and treasurer. The Sunday School attendance was from 30 to 40 and the collection averaged 60c.

1890-1894, Rev. R. M. Tuttle served as pastor, a man of decided literary tastes and indeed a Godly man in every word and act of his life. While with us he organized a Foreign Missionary Society for the children, known as the "Texas Bells." We supported and educated two Japanese girls in our schools in Japan. The books, "The Lone Star" and "Texas Presbyterian" were written by Mr. Tuttle.

1894-1899, Rev. S. M. Tenney accepted the pastorate of the Church. Although only 22 years of age and just out of Princeton Theological Seminary, he was always consecrated, earnest and enthusiastic in his work. It was during this pastorate that the Longview Church was made a full time Church, supported entirely by its own congregation. The salary for the first three months was \$33 1/3 per month, thereafter \$50.00 per month. The manse was rented for \$10.00 a month to our organist, which was applied on the pastor's salary. Of course the pastor paid his room and board out of his salary. Mr. Tenney made his home for the first three months with the family of one of the Elders, Capt. W. I. Bruner, grandfather of Mr. Bruner Smith, a present Elder of the Church. Capt. Bruner was greatly loved by Mr. Tenney and a great help to him. Electric lights were installed in the Church during this pastorate. Mr. Tenney taught the Bible Class in the Sunday School, of which the follow-

CHURCH HISTORY (Continued)

ing were members: Mrs. M. M. Lawrence, Miss Alice Morrison, Charlie McKinley, Mrs. Kate Marshall and B. D. Marshall. Later Mrs. Marshall, Miss Ada Mack and Mrs. Tenney became teachers. Viola Eckman became superintendent of the Sunday School. Mr. Tenney believed that we have Biblical authority for "deaconesses" and succeeded in securing the consent of the session for the election of same, though the session did not consent to their being by legal form inducted into office. Miss Clementine Bramlette and Miss Essie Carlisle were elected. They collected the pastor's salary and benevolences not handed in during public worship and reported all cases of sickness to the pastor. At the close of his work here, the need of a new home of worship was pressing, so Mr. Tenney began the task of raising the necessary funds—by collections and by selling a religious book through the town. This need was not realized until a few years after he had resigned this pastorate. He married a Longview girl, Miss Mary McWhorter, a sister of Mr. E. O. McWhorter, a present Elder of the Church.

1900, Rev. George H. Steen served a very short pastorate, from February to December of 1900. Nothing of great importance happened during this time.

1902-1906, Rev. T. F. Gallaher was quite young when he came to this Church and was greatly loved by the young people, irrespective of denomination. During his pastorate here he was married to Miss Irma Burke of Tyler. Their son, Thomas Burke, followed in his father's footsteps and is now a minister in this Synod. Rev. Gallaher was elected Moderator of the Synod in 1933, served as pastor in the Oak Cliff Church in Dallas, where he is greatly loved. Dr. Gallaher filled the pulpit here this past summer during our pastor's vacation.

1907-1911, Rev. J. S. Baird served as pastor. It was during this pastorate that the young ladies of the Church organized an "Aid Society." Miss Kate Womack and Miss Della Pegues were the presidents the first years. The society was organized by Mrs. Jim Motley. It was during this time that several families were received into the Church from the Cumberland Church which had united with the Northern Church (1909).

1913-1916, Rev. J. F. Coughley, born and educated in Ireland, came to Longview from the Bryan, Texas, Church. During this pastorate the choir was flourishing and for the first time a regular director, Mrs. Melton and Miss Verta Eckman, our present organist was organist then. Every Sunday there were anthems, solos and duets. It was at this time that the enthusiastic young ladies society did big things. Among them was to pay for a \$5,000.00 pipe organ, the first in the city. Though not paid for at one time, the principal and interest were kept up.

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Sunday, November 14

11:00 A.M. Dr. David L. Stitt
 6:30 A.M.—Vesper Mr. Hampton Bowman
 For All the Young People of the City
 7:30 P.M. Dr. David L. Stitt

Monday, November 15

7:30 P.M. W. G. Vollmer
 President T. & P. Railway Co.

Tuesday, November 16

7:30 P.M. Dr. W. E. Guerrant
 President Austin College, Moderator Synod of Texas

Wednesday, November 17

7:30 P.M.—Cavalcade of Presbyterian Progress in
 Longview. Seventy-five Years of Progress

« »

THE FOLLOWING MINISTERS HAVE SERVED THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LONGVIEW, TEXAS

Rev. J. H. Wiggins, D.D.....	1874-1880
Rev. J. C. Buchanan.....	1881
Rev. C. J. Heiskell.....	1883-1884
Rev. John T. McBryde.....	1884-1885
Rev. J. W. Sexton.....	1885-1890
Rev. R. M. Tuttle.....	1890-1894
Rev. S. M. Tenney, D.D.....	1894-1899
Rev. George H. Steen, D.D.....	1900
Rev. T. F. Galláher, D.D.....	1902-1906
Rev. J. S. Baird, D.D.....	1907-1911
Rev. T. F. Coughley.....	1911
Rev. T. L. Green, D.D.....	1917-1920
Rev. R. M. Hall, D.D.....	1921-1929
Rev. M. W. Castrodale (Supply).....	1929-1931
Rev. R. L. Owen.....	1931-1938
Rev. A. F. Fogartie, D.D.....	1939-1945
Rev. Thos. H. Talbot.....	1946-

« »

ORDER OF SERVICES

Sunday:

9:45 A.M. Church School
 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
 6:30 P.M.—Presbyterian Youth Fellowship Vesper
 Services
 7:30 P.M. Evening Worship

Wednesday:

7:30 P.M. Mid-Week Prayer Service



FINAL PAYMENT OF CHURCH'S INDEBTEDNESS

Rev. Thomas H. Talbot, O. H. Grissom, O. L. Norton and Mr. V. A. Clements, President of the Longview National Bank. Mr. Clements receiving full payment of the Church's indebtedness and Mr. Grissom receiving the cancelled note.

The first Church building was built of wood, along the old style of architecture, with a high steeple in which hung the bell which still calls our people to worship. The exact date this Church was built is not known. However, it was during Mr. Wiggin's pastorate, sometime in 1871.

The second Church building was built of brick, of the old style architecture with a manse adjoining. Mr. Tenney started a drive for this building during his pastorate, but the Church was not completed until sometime in 1900.

The year 1910 opened with the greatest challenge, expectation and faith of any year. A new Church of brick and stone was to be built. On Sunday, March 21, 1910, the congregation met for the purpose of approving plans for the new Church presented by the building committee.

On October 6, 1940, the cornerstone of the Church was laid. Dr. Forgartie, assisted by the district minister, Rev. Wm. H. Walker, conducted the service.

March 16, 1941, was the date of the official opening of the Church. On this day the first service was held in the new Church.

In November, 1946, the officers of the Church launched a plan to retire the entire indebtedness of the Church by the first of the year, January 1, 1947. Through the untiring efforts of Mr. Odm. Clark, chairman of the Deacon Board, and Mr. E. J. [?], chairman of the Finance Committee for that year, and the untiring efforts of every Deacon on the Board, the campaign was completed and the entire indebtedness on the Church was retired. The Session then designated the date for the dedication of the Church for March 16, 1947.

ORGANIZED FIRST CHURCH

Dr. Wm. K. Marshall was born in Pennsylvania, July 19, 1808. A graduate of Jefferson College in 1832 and from Western Theological Seminary in 1835. He was Moderator of the Synod of Texas in 1866, making his home in Marshall, Texas. It was the pleasure of Dr. Marshall to organize the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, Texas. He died in Marshall, Texas, January 6, 1897.

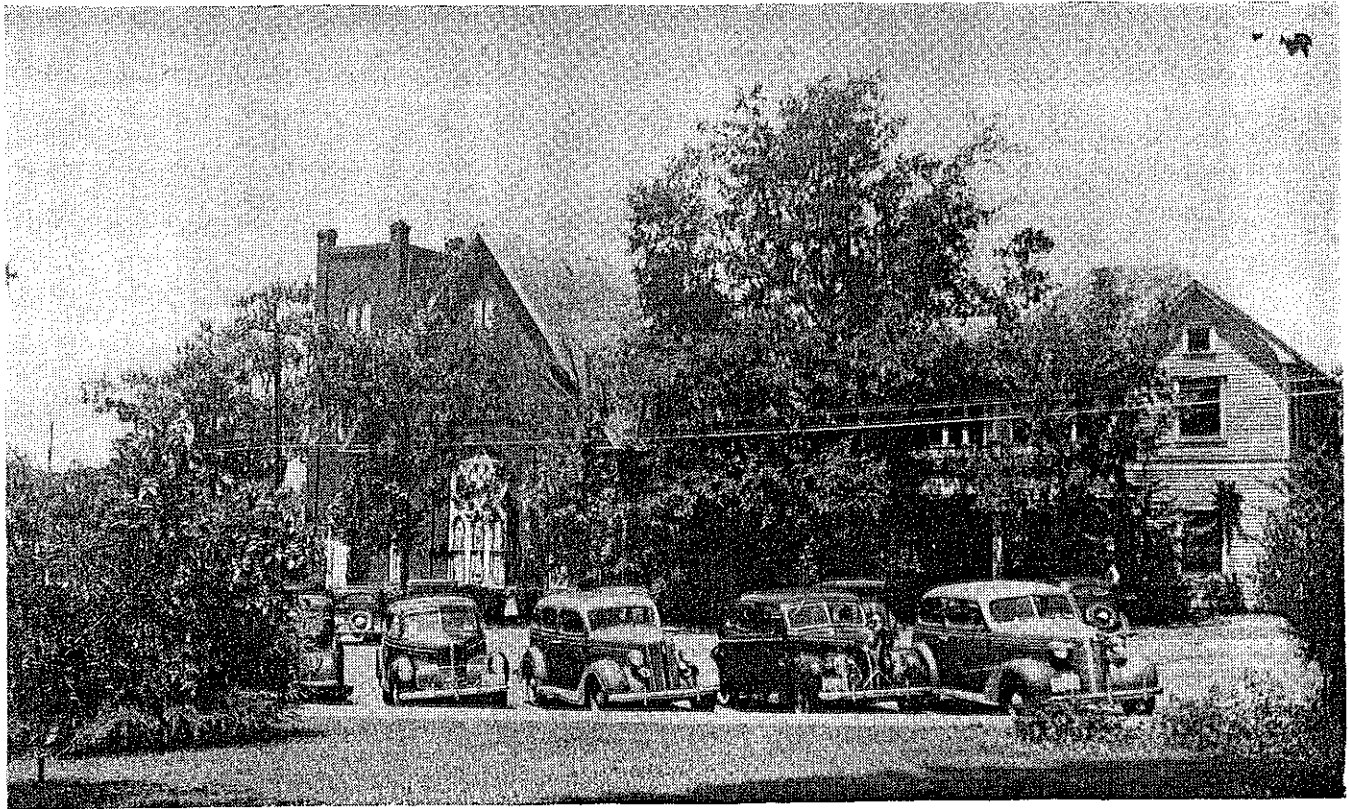
« »

SECOND CHURCH AND MANSE

Shown below is a picture of the second Church and manse. The Church was completed sometime in 1900. The buildings were torn down in 1940 to make space for the new Church.



DR. WM. K. MARSHALL



FIRST PASTOR

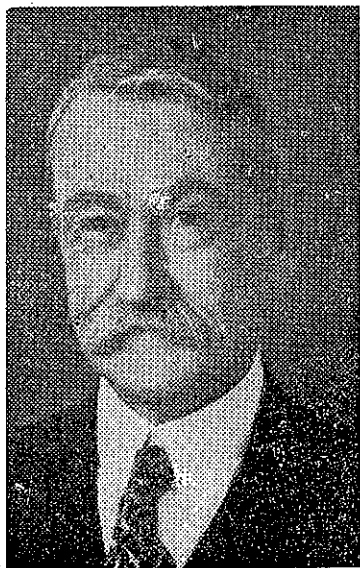
Rev. James Hannibal Wiggins was born in Oxford, North Carolina, January 26, 1848. He was a student at Hampton-Sidney College and was licensed by Eastern Texas Presbytery in 1873 and was ordained in 1874. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by the Methodist College, Sulphur Springs, Texas. He served as the first pastor of this Church from 1874 to 1880. He was greatly loved by the congregation and was always given a cordial welcome on his return visits.

