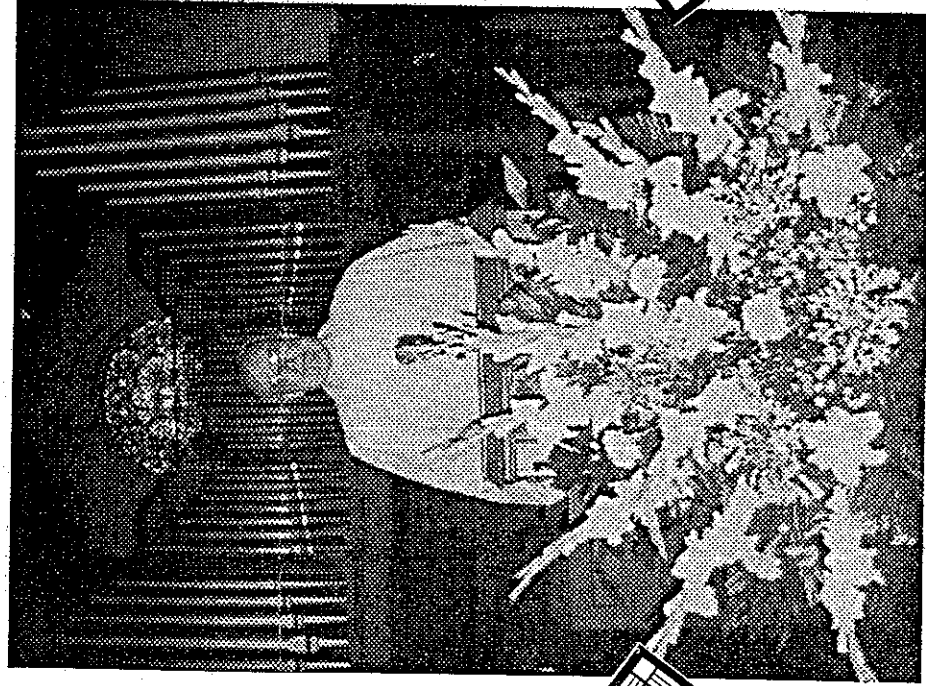
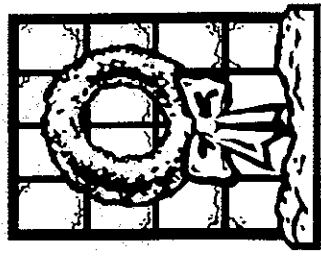


# Reminisce



Dr. William D. O'Neal

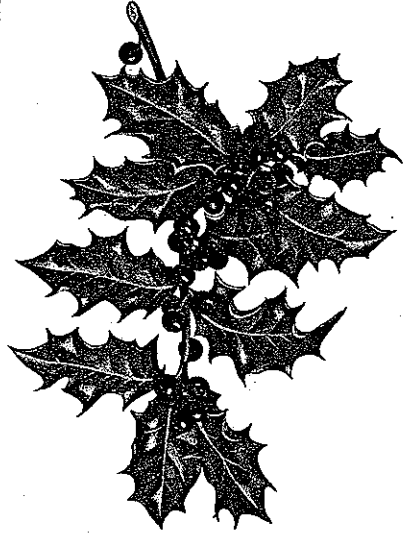
Bill and Dot arrived in Longview with their two sons, David and Don, and immediately won the hearts of this congregation. They have shown constant devotion to this church, and have nourished this healthy, active, and spiritually growing congregation. Bill O'Neal's deep-rooted family ties from childhood 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."