« »

HOLDS OLDEST ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Judge Levy, son of the late Richard Butt and Edmonia Preston Levy, was born at Portsmouth, Va., Jan. 19, 1866. The family moved to Longview, Texas, in 1870. His grandfather, John B. Levy, was one of the first Elders of the First Presbyterian Church and a charter member. Judge Levy received his first educational training in the public schools of Longview, completing his education at Roanoke College, Salem, Va. Taking up the study of law, he was admitted to practice in 1887, beginning the practice of his profession in Longview. He retired last year from active practice. Judge Levy is a veteran of the Spanish-American War, serving as a captain of Company A, Third Texas Infantry in 1898. He has always taken a special interest in military affairs. Judge Levy is the only present member of this Church, whose family were charter members, and has the distinction of

holding the oldest active membership in the Church at the present time. He has been an Elder for many years and one of the most beloved and faithful members of the Church, being among the finest of Bible scholars. Judge Levy is affiliated with the Masonic Order and the Knights of Pythias. Until his retirement, he and Mrs. Levy (a daughter of Mrs. Deloach, an early member of this Church), were always identified with the civic, religious and social life of the city.



JUDGE RICHARD B. LEVY



OLDEST MEMBER

Mr. Sandefur, son of the late Patrick Jackson and Mary Frances Sandefur, was born in Paytonville, Ark., Jan. 18, 1855. In 1881 he was married to the late Lela Pegues Sandefur at Danville, Texas. In 1899 they moved to Longview, Texas, and for the past fifty-four years he has lived at 903 E. Marshall Ave. Mr. Sandefur joined the First Presbyterian Church at Richmond, Arkansas, in 1882 under the pastorate of Reverend Mr. Wiggins, from which he transferred his membership to this Church. He is the oldest member in age, becoming 93 years young last January. To Mr. and Mrs. Sandefur were born eight children, six girls and two boys, six of which are still living. One daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Chaney, is now a beloved member of this Church. On Oct. 13, 1931, six years before Mrs. Sandefur passed away, Mr. and Mrs. Sandefur celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.



MR. P. W. SANDEFUR

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent.....Mr. E. R. McWhorter Assistant Superintendent.....Mr. Joe Dunsworth
 Secretary.....Mr. Joe Finley Treasurer.....Miss June Sundby

The Church School has always been an important phase of the work of the Church. Records of the first Sunday School in the 1880's show an average attendance of 30 and an offering of 25c per Sunday. This compares with an average attendance in the Church School during September of 1948 of 197 and an offering of \$30.00 per Sunday. Mr. E. H. Carter was the first Church School Superintendent and Mr. Gene McWhorter is the present one.

The present organization consists of the Children's Division with Nursery, Beginner, Primary, and Junior Departments; the Young People's Division with Pioneer and Senior Young People's Departments; and the Adult Division with the Young Adults Class, two Women's Bible Classes and the Men's Bible Class. There is a class to meet the needs and interests of every person in the Church.

« »

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

President.....Nancy Rogers Secretary.....Barbara Culver
 Treasurer.....Ann Houliston Adult Advisor.....Mrs. Wm. J. Houliston

The Presbyterian Youth Fellowship, made up of 40 Senior High young people, has as its goal the development of Christian character through worship, service, outreach, and comradeship. This group has its weekly Vesper service at 6:30 on Sunday evening.

« »

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

President.....Mrs. J. D. Hilliard	Circle I.....Mrs. Greene Chandler
Secretary.....Mrs. Owen Hunter	Circle II.....Mrs. Bill Foster
Vice-President.....Mrs. Lawrence Rogers	Circle III.....Mrs. James Evans
Treasurer.....Mrs. N. W. Due	Circle IV.....Mrs. Grover Finch
The Pastor's Aid.....Mrs. R. W. Crowe	Circle V.....Mrs. Conrad Vernon
	Circle VI.....Mrs. A. M. McWhirter

(Bible Study second Monday, 2:30 P.M. each month; Circle meeting each third Monday of the month;
 Auxiliary meeting fourth Monday of the month)

The first organization for women in the Church was known as the "Aid Society" and was begun on February 2, 1883. Thursday of each week, 3:30 p.m., was the time set aside for the meeting. An initiation fee of 25c was charged for each member.

In 1918 under the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas L. Green, the women took up the "Auxiliary Plan" of organization. The circle plan was adopted and executive officers elected.

This organization has continued until the present time with a change in name this past May. It is now known as the "Women of the Church." Our present group is made up of five afternoon circles, a Training Circle, and two Business Women's Circles; the total membership is 182.



MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS IN MEMORY OF DONOR

Painting of Christ.....	W. R. Salmon
Pastor's Desk.....	Mae Lawrence Boring
Chapel Stained Glass Window.....	Lela Pegues Sandefur
Stained Glass Window.....	Jennie Trabell Reynolds and Mary Reynolds
Sanctuary Window—Life and Service of Mrs. Floried Bramlette Francis By Children	
Sanctuary Window.....	Wilmer Keller and Lizzie Woodruff Eckman Viola and Verta Eckman
Sanctuary Window.....	R. F. Echols
Sanctuary Window.....	The Lawrence Family
Sanctuary Window.....	George Washington and May Keener Krech
Sanctuary Window.....	Junius J. and Ada V. Flewellen
Sanctuary Window.....	Lowela Searcy Birdsong
Sanctuary Window.....	R. G. Brown, Sr.
Sanctuary Window.....	Ella Florence Camp
Baptismal Fount.....	Thomas A. and Annie E. Bramlette Nannie Mae Bramlette Terrell
Pulpit and Altar Furniture.....	Henry Louis and Sammie Bruner Smith W. Bruner Smith
Basement Fountain.....	Lily Carlisle Moore Adele Moore Jarman, Thomas Fletcher Moore
Foyer Stained Window.....	W. J. Bruner
16m. Sound Projector.....	Mrs. Lily Carlisle Moore Adele Moore Jarman
Slide Projector.....	Newton Due Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Due
Kitchen Stove.....	Mrs. Lil Moore By Her Friends
Communion Plate.....	Mr. Eckman Misses Verta and Viola Eckman
Bible.....	Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Francis

1st DRAFT
Carolyn Lindsey

HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LONGVIEW, TEXAS
by Carolyn Culberson Lindsey

Known as "The Friendly Church in the Heart of the
¹ City," the First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas,
will, in 1994, celebrate its one hundred twentieth
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The first church was founded by sixteen resident
members in Longview, of the Old School Southern Presbyterian
² Church, in 1872, for the purpose of establishing a local
Mission, there being no church of that denomination in the
newly laid out land. These sixteen charter members were
Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Davis, Mrs. John M. Duncan, Mrs. R.B.
Levy, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Brice, Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Carter,
Mr. Lawson Henderson, Mrs. E.B. Ragland, Mr. and Mrs.
John F. Witherspoon, Mrs. H.F. Briley, Mr. McKinley, Mr.
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James Knox was requested to conduct services one Sabbath in
each month, and in 1873, the Eastern Texas Presbytery
authorized its founding and establishment.

³ During these years, O.H. Methvin had deeded, for one
dollar, one hundred acres of his cornfields, extending from
Tyler Street north to Highway 80, to the then Southern
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Pacific Railroad donated by deed to four Trustees of the Old
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⁵ Levy, John F. Witherspoon, E.B. Ragland), Lots number _____
(pages 161 - 163 and 253 - 254) of the Old Longview Town

6
Plat. This property is on the _____
corner of Methvin and Center Streets, the deed duly recorded
in the deed records of Gregg County.

7
In 1874, the first church building was dedicated. It
was built on a foundation of quarried rock from rock hill,
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the highest elevation in the area. The building was of
rectangular shape, white frame, approximately 36
feet by 60 feet, with portico, four columns, and a high
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13
form the new Alpine Presbyterian Church north of town.
During this time, the Presbyterians, Baptists, and
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14
at their respective churches, for socials and picnics.

In the years 1884 - 1885, the Reverend Mr. John T.

McBryde was pastor, followed by the Reverend Mr. James W. Sexton until 1890. A Missionary Society was organized, plus a young people's society. The Sunday School attendance was thirty to forty, the collection plate averaged sixty cents on a Sunday, and a Mission Church, Centre Presbyterian Church, was organized in Elderville community.

In 1890, the Reverend Mr. R.M. Tuttle was pastor. He organized the first foreign missionary society for children, known as "The Texas Bells," which contributed support for the education of two Japanese girls. Reverend Mr. Tuttle was quite a poet, and published both THE LONE STAR and THE TEXAS PRESBYTERIAN.

Though only twenty-two years of age, and just out of Princeton Theological Seminary, the next pastor was Reverend Dr. Samuel Mills Tenney. The year was 1894. It was during his pastorate that the church was made a full-time church, supported entirely by its own congregation. Dr. Tenney believed in the Biblical authority for deaconesses, and succeeded in securing the consent of the session (not by legal form) for their election. Misses Clementine Bramlette and Essie Carlisle were elected. Dr. Tenney's salary for three months was thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month. He taught the Bible Class, electric lights were installed, and Sunday afternoon services were held in the jail. He also saw the need for a new church building, began the task of raising necessary funds, although his dream was not accomplished until after his tenure in office. He was

long a student of history of the Presbyterian Church, and eventually became the President of the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Synod of Texas, and later curator of the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian Church in U.S.A. at Montreat, North Carolina.

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A membership of one hundred thirty-two greeted the next pastor, Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Gallaher in 1902. The church budget was sixteen hundred dollars. Then in 1907 the Reverend Dr. J.S. Baird, known as a kind and gentle man, became pastor, followed in 1911 by Reverend Mr. J.T. Coughley, who saw the Young Ladies' Society purchase a new five thousand dollar pipe organ, the first in the city, in 1916, plus a lovely communion table.

In 1917, the Reverend Dr. T.L. Green saw the manse, adjacent to the church building on Center Street, repaired and enlarged, with a second story added. Sunday School totalled one hundred ninety.

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The author of several books, who saw the organization of "Christian Endeavor" for young people in 1921, Reverend Dr. R.M. Hall became pastor. The years 1929 through 1931 saw Supply Pastors. Then in 1931, the Men of the Church was organized under Reverend R.L. Owen. In 1932, a brick manse was built on Turner Drive, and the old manse was used.

26

4

for Sunday School classes.

Again the need for a larger church was organized under Reverend Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie, who was pastor from 1939 until 1945. The building was English Gothic in design, and the first service was held on March 16, 1941. The beautiful Bruner and Reynolds Memorial windows were transferred from the 1900 church. While the church was being constructed, services were held in the Longview High School.

During the next sixteen years, the pastor and his family contributed greatly to the spiritual growth of the church. Dr. Thomas Hardy Talbot, a former Army chaplain, engendered response among the young people, and the Senior High Fellowship flourished during the fifties. The church celebrated its seventy-fifth year in 1948 with a big Diamond Jubilee. The entire indebtedness was retired, additional property was purchased west of the church for an educational building, and two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars was pledged for the building. Membership increased from three hundred and thirty in 1946 to one thousand in 1962. Sunday School attendance was four hundred.

Installed as pastor in 1963 was Reverend Dr. Stephen L. Cook, who forcefully demonstrated his dedication and selflessness, and along with his wife, was an inspiration to all. His tenure as pastor saw the nucleus of a new church, St. Andrews Presbyterian. Dr. Cook, and a sessional committee of seventeen members, was instrumental in its organization, the selection of the building site, and

the financial drive for purchase of the property. The church entered into a new area of service in 1969 with
32
the International House project which offered a guest home during the Christmas holidays to foreign students attending colleges and universities in the United States. These young people were housed, fed, and entertained for nine days.

This, and other activities, ~~was~~ made possible by the sale
33
of a house that had been donated to our church. This

ly ware

Christmas tradition continues, periodically, to this day. The first women elders were elected and ordained in 1969, the first black member was welcomed in 1970, and the first black deacon was elected and ordained in 1972. In 1971,
34

a home on Melton Street was deeded to the church and the congregation voted to use this house as the manse, while the
35

manse on Turner Drive was sold. Also authorized was the
36
purchase of Lots 5 and 6 in Block 41 in 1966, to be used for parking.

ENDNOTES

1 Centennial of the First Presbyterian Church, 1873-1973, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1973: hereafter cited as Centennial..

2 Mrs. Edwin Lacy, History of the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, 1873-1943, Longview, Texas, Longview: hereafter cited as Lacy.

3 Gregg County Historical Commission, Guide to Gregg County's Historical Markers, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1988: p. 16.

4 "Longview Centennial Album," Longview Morning Journal, May 3, 1970.

5 Deed to original church property from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company recorded in Vol. _____, pp. _____, of the Deed records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

6 Old (1895) Longview Town Plat in Vol _____, pp. _____ of the Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

7 Cornerstone, First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1941: hereafter cited as Cornerstone.

8 Mike Elswick, "Longview originally just a corn field," Longview Daily News, June 24, 1986.

9 Lacy.

10 McWhorter, Eugene W., Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County, Texas, Longview, Texas, Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989: hereafter cited as McWhorter, p. 43.

11 Lacy.

12 Longview, Texas Centennial, the long view of a hundred years, 1870-1970, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1968: hereafter cited as Longview, p. 39.

13 McWhorter, p. 55.

14 First Baptist Church, History of First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, Longview: Hope Publishing Company, 1991, p. 32.

- 15 McWhorter, p. 88.
- 16 Centennial, p. 3.
- 17 Lacy.
- 18 Centennial, p. 3.
- 19 McWhorter, p. 69.
- 20 Cornerstone, 1941.
- 21 Session Business Minutes.
- 22 Church Bulletin.
- 23 Plaque inscription.
- 24 Centennial, p. 3.
- 25 First Presbyterian Church Library.
- 26 Longview, p. 39.
- 27 Cornerstone, 1941.
- 28 Centennial, p. 11.
- 29 Diamond Jubilee Bulletin, November 17, 1948, First Presbyterian Church Office.
- 30 Dedication Bulletin for Christian Education Building, May 18, 1958, First Presbyterian Church Office.
- 31 Centennial, p. 11.
- 32 Centennial, p. 11.
- 33 Business Office Records, First Presbyterian Church.
- 34 Session Business Minutes
- 35 Session Business Minutes
- 36 Session Business Minutes

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Reverend Dr. James H. Wiggins was installed as regular
full-time pastor. It is interesting to note that the church
had no "sexton" so the janitor's job fell to the ladies of
the church. They kept the church immaculate, floors swept
and lamp chimneys clean. Reverend Wiggins resigned his
pastorate in 1880, and in 1881 the church welcomed Reverend
Charles Buchanan who served a short pastorate.

From 1881 through 1883, the church was under the
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More earnestness of purpose, cordiality and good fellowship
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side of the cornerstone and was assisted by Reverend William

H. Walker, an outpost minister, who stood on the other, each with a hand on the stone. The entire congregation joined hands to form one unbroken circle with the ministers and the cornerstone.

During the next sixteen years, the pastor and his family contributed greatly to the spiritual growth of the church. Dr. Thomas Hardy Talbot, a former Army chaplain, engendered response among the young people, and the Senior High Fellowship flourished during the fifties. On March 16, 1947, Dr. Talbot led the congregation in the dedication of the church at morning worship. With thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings, with gratitude to all who had shared in the erection of the church, the building was dedicated to the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom. The church celebrated its seventy-fifth year in 1948 with a huge Diamond Jubilee. The entire indebtedness was retired, additional property was purchased west of the church for an educational building, and two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars was pledged for the building. The membership increased from three hundred and thirty in 1946 to one thousand in 1962. Sunday School attendance was four hundred.

Installed as pastor in 1963 was Reverend Dr. Stephen L. Cook, who forcefully demonstrated his dedication and selflessness, and along with his wife, was an inspiration to all. His tenure as pastor saw the nucleus of a new church, St. Andrews Presbyterian. Dr. Cook, and a

sessional committee of seventeen members, was instrumental in its organization, the selection of the building site, and the financial drive for purchase of the property. The church entered into a new area of service in 1969 with the International House project which offered a guest home during the Christmas holidays to foreign students attending colleges and universities in the United States. These young people were housed, fed, and entertained for nine days.

This and other activities, ~~was~~ made possible by the sale of a house that had been donated to our church. This Christmas tradition continues, periodically, to this day.

Course were

The first women elders were elected and ordained in 1969, the first black member was welcomed in 1970, and the first black deacon was elected and ordained in 1972. In 1971, a home on Melton Street was deeded to the church and the congregation voted to use this house as the manse, while the manse on Turner Drive was sold. Also authorized was the purchase of Lots 5 and 6 in Block 41 in 1966, to be used for parking.

In 1977, our congregation welcomed Dr. William D. O'Neal, who quickly proved to be an extremely popular and well-loved pastor, from his scripture-filled sermons to his inspirational guidance. Under his leadership the church has experienced considerable growth, both numerically and financially. Dr. O'Neal was joined in 1979 by Dr. Jim Smith as Director of Christian Education and Music, and Stephen Farrow, organist. These two men were definite assets to our

church, and our music program grew substantially, as did the educational program under Dr. Smith.

A Mother's Day Out program grew into a Pre-school and Day Care Center in 1979. The Presbyterian Children's Center has served the church and community most effectively, and in 1993 was serving to full capacity.

The work of a Long Range Planning Committee for the 1980s led to remodeling of the sanctuary, including a new balcony and the gift of the lovely Crain Memorial Organ in 1982. The Holtkamp instrument was a gift of Mrs. B. W. Crain in memory of B.W. Crain's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Buford W. Crain, Sr. A holdover from the first Long Range Planning Committee is the proposal to build a quality retirement community for the area. While not yet a reality, the corporation, Westminister Place, is still at work. An ideal location was purchased behind the Longview Mall for the facility with seed money provided by the will of Bennette Gardner. In 1989, another Long Range Planning Committee was appointed to plan for the 1990s. Through this committee, the renovation of the old office and educational wing was completed in 1992, and also the addition of an elevator reaching all floors.

During these years the church acquired two important pieces of real estate, the Crim lots on High Street with the building, and the Bramlette House given to the church in 1991 by Paula Bramlette. The mission work of the church continued to grow with a strong interest in the work in

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Haiti and on the Mexican border, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation that does medical work through the Presbyterian denomination around the world. Locally, the congregation is involved in ministry through Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Stewpot, Information and Service Center and other programs.

R. Coome

Bill and Dot O'Neal have shown continued devotion to this healthy, active and spiritually growing congregation. As the First Presbyterian Church looks back with grateful thanks to its heritage with the placement of this Texas Historical Marker, it looks forward to the twenty-first century with a sense of excitement about the work of Jesus Christ in the community and throughout the world.

E. Coome

ENDNOTES

1 Centennial of the First Presbyterian Church, 1873-1973, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1973: hereafter cited as Centennial, Cover.

2 Mrs. Edwin Lacy, History of the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, 1873-1943, Longview, Texas, Longview: hereafter cited as Lacy.

3 Gregg County Historical Commission, Guide to Gregg County's Historical Markers, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1988: p. 14.

4 "Longview Centennial Album," Longview Morning Journal, May 3, 1970.

5 Deed to original church property from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company recorded in Vol. _____, pp. _____, of the Deed records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

6 Old (1895) Longview Town Plat in Vol. _____, pp. _____ of the Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

7 Cornerstone, First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1941: hereafter cited as Cornerstone.

8 Mike Elswick, "Longview originally just a corn field," Longview Daily News, June 24, 1986.

9 Lacy.

10 McWhorter, Eugene W., Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County, Texas, Longview, Texas, Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989: hereafter cited as McWhorter, p. 43.

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13 McWhorter, p. 55.

14 First Baptist Church, History of First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, Longview: Hope Publishing Company, 1991, p. 32.

- 15 McWhorter, p. 88.
- 16 Centennial, p. 3.
- 17 Lacy.
- 18 Centennial, p. 3.
- 19 McWhorter, p. 69.
- 20 Cornerstone, 1941.
- 21 Session Business Minutes.
- 22 Business Office Records, First Presbyterian Church.
- 23 Plaque inscription.
- 24 Diamond Jubilee Bulletin, November 17, 1948, First Presbyterian Church Office, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1948: hereafter cited as Jubilee, pp. 5, 8.
- 25 Lacy.
- 26 Longview, p. 39.
- 27 Cornerstone, 1941; Holy Bible Inscription by Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie, First Presbyterian Church Library, March 16, 1941.
- 28 Centennial, p. 11.
- 29 Jubilee, pp.1 - 10.
- 30 Dedication Bulletin for Christian Education Building, May 18, 1958, First Presbyterian Church Library.
- 31 Centennial, p. 11.
- 32 "Church To Host Foreign Students," Longview Morning Journal, September 16, 1973.
- 33 Business Office Records, First Presbyterian Church.
- 34 Session Business Minutes
- 35 Session Business Minutes
- 36 New City of Longview Lot and Block Map, Office of the City Engineer, Longview City Hall.
- 37 A service to install the Reverend Dr. William D. O'Neal, First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, October 23, 1977.

38 The Service of Installation for Dr. James C. Smith, Director of Education and Music, The First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, September 9, 1979.

39 "Presbyterian Center Began As Mother's Day Out Program," Longview News Journal, August 12, 1990.

40 Service of Organ Dedication and Thanksgiving, First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, April 25, 1982.

41 "Session Approves Capital Improvement," Bell Ringer, News from the First Presbyterian Church, May 21, 1991.

42 "First Presbyterian Offers Many Programs," Longview News Journal, February 23, 1992.

476 DRAFT
(SHORTENED
VERSION)

CAROLYN
LINDSEY

HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LONGVIEW, TEXAS

by Carolyn Culberson Lindsey

Known as "The Friendly Church in the Heart of the
City,"¹ the First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas,
will, in 1994, celebrate its one hundred twentieth
anniversary.

The first church was founded by nine resident
members² in Longview, of the Old School Southern Presbyterian
Church, in 1872, for the purpose of establishing a local
Mission, there being no church of that denomination in
the newly laid out land. These charter members were
Colonel and Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Carter,
Mrs. T.A. Flewellen, Dr. and Mrs. Trent, Mr. and Mrs.
John F. Witherspoon. The Reverend Mr. James Knox was
requested to conduct services one Sabbath in each month,
and in 1873, the Eastern Texas Presbytery authorized its
founding and establishment.

In 1873, the Texas and Pacific Railroad donated by deed
to four Trustees of the Old School Presbyterian South,
Longview, Texas, (E.R. Davis, R.B. Levy, John F.
Witherspoon, E.B. Ragland),³ Lots number _____⁴ of the Old
Longview Town Plat. This property is on the _____
corner of Methvin and Center Streets, the deed duly recorded
in the deed records of Gregg County.

During 1874, the first church building was dedicated.⁵

It fronted south, was of rectangular shape, white frame, approximately 36 feet by 60 feet, with portico, four columns, and a high steeple in which hung the bell which calls the people to worship today.⁷ The Reverend Dr. W.K. Marshall,⁸ organizer of the church, acted as chairman at the dedication, and the Reverend Dr. James H. Wiggins was installed as regular full-time pastor, and in 1881, the Reverend Charles Buchanan served a short pastorate.

From 1881 through 1883, the church was under the guidance of Reverend Charles J. Heiskell, who helped twenty women of the church form the first "Ladies Aid Society,"⁹ February 2, 1882. Also, during his tenure, nine members, by order of the session, were dismissed at their own request to form the new Alpine Presbyterian Church north of town. The years 1884 - 1885 saw Reverend Mr. John T. McBryde as pastor, followed by the Reverend Mr. James W. Sexton until 1890. A Missionary Society was organized, plus a young people's society. A Mission church was organized in the Elderville community.¹⁰

In 1890, the Reverend Mr. R.M. Tuttle led the church, and the Reverend Dr. Samuel Mills Tenney accepted the pastorate in 1894. It was at this time the church was made a full-time church, supported entirely by its own congregation. Dr. Tenney saw the need for a new church building, and began the task of raising necessary funds.

In 1900 the second church building was erected during the time Reverend Dr. George H. Steen was pastor. The year was

1900, and Dr. Steen served ten months. The building was of red brick, English Gothic style, with beautiful stained glass windows.

A membership of one hundred thirty-two greeted the next pastor, Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Gallaher in 1902. He was followed by Reverend Dr. J.S. Baird in 1907, the Reverend Mr. J.T. Coughley in 1916, and Reverend Dr. R.M. Hall in 1921. The years 1929 through 1931 saw Supply Pastors, two young ministers from Dallas W.H. Teed and M.W. Castrodale. The next pastor was Reverend R.L. Owen in 1931 who saw a new brick manse built on Turner Drive.