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

-Numbers 6:26

*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.*

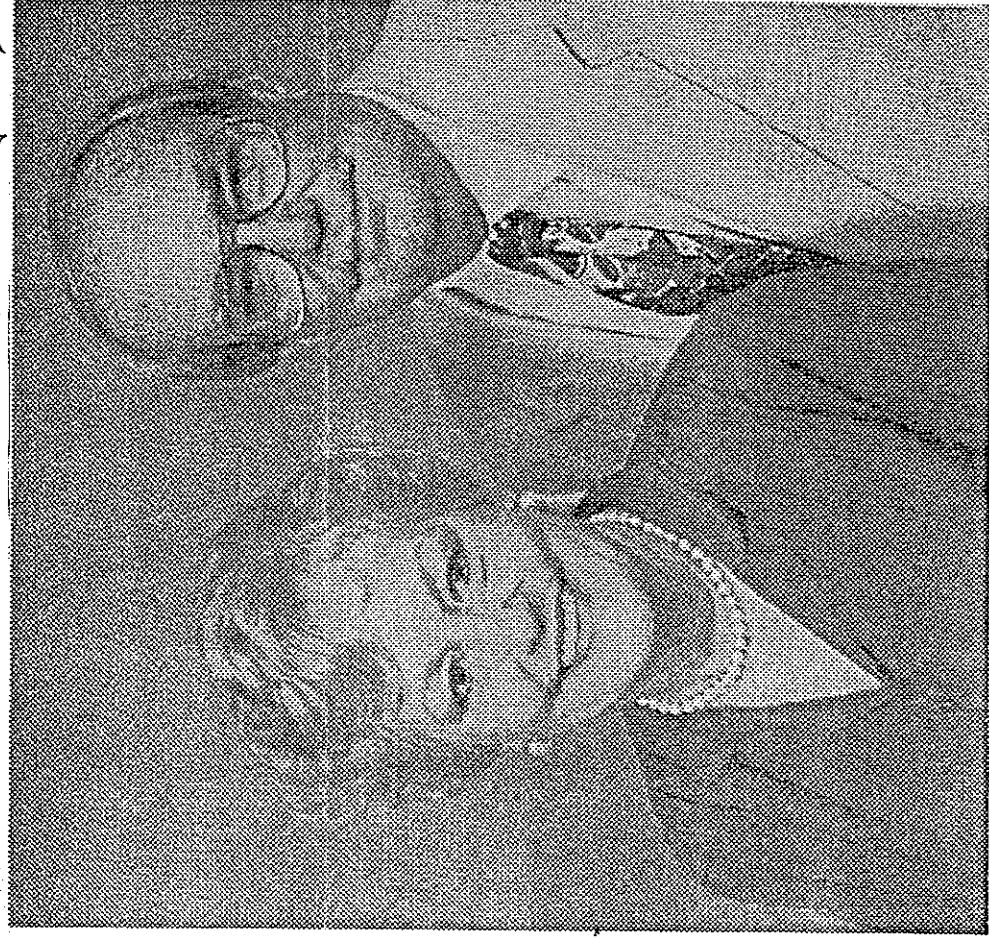
The happiness of an old-fashioned Christmas.

REJOICE!  
REJOICE!

REJOICE!  
REJOICE!



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.*

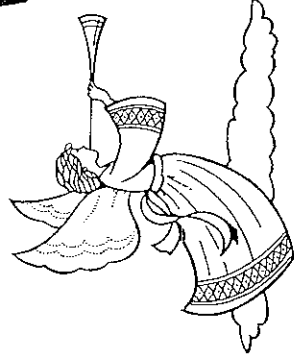
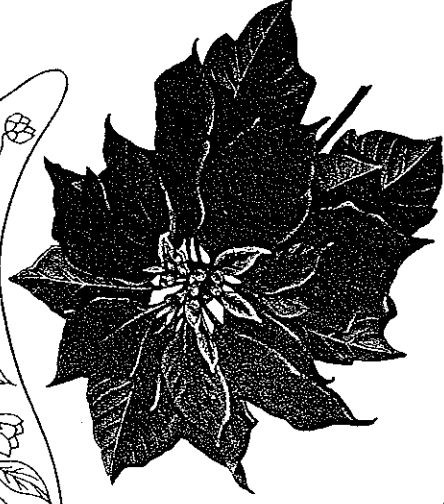
*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

*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.*

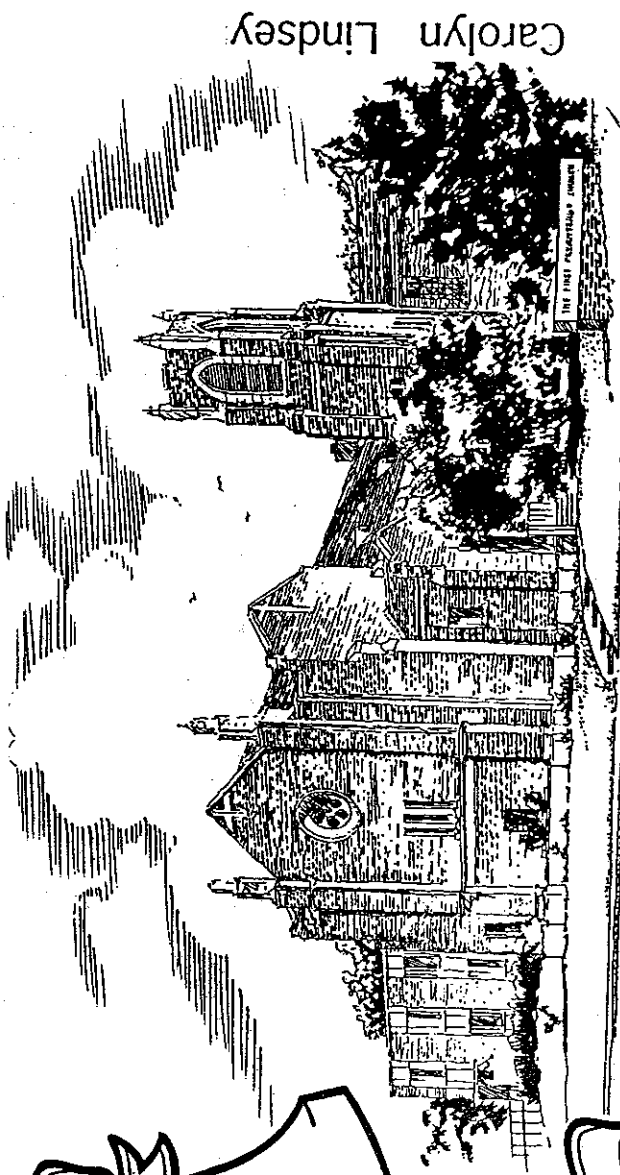
*These things I command you, that ye love one another.*