Again, the need for a larger church was organized under Reverend Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie, who was pastor from 1939 until 1945. The building was English Gothic in design, and the first service was held on March 16, 1941.¹² The beautiful Bruner and Reynolds Memorial windows were transferred from the 1900 church. While the church was being constructed, services were held in the Longview High School. On October 6, 1940, a date to be long remembered by members of the church, a cornerstone was laid. The next pastor in the third church was Dr. Thomas Hardy Talbot, who led the congregation in the dedication of the church at a forming worship on March 16, 1947, and saw the church celebrate its seventy-fifth year in 1948 with a huge Diamond Jubilee.¹³ The entire indebtedness was retired, additional property was purchased west of the church for an educational building,¹⁴ and two-hundred and fifty thousand

dollars was pledged for the building. The membership in 1962 had increased from three hundred and thirty in 1946,¹⁵ to one thousand. Installed as pastor in 1963 was Reverend Dr. Stephen L. Cook. His tenure saw the nucleus of a new church, St. Andrews Presbyterian.¹⁶ Dr. Cook, and a sessional committee of seventeen members, was instrumental in its organization, the selection of the building site, and the financial drive for purchase of the property.

In 1977, our congregation welcomed Dr. William D. O'Neal,¹⁷ who was joined in 1979 by Dr. Jim Smith as the Director of Christian Education and Music.¹⁸ A Mother's Day Out program grew into a Pre-school and Day Care Center in 1979,¹⁹ the Long Range Planning Committee for the 1980's led to the remodeling of the sanctuary, including a new balcony, and the gift of the lovely Crain Holtkamp Memorial Organ in 1982.²⁰ The renovation of the original building that houses offices,²¹ and the educational wing was completed in 1992. During these years the church acquired two important pieces of real estate, the Crim lots on High Street with the building, and the Bramlette House given to the church.

The First Presbyterian Church looks back with grateful thanks to the Lord as we honor the church with this Texas Historical Marker.

ENDNOTES

1 Centennial of the First Presbyterian Church, 1873-1973, Longview, Texas, Longview; hereafter cited as Centennial, Cover.

2 Mrs. Edwin Lacy, History of the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, 1873-1943, Longview, Texas, Longview; hereafter cited as Lacy, p. 12.

3 Deed to original church property from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company recorded in Vol. _____, pp. _____, of the Deed records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

4 Old (1895) Longview Town Plat in Vol _____, pp. _____, of the Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

5 Cornerstone, First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, Longview; 1941: Hereafter Cited as Cornerstone.

6 Lacy, p. 13.

7 The History of Gregg County, Longview, Texas, Longview: University Supply and Equipment Company, 1957.

8 Lacy, p. 11.

9 Minutes of the First Organized Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church, February 2, to December 31, 1885, p. 5.

10 McWhorter, Eugene W., Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County, Texas, Longview, Texas, Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989: p. 16.

11 Cornerstone, 1941: Session Business Minutes, May 6, 1900.

12 Cornerstone, 1941: Holy Bible Inscription by Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie, First Presbyterian Church Library, March 16, 1941.

13 Diamond Jubilee Booklet, November 17, 1948, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1948.

14 Dedication Bulletin for Christian Education Building, May 18,

15 Centennial, p. 11.

16 Centennial, p. 11.

17 A service to install the Reverend Dr. William D. O'Neal, First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, October 23, 1977.

18 The Service of Installation for Dr. James C. Smith, Director of Education and Music, The First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, September 9, 1979.

19 "Presbyterian Center Began As Mother's Day Out Program," Longview News Journal, August 12, 1990.

20 Service of Organ Dedication and Thanksgiving, First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, April 25, 1982.

21 "Session Approves Capital Improvement," Bell Ringer, News from the First Presbyterian Church, May 21, 1991.



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

December 20, 1993

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Historical Marker Application: First Presbyterian Church, Longview.

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed is the application packet for the above proposed historical marker. I might have made the narrative too brief. Therefore, I am also enclosing the complete draft of Mrs. Carolyn Lindsey's more interesting brief history of the church in the event you might want more information.

Sincerely,

Enc. 6.

Norman

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APPLICATION FORM
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

This marker is for (title or subject): FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

County: GREGG

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
301 N. Center Street
Longview, Texas

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable):
Approximately 50 feet from church on N. Center St. front (near church sign)



APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Chairperson's Signature: Norman F. H. Cook, D.A.A. Date: 12-19-93

Address: 417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, Texas 75602 Phone: Dec. 20, 1993

The CHC chair automatically will receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

PERMISSION OF OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained by the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization, or public entity. This section need not be completed if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: Rev. William D. O'Neal, pastor

Contact person (if applicable): _____

Mailing address: 301 N. Center St., Longview, Texas 75601

Phone: _____

✓ Owner's Signature: W. D. O'Neal

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application? Yes No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: Rev. William D. O'Neal

(Provide contact person if payee is an institution, organization, or public entity.)

Mailing address: 301 N. Center St.

Longview, Texas 75601 Phone: (903) 757-2525

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application? Yes No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed?

(One additional name and address only, please.)

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: Dr. Norman W. Black
Street address: 417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, TX 75602
Phone: (903) 757-2261

TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED (please check one only)

Subject Markers

This type of marker is solely educational in nature and conveys no legal restrictions to the property. Subject markers are appropriate for topics such as cemeteries, church congregations, businesses, persons, events, and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings. If the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$225
- 27" x 42" marker with post \$750
- 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) \$700
- 18" x 28" marker with post ~~\$450~~ \$300
- 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) \$400

If not on post, to what (block of granite, gatepost, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Markers

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation does carry a measure of legal protection for the structure (see Marker Policies 13 through 18) and for that reason we must have a legal description (lot and block numbers) for the property to be designated. The most commonly used marker for conveying this designation is the medallion and plate (also referred to as a building marker); however, the 18" x 28" or 27" x 42" size marker may be ordered for those who wish a greater amount of historical information to appear in the marker text. Careful attention should be paid so as not to damage historic building material if the marker is to be mounted directly onto the structure. The THC staff can provide alternate ideas for mounting upon request.

- Medallion and 16" x 12" plate with post \$350
- Medallion and 16" x 12" plate without post (see below) \$300
- 27" x 42" marker with post \$750
- 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) \$700
- 18" x 28" marker with post ~~\$450~~ \$300
- 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) \$400

If not on post, to what (building, gate, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

Before forwarding your material to the Texas Historical Commission, please check to make sure you've included the following items. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and may be returned to the applicant.

- ✓ completed application form signed by the county historical commission
- ✓ narrative history with footnotes and bibliography
- ✓ photograph of the proposed marker location
- ✓ map indicating marker location and other sites related to the marker topic
- ✓ historic photo of property and current photographs of all elevations (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ legal description of property (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ floor plans (RTHL markers only)

Mail completed applications to:
Local History Programs, Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276
512/463-6100

Additional items, including paperweights, directional signs, and replacement parts for 1936 markers, are available. Please contact the Local History Programs office for a separate order form.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LONGVIEW, TEXAS

Known as "The Friendly Church in the Heart of the City",¹ the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, Texas, will celebrate its onehundredttwentieth anniversary in 1994.

The church was founded by eight resident members of the Old School Southern Presbyterian Church in 1872, for the purpose of establishing a local mission, there being no church of that denomination in the newly laid out town of Longview. These charter members were Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mrs. T. A. Flewellen, Dr. and Mrs. Trent and Mr. and Mrs. John F. Witherspoon. The Reverend Mr. James Knox was requested to conduct services one Sabbath in each month,² and in 1873, the Eastern Texas Presbytery authorized its founding and establishment.

In 1873, the Texas and Pacific Railroad donated Lots number 1 and 2 of Block 8 of the Old Longview Town Plat to four Trustees of the Old School Presbyterian South of Longview, Texas.^{3*} This property is on the northwest corner of Methvin and Center Streets, the deed duly recorded in the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas.⁴

The first church building was dedicated in 1874.⁵ It fronted south,⁶ was of a rectangular shape, white frame, approximately 36 feet by 60 feet,

* Trustees: E. R. Davis, R. B. Levy, John F. Witherspoon, E. B. Ragland.

with portico, four columns and a high steeple in which hung the bell that calls the people to worship today.⁷ The Reverend Dr. W. K. Marshall, organizer of the church, acted as chairman at the dedication and the Reverend James H. Wiggins was installed as regular full-time pastor. In 1881, the Reverend Charles Buchanan served a short pastorate.⁸

From 1881 through 1883 the church was under the guidance of Reverend Charles J. Heiskell who helped twenty women of the church form the first "Ladies Aid Society" on February 2, 1882.⁹ Also during his tenure, nine members, by order of the session, were dismissed at their own request to form the new Alpine Presbyterian Church north of town. The years 1884 - 1885 saw Reverend Mr. John T. McBryde as pastor, followed by the Reverend Mr. James W. Sexton who served until 1890. A missionary society and a young people's society were organized. A mission church was organized in the Elderville community south of Longview.¹⁰

In 1890 the Reverend Mr. R. M. Tuttle led the church, and the Reverend Dr. Samuel Mills Tenney accepted the pastorate in 1894. It was at this time the church was made a full-time church supported entirely by its own congregation. Dr. Tenney realized the need for a new church building and began the task of raising necessary funds. In 1900, during the time Reverend George H. Steen was pastor, the second church building was erected.¹¹ The building was of red brick, English Gothic style with beautiful stained glass windows.

A membership of 132 greeted the next pastor, Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Gallaher, in 1902. He was followed by Reverend Dr. J. S. Baird in 1907, the

Reverend Mr. J. T. Coughley in 1916 and the Reverend Dr. R. M. Hall in 1921. In the years 1929 through 1931 two young supply pastors came from Dallas: W. H. Teed and M. W. Castrodale. The next pastor was Reverend R. L. Owen in 1931 who occupied a new brick manse built on Turner Drive.

Again, the need for a larger church arose during the tenure of Reverend Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie, who was pastor from 1939 to 1945. The building was English Gothic in design and the first service was held on March 16, 1941.¹² The beautiful Bruner and Reynolds Memorial windows were transferred from the 1900 church building. While the church was being constructed services were held in the Longview High School. On October 6, 1940, a date to be long remembered by members of the church, a cornerstone was laid. The next pastor of the third church was ~~Dr.~~ Thomas Hardy Talbot who led the congregation in the dedication of the church building at a forming worship on March 16, 1947. The church celebrated its seventy-fifth year in 1948 with a huge Diamond Jubilee.¹³ The entire indebtedness was retired, additional property was purchased west of the church for an educational building and \$250,000 was pledged for the building.¹⁴ The membership had increased from 330 in 1946 to 1,000 in 1962.¹⁵ Installed as pastor in 1963 was Reverend Stephen L. Cook. His tenure saw the nucleus of a new church, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.¹⁶ Dr. Cook and a sessional committee of seventeen members were instrumental in its organization, the selection of the building site and the financial drive for purchase of the property.

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The First Presbyterian Church of Longview looks back with grateful thanks to the Lord as it proposes to honor the church with an Official Texas Historical Marker.

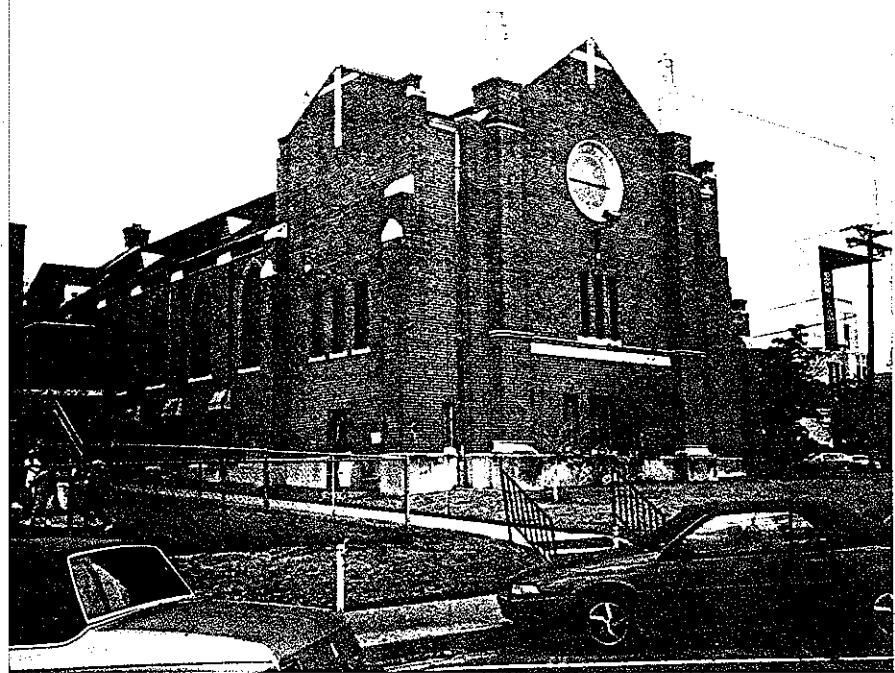
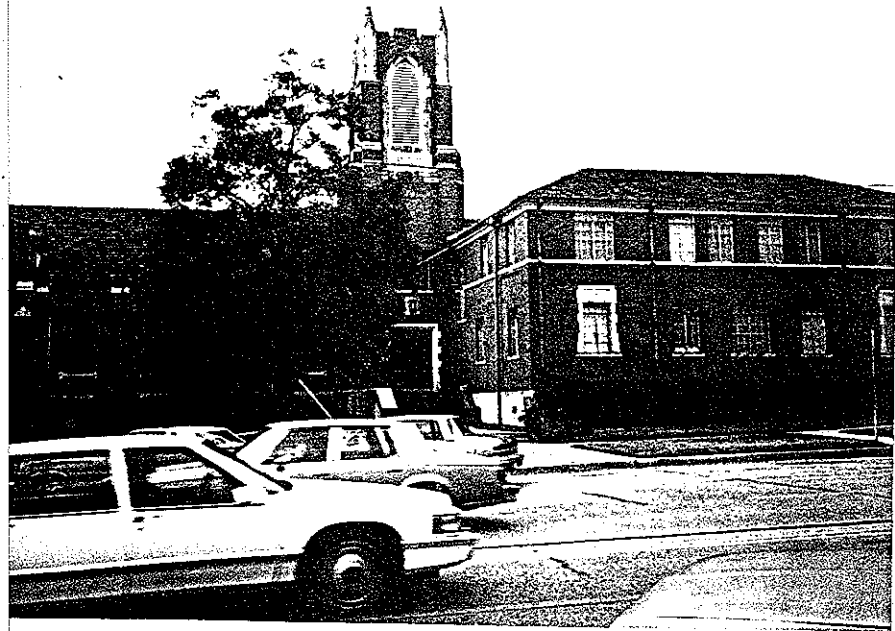
This paper excerpted from "History of the First Presbyterian Church", Carolyn Culberson Lindsey, unpublished, Longview, Texas, 1993.

ENDNOTES

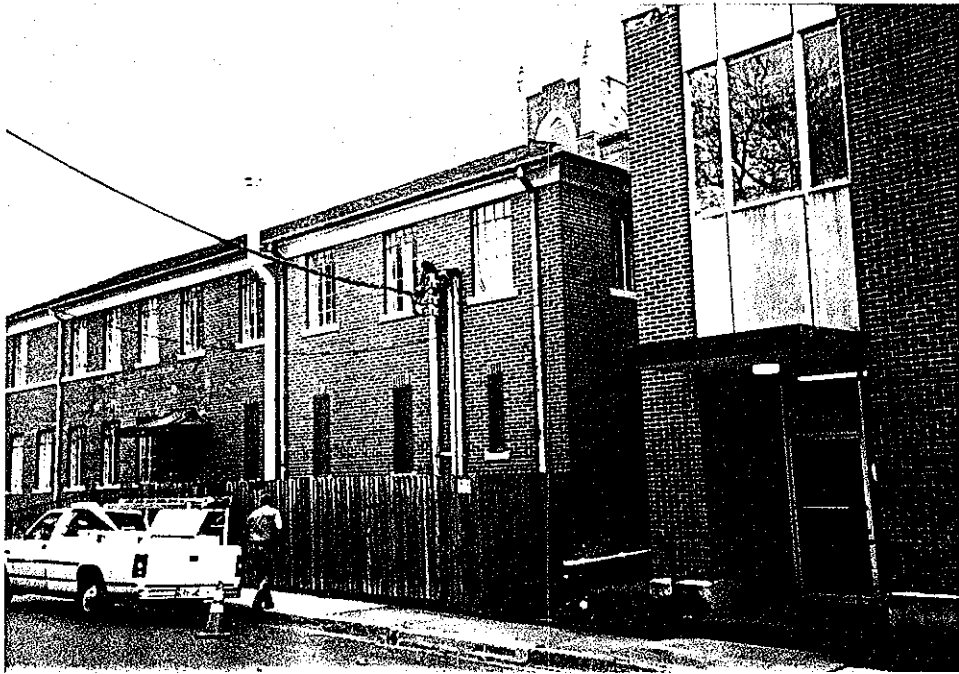
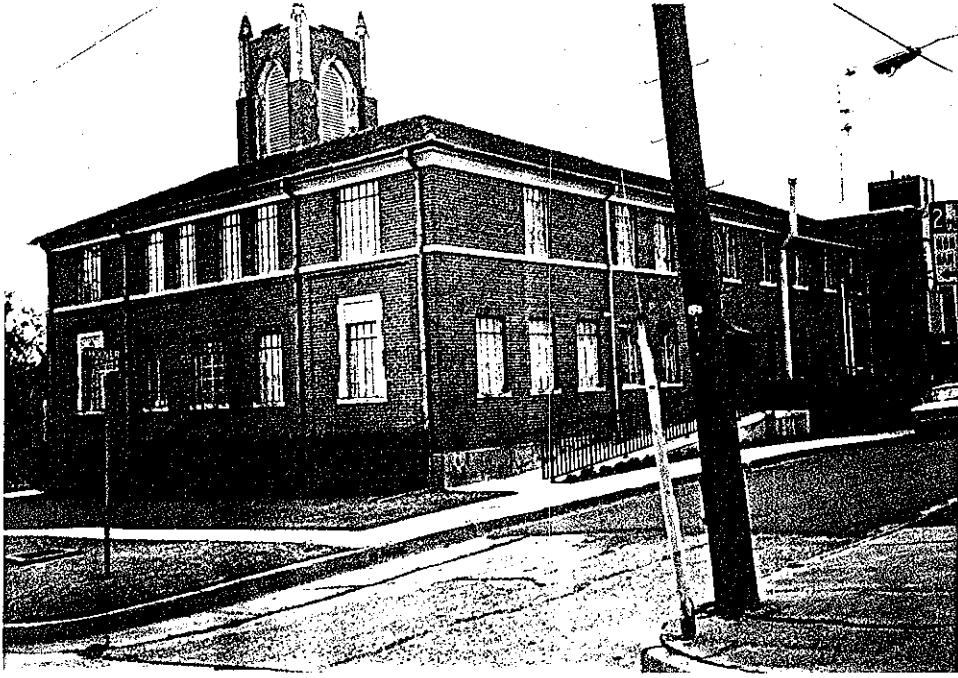
- 1 Centennial of the First Presbyterian Church, 1873-1973, Longview, Texas).
- 2 Mrs. Edwin Lacy, History of the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, 1873-1943, (Longview, Texas), p. 12.
- 3 Deed Records of Upshur Co., Vol. O, p. 67, 1895.
- 4 Deed Records of Gregg Co., Vol. A, pp. 161-163.
- 5 Cornerstone, First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas.
- 6 Lacy, op. cit., p. 13.
- 7 History of Gregg County, (Ft. Worth, Texas: University Supply and Equipment Company, 1957).
- 8 Lacy, op. cit., p. 11.
- 9 Minutes of the First Organized Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church, Feb. 2, 1885 to Dec: 31, 1885, (Longview, Texas), p. 5.
- 10 McWhorter, Eugene W., Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County, Texas, (Longview, Texas: Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989), p. 16.
- 11 Cornerstone, op. cit.; Session Business Minutes, May 6, 1900.
- 12 Ibid.; Holy Bible Inscription by Dr. Arthur F. Forgartie, First Presbyterian Church Library, Mar. 16, 1941.
- 13 Diamond Jubilee Booklet, First Presbyterian Church, (Longview, Texas: 1948).
- 14 Dedication Bulletin for Christian Education Building, May 18, 1958.
- 15 Centennial, op. cit., p. 11.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Church Bulletin, First Presbyterian Church of Longview, Oct. 23, 1977.
- 18 Ibid., Sept. 9, 1979.
- 19 Longview News-Journal, "Presbyterian Center Began As Mother's Day Out Program", Aug. 12, 1990.
- 20 Church Bulletin, April 25, 1982.
- 21 Bell Ringer, News from the First Presbyterian Church, May 21, 1991.

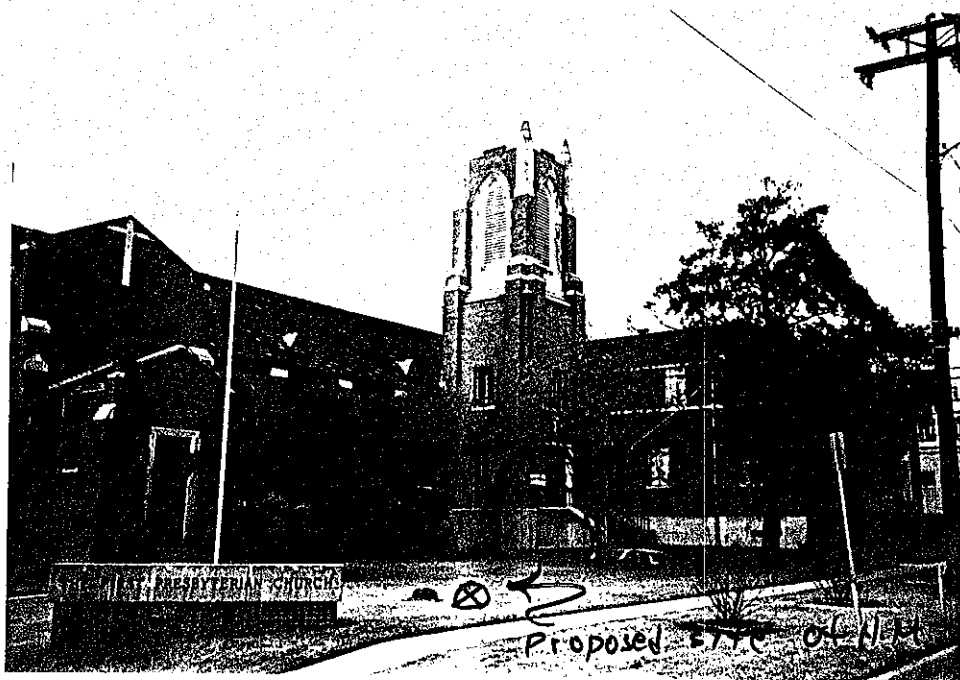
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- Lacy, Mrs. Edwin, History of the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, 1873-1943, p. 12.
- Longview News-Journal, "Presbyterian Center Began As Mother's Day Out Program", Aug. 12, 1990.
- McWhorter, Eugene W., Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County, Texas. (Longview: Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989), p. 16.
- University Supply and Equipment Company, Ft. Worth, Tex., 1957.