## 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



Carolyn Lindsey

First Presbyterian Church - Longview, Texas 1940

THE 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.

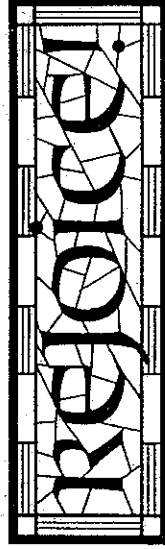
Dr. O'Neal was joined in 1979 by Dr. Jim Smith as the Director of Christian Education and Music, and Stephen Farrow, organist. These two men were definite assets to our church, and our music program grew substantially, as did the educational program under Dr. Smith, who retired in 1994.

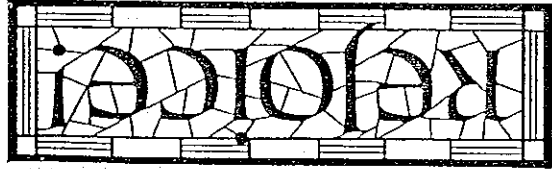
A Mother's Day Out program grew into a Pre-school and Day Care Center in 1979. The Presbyterian Children's Center and the dedicated teachers have served this church and community faithfully and effectively, and it serves to a full capacity.

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.

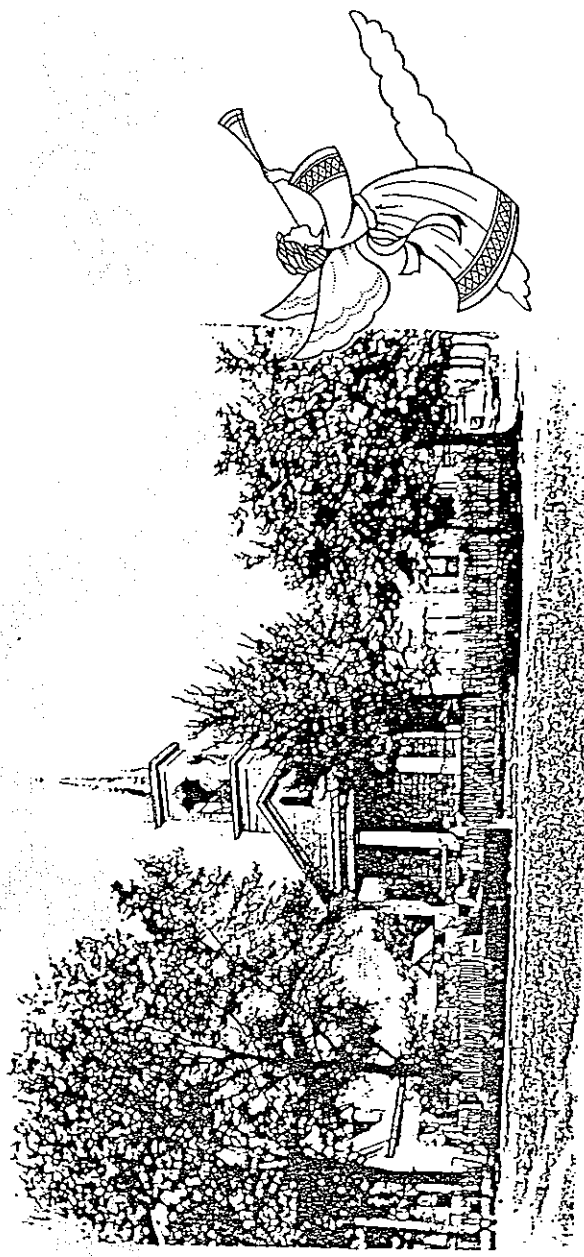
A holdover from the first Long Range Planning Committee was the proposal to build a quality retirement community for this area. An ideal location was purchased behind the Longview Mall for this facility with seed money provided by the will of Bennette Gardner. This will soon become a reality known as 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.