H.M. Location

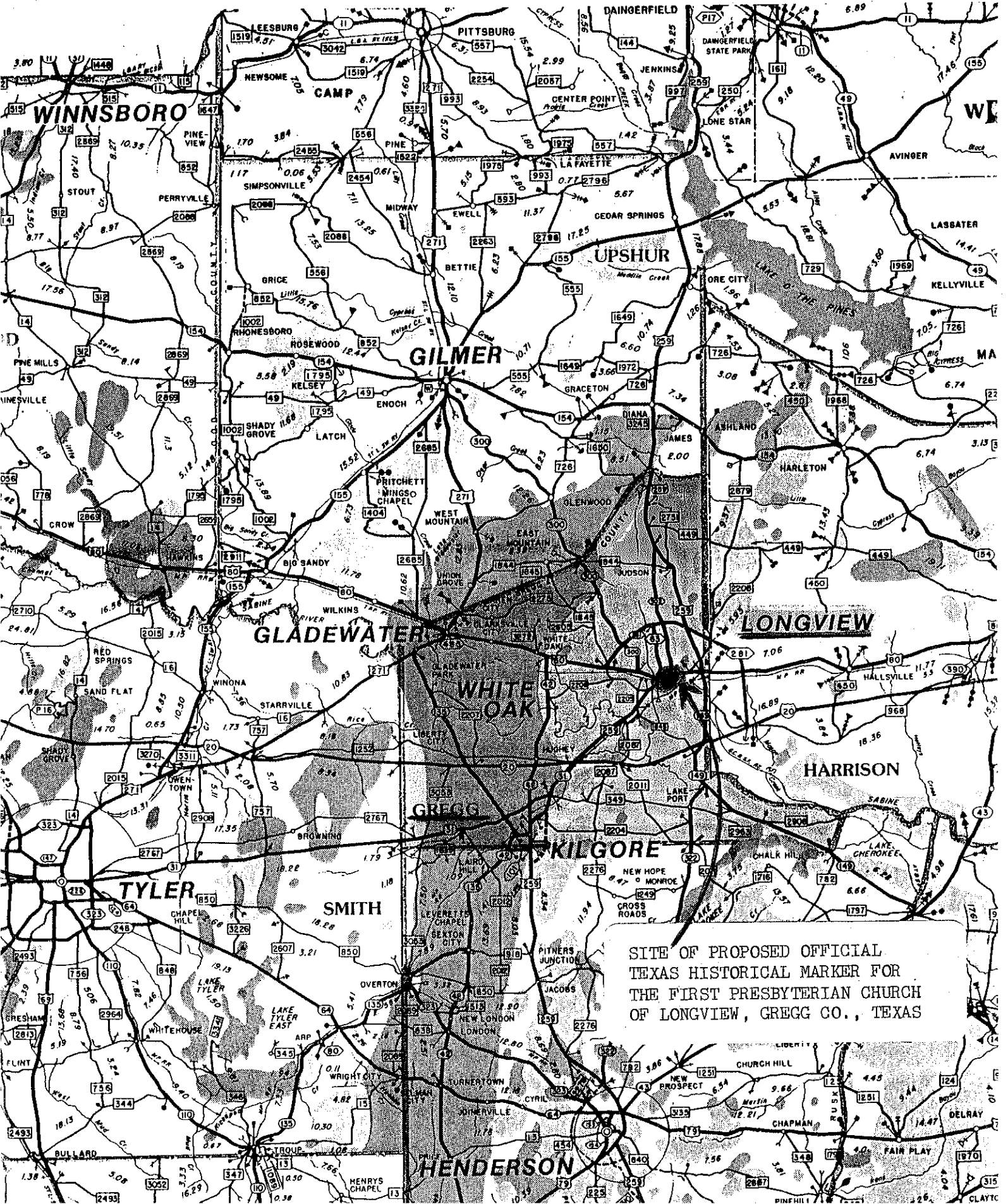




First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Tex., Gregg Co.
S.E. corner, N. Canton and W. Methvin Sts.

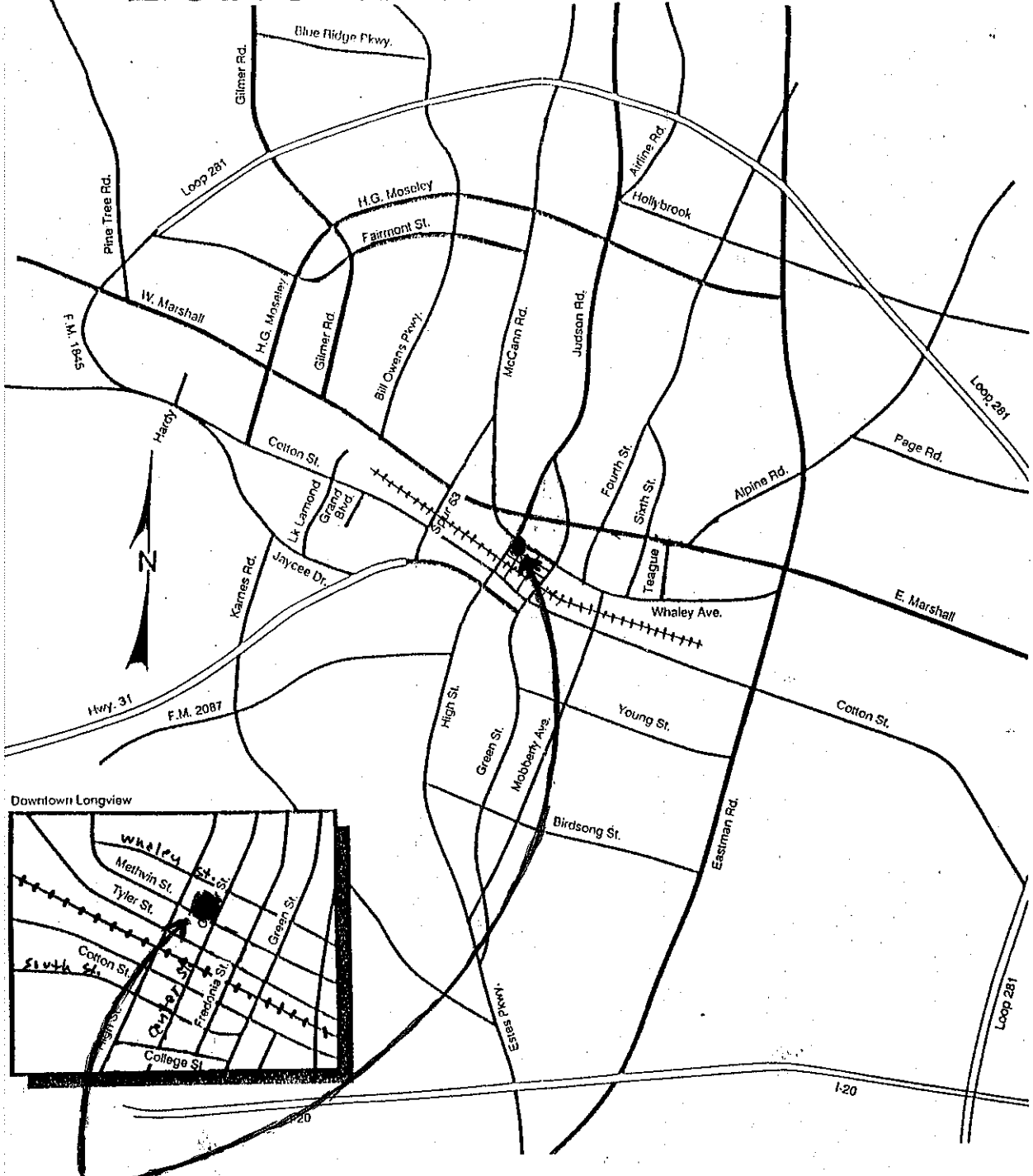
11-19-93

EAST TEXAS OVERVIEW MAP



SITE OF PROPOSED OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER FOR THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LONGVIEW, GREGG CO., TEXAS

LONGVIEW CITY MAP



SITE OF PROPOSED OFFICIAL
 TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER FOR
 THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 OF LONGVIEW, GREGG CO., TEXAS

3rd Draft
(FINAL)
Carolyn Lindsey
COMPLETE BEFORE
"CONDENSING"

HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LONGVIEW, TEXAS
by Carolyn Culberson Lindsey

Known as "The Friendly Church in the Heart of the
¹
City," the First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas,
will, in 1994, celebrate its one hundred twentieth
anniversary.

The first church was founded by nine resident
members in Longview, of the Old School Southern Presbyterian
Church, in 1872, for the purpose of establishing a local
Mission, there being no church of that denomination in the
newly laid out land.² These nine charter members were
Colonel and Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carter,
Mrs. T. A. Flewellen, Dr. and Mrs. Trent, Mr. and Mrs.
John F. Witherspoon. The Reverend Mr. James Knox was
requested to conduct services one Sabbath in each month, and
in 1873, the Eastern Texas Presbytery authorized its
founding and establishment.

During these years, O.H. Methvin had deeded, for one
gold dollar, one hundred acres of his cornfields, extending
from Tyler Street north to Highway 80,³ to the then Southern
Pacific Railroad.⁴ From this land, in 1873, the Texas and
Pacific Railroad donated by deed to four Trustees of the Old
School Presbyterian South, Longview, Texas, (E.R. Davis,
Levy, John F. Witherspoon, E.B. Ragland), Lots number one
and two, block B of the Old Longview Town Plat.⁵ This
property is on the southeast corner of Methvin and Center

Streets, the deed duly recorded in the deed records of Gregg
County.⁶

In 1874, the first church building was dedicated.⁷ It
was built on a foundation of quarried rock from Rock Hill,⁸
the highest elevation in the area. The building which
fronted south,⁹ was of rectangular shape, white frame,
approximately 36 feet by 60 feet, with portico, four
columns, and a high steeple in which hung the bell which
still calls our people to worship today.¹⁰ The grounds were
planted with pinoak trees by first and faithful elder, Mr.
John Levy. Tradition tells us that the bell came from

"Walnut Grove" plantation located south of the Sabine
River,¹¹ a bell used to call the slaves in from the fields.¹²
The Reverend Dr. W.K. Marshall, organizer of the church,
acted as chairman at the dedication, and the Reverend Dr.
James H. Wiggins was installed as regular full-time pastor.
It is interesting to note that the church had no "sexton"
so the janitor's job fell to the ladies of the church.
They kept the church immaculate, floors swept and lamp
chimneys clean. Reverend Wiggins resigned his pastorate in
1880, and in 1881 the church welcomed Reverend Charles
Buchanan who served a short pastorate.

From 1881 through 1883, the church was under the
guidance of Reverend Charles J. Heiskell, who helped twenty
women of the church form the first "Ladies Aid Society,"¹³
February 2, 1882, charging an initiation fee of twenty-five
cents, weekly dues of five cents, and in 1886 their treasury

totalled \$80.76. Also during Reverend Heiskell's tenure, nine members, by order of the session, were dismissed at their own request to form the new Alpine Presbyterian Church north of town. During this time, the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists often met together after attending Sunday School at their respective churches, for socials and picnics.

In the years 1884 - 1885, the Reverend Mr. John T. McBryde was pastor, followed by the Reverend Mr. James W. Sexton until 1890. A Missionary Society was organized, plus a young people's society. The Sunday School attendance was thirty to forty, the collection plate averaged sixty cents on a Sunday, and a Mission Church, Centre Presbyterian Church, was organized in Elderville community. Reverend Sexton was a devoted husband and father. His wife was not strong, and he was accused of not doing his pastoral work. He replied that if his congregation would pay him enough to have a servant and support his family, he would make all the calls a pastor should do. He was the soul of honor, but it was for this reason he gave up his pastorate.

In 1890, the Reverend Mr. R.M. Tuttle was pastor, He organized the first foreign missionary society for children, known as "The Texas Bees," which contributed support for the education of two Japanese girls, and he was a devoted, prayerful speaker at their meetings. Reverend Mr. Tuttle was quite a poet, and published two books, The Lone Star and The Texas Presbyterian. He had been a

Captain in Company F during the Civil War, was wounded severely several times, and in July of 1863, had led his company in the charge in the battle of Gettsburg.¹⁹

Though only twenty-two years of age, and just out of Princeton Theological Seminary, the Reverend Dr. Samuel Mills Tenney accepted the pastorate of the church. The first year of his pastorate in 1894 was not very fruitful, and the youthful shepherd doubted that God had really called him. Dr. Tenney's salary for the first three months was thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents per month, thereafter fifty dollars a month.²⁰ He taught the Bible Class, electric lights were installed, and Sunday afternoon services were held in the jail. Dr. Tenney's Sunday School Class supported an orphan girl in Columbus, Mississippi. After a disastrous fire in Longview, a Jewish family lost all their clothing. His kindness in helping them cemented a bond, and he always had one or more Jewish families in his congregation.²¹ He also saw the need for a new church building, began the task of raising necessary funds by collections and by selling a religious book through the town. This need was not realized until a few years after he had resigned his pastorate. He was long a student of history of the Presbyterian Church, and eventually became the President of the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Synod of Texas, and later curator of the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian Church in U.S.A. at Montreat, North Carolina.

During the year 1900, the second church building was erected during the time Reverend Dr. George H. Steen was pastor. The year 1900, and only served ten months. The building was of red brick, English Gothic style, with beautiful stained glass windows. The membership was ninety-nine.

A membership of one hundred thirty-two greeted the next pastor, Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Gallaher in 1902. The church budget was fourteen hundred and fourteen dollars and forty-three cents. Then in 1907, the Reverend Dr. J.S. Baird, known as a kind and gentle man, became pastor, followed in 1911 by Reverend Mr. J.T. Coughley, who saw the Young Ladies' Society purchase a new five thousand dollar pipe organ, the first in the city, in 1916, plus a lovely communion table.

In 1917, the Reverend Dr. T.L. Green saw the manse, adjacent to the church building on Center Street, repaired and enlarged, with a second story added. Sunday School totalled one hundred ninety.

The author of several books, who saw the organization of "Christian Endeavor" for young people in 1921, Reverend Dr. R.M. Hall became pastor. The years 1929 through 1931 saw Supply Pastors. Then in 1931, the Men of the Church was organized under Reverend R.L. Owen. The spirituality of the congregation greatly increased, as did the membership, and the congregation felt they were going forward feeling that this time held great blessings for them in doing the great work in the Master's vineyard. More earnestness of

purpose, cordiality and good fellowship was enjoyed than at any time previous. In 1932, a brick manse was built on Turner Drive, and the old manse was used for Sunday School classes.²⁷

Again the need for a larger church was organized under Reverend Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie, who was pastor from 1939 until 1945. The building was English Gothic in design, and the first service was held on March 16, 1941.²⁸ The beautiful Bruner and Reynolds Memorial windows were transferred from the 1900 church. While the church was being constructed, services were held in the Longview High School. Dr.

Fogartie had preached the Baccalaureate sermon at Lobo Stadium on May 28, 1939.²⁹ On October 6, 1940, a date to be long remembered by members of the church, a cornerstone was laid. Dr. Fogartie stood on one side of the cornerstone and was assisted by Reverend William H. Walker, an outpost minister, who stood on the other, each with a hand on the stone. The entire congregation joined hands to form one unbroken circle with the ministers and the cornerstone.³⁰

Reverend Fogartie spent these war years not only with his own congregation, but helping other churches, and devoting time to the badly wounded boys at Harmon General Hospital.³¹³²

During the next sixteen years, the pastor and his family contributed greatly to the spiritual growth of the church. Dr. Thomas Hardy Talbot, a former Army chaplain, engendered response among the young people, and the Senior High Fellowship flourished during the fifties. On March

16, 1947, Dr. Talbot led the congregation in the dedication of the church at morning worship. With thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings, with gratitude to all who had shared in the erection of the church, the building was dedicated to the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom. The church celebrated its seventy-fifth year in 1948 with a huge Diamond Jubilee. The entire indebtedness was retired, additional property was purchased west of the church for an educational building, and two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars was pledged for the building. The membership increased from three hundred and thirty in 1946 to one thousand in 1962. Sunday School attendance was four hundred.

Installed as pastor in 1963 was Reverend Dr. Stephen L. Cook, who forcefully demonstrated his dedication and selflessness, and along with his wife, was an inspiration to all. His tenure as pastor saw the nucleus of a new church, St. Andrews Presbyterian. Dr. Cook, and a sessional committee of seventeen members, was instrumental in its organization, the selection of the building site, and the financial drive for purchase of the property. The church entered into a new area of service in 1969 with the International House project which offered a guest home during the Christmas holidays to foreign students attending colleges and universities in the United States. These young people were housed, fed, and entertained for nine days.

This, and other activities, was made possible by the sale

of a house that had been donated to our church. This Christmas tradition continues, periodically, to this day. The first women elders were elected and ordained in 1969, the first black member was welcomed in 1970, and the first black deacons were elected and ordained in 1972. In 1971, a home on Melton Street was deeded to the church and the congregation voted to use this house as the manse, while the manse on Turner Drive was sold. Also authorized was the purchase of Lots 5 and 6 in Block 41 in 1966, to be used for parking.

In 1977, our congregation welcomed Dr. William D. O'Neal, who quickly proved to be an extremely popular and well loved pastor, from his scripture-filled sermons to his inspirational guidance. Under his leadership the church has experienced considerable growth, both numerically and financially. Dr. O'Neal was joined in 1979 by Dr. Jim Smith as Director of Christian Education and Music, and Stephen Farrow, organist. These two men were definite assets to our church, and our music program grew substantially, as did the educational program under Dr. Smith.

A Mother's Day Out program grew into a Pre-school and Day Care Center in 1979. The Presbyterian Children's Center has served the church and community most effectively, and in 1993 was serving to full capacity.

The work of a Long Range Planning Committee for the 1980's led to remodeling of the sanctuary, including a new balcony, and the gift of the lovely Crain Memorial Organ in

1982. The Holtkamp instrument was a gift of Mrs. B. W. Crain in memory of B.W. Crain's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Buford W. Crain, Sr. A holdover from the first Long Range Planning Committee is the proposal to build a quality retirement community for the area. While not yet a reality, the corporation, Westminster Place, is still at work. An ideal location was purchased behind the Longview Mall for the facility with seed money provided by the will of Bennette Gardner. In 1989, another Long Range Planning Committee was appointed to plan for the 1990's. Through this committee, the renovation of the old office and educational wing was completed in 1992, and also the addition of an elevator reaching all floors.

During these years the church acquired two important pieces of real estate, the Crim lots on High Street with the building, and the Bramlette House given to the church in 1991 by Paula Bramlette. The mission work of the church continued to grow with a strong interest in the work in Haiti and on the Mexican border, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation that does medical work through the Presbyterian denomination around the world. Locally, the congregation is involved in ministry through Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Stewpot, Information and Service Center, and other programs.

Bill and Dot O'Neal have shown constant devotion to this healthy, active, and spiritually growing congregation. As the First Presbyterian Church looks back with grateful

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Bill and Dot O'Neal have shown constant devotion to this healthy, active, and spiritually growing congregation. As the First Presbyterian Church looks back with grateful

thanks to its heritage with the placement of this Texas Historical Marker, it looks forward to the twenty-first century with a sense of excitement about the work of Jesus Christ in the community and throughout the world.

There is a golden thread binding us with our past, and over all these years has become a cable of faith, hope, and love anchored to our Lord.

ENDNOTES

1 Centennial of the First Presbyterian Church, 1873-1973, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1973: hereafter cited as Centennial, Cover.

2 Mrs. Edwin Lacy, History of the First Presbyterian Church of Longview, 1873-1943, Longview, Texas, Longview: hereafter cited as Lacy, p. 12.

3 Gregg County Historical Commission, Guide to Gregg County's Historical Markers, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1988: p. 16.

4 "Longview Centennial Album," Longview Morning Journal, May 3, 1970.

5 Deed to original church property from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company recorded in Vol. A, pp. 161-163 of the Deed records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

6 Old (1895) Longview Town Plat in Vol O, pp. 6 and 7 of the Deed Records, County Clerk's Office, Gregg County, Texas.

7 Cornerstone, First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1941: hereafter cited as Cornerstone.

8 Mike Elswick, "Longview originally just a corn field," Longview Daily News, June 24, 1986.

9 Lacy, p. 13.

10 "The History of Gregg County," Longview, Texas, Longview; University Supply and Equipment Company, 1957.

11 McWhorter, Eugene W., Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County, Texas, Longview, Texas, Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989: hereafter cited as McWhorter, p. 43.

12 Lacy, p. 13.

13 Minutes of the First Organized Women's Group of the First Presbyterian Church, February 2, 1882 to December 31, 1885.

14 Lacy, p.

- 15 First Baptist Church, History of First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, Longview: Hope Publishing Company, 1991; hereafter cited as Baptist, p. 32.
- 16 McWhorter, p. 88.
- 17 Lacy, p. 21.
18. Minutes of the Women of the First Presbyterian Church, January 6, 1889 to November 18, 1894.
- 19 Lacy, p. 25.
- 20 Centennial, p. 3.
- 21 Lacy, p. 32.
- 22 Cornerstone, 1941; Session Business Minutes, May 6, 1900, p. 9.
- 23 Session Business Minutes, April 10, 1903.
- 24 Lacy, p. 44.
- 25 Diamond Jubilee Booklet, November 17, 1948, Longview, Texas, Longview; 1948; hereafter cited as Jubilee, pp. 5, 8.
- 26 Lacy, p. 49.
- 27 Longview, Texas Centennial, the long view of a hundred years, 1870-1970, Longview, Texas, Longview: 1968;. p. 39.
- 28 Cornerstone, 1941; Holy Bible Inscription by Dr. Arthur F. Fogartie, First Presbyterian Church Library, March 16, 1941.
- 29 Lacy
- 30 Jubilee, p. 6.
- 31 Baptist, p. 225.
- 32 Holloway, William A., "The Rest of the Story," December 15, 1977, LeTourneau University Library, p. 9.
- 33 Jubilee, pp. 1 - 10.
- 34 Dedication Bulletin for Christian Education Building, May 18, 1958, First Presbyterian Church Library.
- 35 Centennial, p. 11.

36 "Church To Host Foreign Students," Longview Morning Journal, September 16, 1973

37 Session Business Minutes, October 16, 1968.

38 Session Business Minutes, August 4, 1971, p. 27.

39 Session Business Minutes, August 4, 1971, p. 27.

40 New City of Longview Lot and Block Map, Office of the City Engineer, Longview City Hall.

41 A service to install the Reverend Dr. William D. O'Neal, First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, October 23, 1977.

42 The Service of Installation for Dr. James C. Smith, Director of Education and Music, The First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, September 9, 1979.

43 "Presbyterian Center Began As Mother's Day Out Program," Longview News Journal, August 12, 1990.

44 Service of Organ Dedication and Thanksgiving, First Presbyterian Church Bulletin, April 25, 1982.

45 "Session Approves Capital Improvement," Bell Ringer, News from the First Presbyterian Church, May 21, 1991.

46 "First Presbyterian Offers Many Programs," Longview News Journal, February 23, 1992.

47 "Water Truck Delivered To Frontera De Cristo," Longview News Journal, August 1990.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276 512/463-6100

December 28, 1993

Dr. Norman Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job # 10194

Dear Dr. Black:

We have received the above-referenced marker application. The application will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff in the order in which it has been received. Currently, there is a four to six month wait between the time subject marker applications are received and evaluated. Should additional information be needed for the review, we will contact you and any parties listed below at that time. After any deficiencies have been corrected, we will send copies of the application to the members of the State Marker Review Board, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

We will notify all parties as soon as the marker committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking, payment will be requested at that time. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process, and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of the contracting foundry, we suggest that the date of the marker dedication not be set until the completed marker is received.

We appreciate the effort made to record this topic. Should there be any questions about the status of this marker application, please contact me at 512/463-5853.

Sincerely,

Egina G. Kaase
Office Manager
Local History Program

pc: The Rev. William D. O'Neal



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276

(TELEPHONE) 512-463-6100

(FAX) 512-463-6095

(RELAY TX) 1-800-735-2989 (TDD)

April 15, 1994

The Rev. William D. O'Neal
First Presbyterian Church of Longview
301 N. Center Street
Longview, TX 75601

RE: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
18" x 28" marker w/ post (Job #10194, Gregg County)

Dear Mr. O'Neal:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Review Board has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$550.00, is now due. Please complete and return the enclosed payment form at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Program

pc: Dr. Norman W. Black, Gregg CHC

P.S. Please remit payment as soon as possible so that we may keep on track for an October dedication ceremony.



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

April 25, 1994

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Re: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
18" X 28" marker w/post (Job #10194, Gregg County)

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed is the church's check for \$550.00 for the above referenced marker. I look forward to seeing you in San Angelo.

Sincerely,

Enc.

Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
512/463-5853

PAYMENT FORM

MARKER TITLE First Presbyterian Church

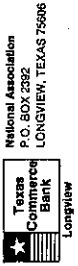
COUNTY Gregg JOB NUMBER 10194 AMT. ENCLOSED \$550.00

Please specify method of payment: Check enclosed Visa Mastercard

Credit Card number: _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Checks should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission.

 <p>National Association P.O. BOX 2382 LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75606</p> <p>Texas Association of Banks Longview</p>	<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DESIGNATED FUND P. O. BOX 1006 LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75606</p>	<p>3525</p>
	<p>PAY TO THE ORDER OF <u>Texas Historical Commission</u></p> <p><u>Five Hundred Fifty and $\frac{00}{100}$</u></p> <p>THIS CHECK IS DELIVERED FOR PAYMENT ON THE ACCOUNTS LISTED</p>	<p><u>4-22-94</u> 88-191/1119</p> <p><u>\$550.⁰⁰</u></p> <p>_____ DOLLARS</p> <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p> <p><u>Susan J. White</u></p>
<p>⑈003525⑈ ⑆111901917⑆ ⑈03700172189⑈</p>		



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

May 16, 1994

Ruben Moreland-Ochoa, Historian
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: First Presbyterian Church of Longview, Job # 10194

Dear Ruben:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above-referenced marker. Also enclosed are some changes asked for by the church's committee on the historical marker. I will try to explain their feelings on the subject.

Their committee prefers to call the church building a "church" rather than a sanctuary. They reason that the 1940 building also had other rooms such as offices, etc.

They just don't like the passages so marked in red.

The congregation was about a thousand when Rev. Fogartie was pastor; now it's only about 645.

The church is very proud of their motto: "The Friendly Little Church in the Heart of the City" and hopes it can be included. I don't know the current policy on the matter of mottos.

Also, Carolyn Lindsey, who is the spokesperson of the committee, told me the Presbyterian Church is now international in its mission work.

If you can make these changes we would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Enc. 3.

Texas Historical Commission Staff (RMO), 5/9/94

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #10194)

Location: 301 N. Center St., Longview

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*
OF LONGVIEW***

THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED BY

see text
NINE
EIGHT RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE
OLD SCHOOL SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH AS A MISSION IN THE NEW

TOWN OF LONGVIEW IN 1872. THE

FIRST SANCTUARY WAS BUILT IN 1874

ON LAND DONATED BY THE TEXAS AND

PACIFIC RAILROAD. THE CHURCH HELPED

ESTABLISH TWO MISSION CHURCHES

IN THE AREA AND *by* IN 1894. THE CONGRE-

GATION BECAME SELF-SUPPORTING.

A NEW SANCTUARY WAS BUILT IN 1900

AND A THIRD AT THIS SITE IN ¹⁹⁴⁰ 1941.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH GREW

FROM 330 IN 1946 TO 1,000 IN 1960.

THE CONGREGATION CONTINUES TO BE

ACTIVE IN OUTREACH AND MISSION ~~PROGRAMS~~

PROGRAMS *at home and abroad* IN THE LONGVIEW AREA.**

(1994)***

*1/2 inch lettering to contrast with text

**1/2 inch lettering

***1/4 inch lettering

Suggest church

do not like

Suggest church

(cornerstone)

do not want

today, approx. 645.

mission work reaches far - not just Longview

Carolyn Lindsey's suggested copy
First Presbyterian Church - Longview Job # 10194

5-16-94

see text

THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED BY
NINE RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE
OLD SCHOOL SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AS A MISSION IN THE NEW
TOWN OF LONGVIEW IN 1872. THE
FIRST CHURCH WAS BUILT IN 1874
ON LAND DONATED BY THE TEXAS AND
PACIFIC RAILROAD. THE CHURCH HELPED
ESTABLISH TWO MISSION CHURCHES IN
THE AREA BY 1894. THE CONTINUED
GROWTH OF THE CONGREGATION REQUIRED
A NEW CHURCH BUILT IN 1900 AND A
THIRD AT THIS SITE IN 1940. THE
FAITHFUL MEMBERSHIP OF "THE FRIENDLY
LITTLE CHURCH IN THE HEART OF THE
CITY" CONTINUES TO BE ACTIVE IN
OUTREACH AND MISSION PROGRAMS
AT HOME AND ABROAD.

*on cornerstone
(dedication in 1941)*

*These words are
on every Sunday
bulletin*



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

May 25, 1994

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
State Marker Program
Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: First Presbyterian Church of Longview, Job # 10194

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed are two checks and an order form for two (2) Replica Paperweights related to the above named marker.

One check is on the First Presbyterian Church, #3549 and the other is on my account, #125, each in the amount of \$90.00.

I realize the final inscription has not yet been written, much less, the marker cast, but the parties wanted me to send this in now.

Sincerely,

Enc. - 3.

3549

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DESIGNATED FUND
P. O. BOX 1006
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75606

88-191/1119

5-25 19 94

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Texas Historical Commission

\$ 90.00

Ninety and 00/100

DOLLARS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Susan J. White

THIS CHECK IS DELIVERED FOR PAYMENT ON THE ACCOUNTS LISTED

⑈003549⑈ ⑆111901917⑆ ⑈03700172189⑈

National Association
P.O. BOX 2382
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75606



125

DR. NORMAN W. BLACK 6-92
417 MOBBERLY AVE. PH. 903-757-2261
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75602

5-25 19 94 88-2323/1119

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Texas Historical Commission

\$ 90.00

Ninety and 00/100

DOLLARS



LONGVIEW BANK & TRUST

300 E. WHALEY, P.O. BOX 3188
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75606
903-237-5500

MEMO Replica Paperweight

Dr. Norman W. Black

⑆111923238⑆ 0125 17 3466 0⑈

DELUXE DUPLICATE



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

June 8, 1994

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
State Marker Program
Local History Programs
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Re: First Presbyterian Church of Longview, Job # 10194

Dear Cynthia:

Everyone concerned is pleased with the new inscription for the above marker with one exception. I think this is partially my fault in that I did not make it very clear in my letter of May 25 about the date of the present building.

Although the first service in this building was on March 16, 1941 the cornerstone was set in 1940. This is the date the church uses and the new historical marker will be set very near the cornerstone.

Therefore, would you please change, on the fifteenth line of the text, the "1941" to 1940? Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Norman

Texas Historical Commission Staff (RMO), 5/9/94, Revised 5/23/94

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #10194)

Location: 301 N. Center St., Longview

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*
OF LONGVIEW***

THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED BY
NINE RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE
OLD SCHOOL SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AS A MISSION IN THE NEW
TOWN OF LONGVIEW IN 1872. THE
FIRST CHURCH BUILDING WAS ERECTED
ON LAND DONATED BY THE TEXAS AND
PACIFIC RAILROAD IN 1874. THE REV.
JAMES H. WIGGINS WAS INSTALLED
AS THE FIRST FULL-TIME PASTOR. THE
CONGREGATION HELPED ESTABLISH TWO
MISSION CHURCHES IN THE AREA BY
1894. A NEW CHURCH BUILDING WAS
CONSTRUCTED IN 1900 AND A THIRD AT
THIS SITE IN 1941. THE CONGREGATION
CONTINUES TO SPONSOR OUTREACH AND
MISSIONARY PROGRAMS IN LONGVIEW
AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.**

1940

(1994)***

*1/2 inch lettering to contrast with text
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276 512/463-6100

September 6, 1994

Dr. Norman W. Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LONGVIEW
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job#: 10194; Date Shipped: 08/24/94; Shipping Company: Central

Dear Dr. Black:

The above-referenced marker was recently shipped to your address, on the above referenced date. If it has not been received, please contact the Southwell Company at 210/223-1831 so that it may be traced. Please be prepared to give the job number, date shipped, and shipping company name.

We would appreciate having photocopies of any newspaper clippings (rather than the original clippings, which aren't archivally stable) or photos about the dedication ceremony to complete our file on this marker.

Thank you for your continued support and good work toward the preservation of the history of our state.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard
Frances Rickard, Director
Local History Programs

pc: The Rev. William D. O'Neal

*The Texas Historical Commission
The Gregg County Historical Commission
The First Presbyterian Church*

dedicate

A Texas Historical Marker

301 North Center Street

Longview, Texas

Sunday, October 23, 1994

(following 11:00 church service)

*Luncheon immediately following
Fellowship Hall*

First Presbyterian to mark anniversary

Longview's First Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 120th anniversary with the dedication of a Texas Historical marker after church services on Oct. 23.

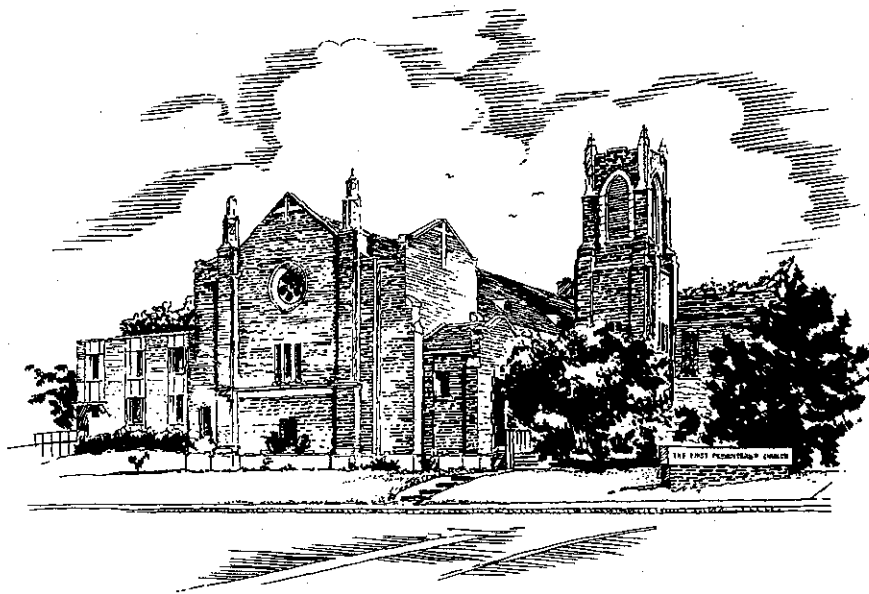
The church was founded in 1872 by eight members. The Texas and Pacific Railroad donated land for the church in 1873, and a white frame, one-room church was built in 1874 on the site of the present church. The second church was built in 1900.

After the oil boom hit East Texas in the '30s, the second church quickly became inadequate for the times, and the present facility was built in 1940.

The church has had 20 pastors. The first pastor was Dr. James H. Wiggins, who came in 1874. Today, the pastor is Dr. William D. O'Neal, who came in 1977.



DEDICATION
of an
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Longview, Texas

October 23, 1994

Dr. William D. O'Neal, Pastor

Sponsored by

**THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Guide to Worship

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 23, 1994

11:00 A.M.

Upon entering the sanctuary, many people wish to reflect and pray.
Each worshipper is asked to respect the needs of others and speak softly prior to the beginning of worship.

Call to Worship
Invocation

Voluntary *Fanfare* Guy Eldridge

*Processional Hymn 138 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* NICAEA

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with all our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

*Assurance of Pardon

Minister: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Summary of the Law

*Response

**Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in Him and not be afraid;
For the Lord is my Stronghold and my sure Defense,
And He will be my Savior.**

Welcome and Ritual of Friendship

Concerns of the Church

*Hymn 442 *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA

Prayers of the People - The Lord's Prayer - Choral Amen

Anthem *With a Voice of Singing* Martin Shaw
The Chancel Choir

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 3:1-17

Sermon

A FIRM FOUNDATION.

Bill O'Neal

*Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed page 14

*Gloria Patri

The Offering

Voluntary *O Lord, Turn Not Away Thy Face* George Dyson

Bringing our Gifts to God

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn 210 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

Dr. W. D. O'Neal will now invite the congregation to proceed to the front lawn of the church for the marker dedication.

Dr. O'Neal will lead the way, followed by the choir, and then the congregation.

*Recession of the People *Crown Imperial March* William Walton

Stephen Farrow, Organist and Interim Choir Director

*Congregation Standing



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LONGVIEW

THIS CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED BY NINE RESIDENT MEMBERS OF THE OLD SCHOOL SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS A MISSION IN THE NEW TOWN OF LONGVIEW IN 1872. THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING WAS ERECTED ON LAND DONATED BY THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILROAD IN 1874. THE REV. JAMES H. WIGGINS WAS INSTALLED AS THE FIRST FULL-TIME PASTOR. THE CONGREGATION HELPED ESTABLISH TWO MISSION CHURCHES IN THE AREA BY 1894. A NEW CHURCH BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1900 AND A THIRD AT THIS SITE IN 1940. THE CONGREGATION CONTINUES TO SPONSOR OUTREACH AND MISSIONARY PROGRAMS IN LONGVIEW AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

(1994)

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

October 23, 1994

Welcome and Introduction of Guests Dr. Norman Black
Invocation Dr. William D. O'Neal
Reading of Marker Dr. O'Neal
Unveiling of Marker Mrs. Carolyn Lindsey
Dedication of Marker Dr. O'Neal
Prayer Dr. O'Neal
Choral Benediction *The Lord Bless You And Keep You...* . . . Peter Christian Lutkin
The Chancel Choir
Benediction Dr. O'Neal



First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas
1874

Gregg County Historical Commission

Mrs. Mildred Wood Barker
Mrs. Charlotte Allgood Black
Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman
Mr. Jack Buchanan
Mrs. Pauline Cox
Mrs. B.W. Crain, Jr.
Sondra Daniel
Beth Holloway Dodson
Dr. Ken Durham
Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin

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Anne P. MacKenzie
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Dr. W. D. Northcutt, III
Mrs. John W. Osteen
Ben Reynolds
Mrs. Nancy Ruff
Mr. Joe White