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

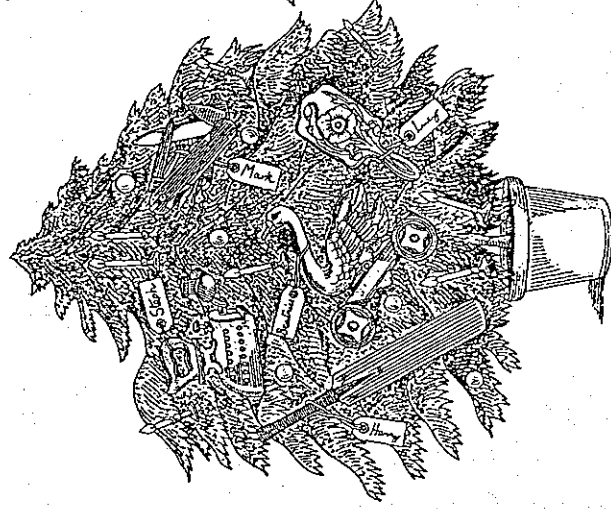
Reminiscences from Carolyn Lindsey

AMEN

AMEN

AND

AMEN

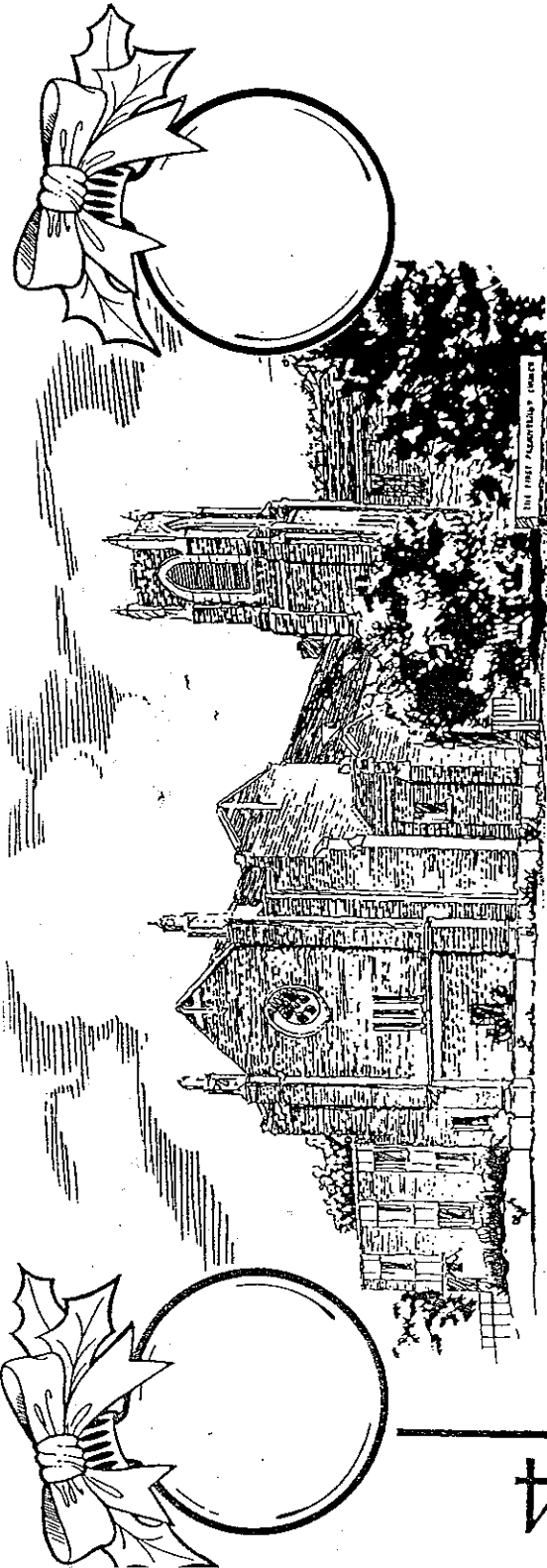


"Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring,  
not even a mouse.



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

# 1874 REMINISCENCES 1994



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.*

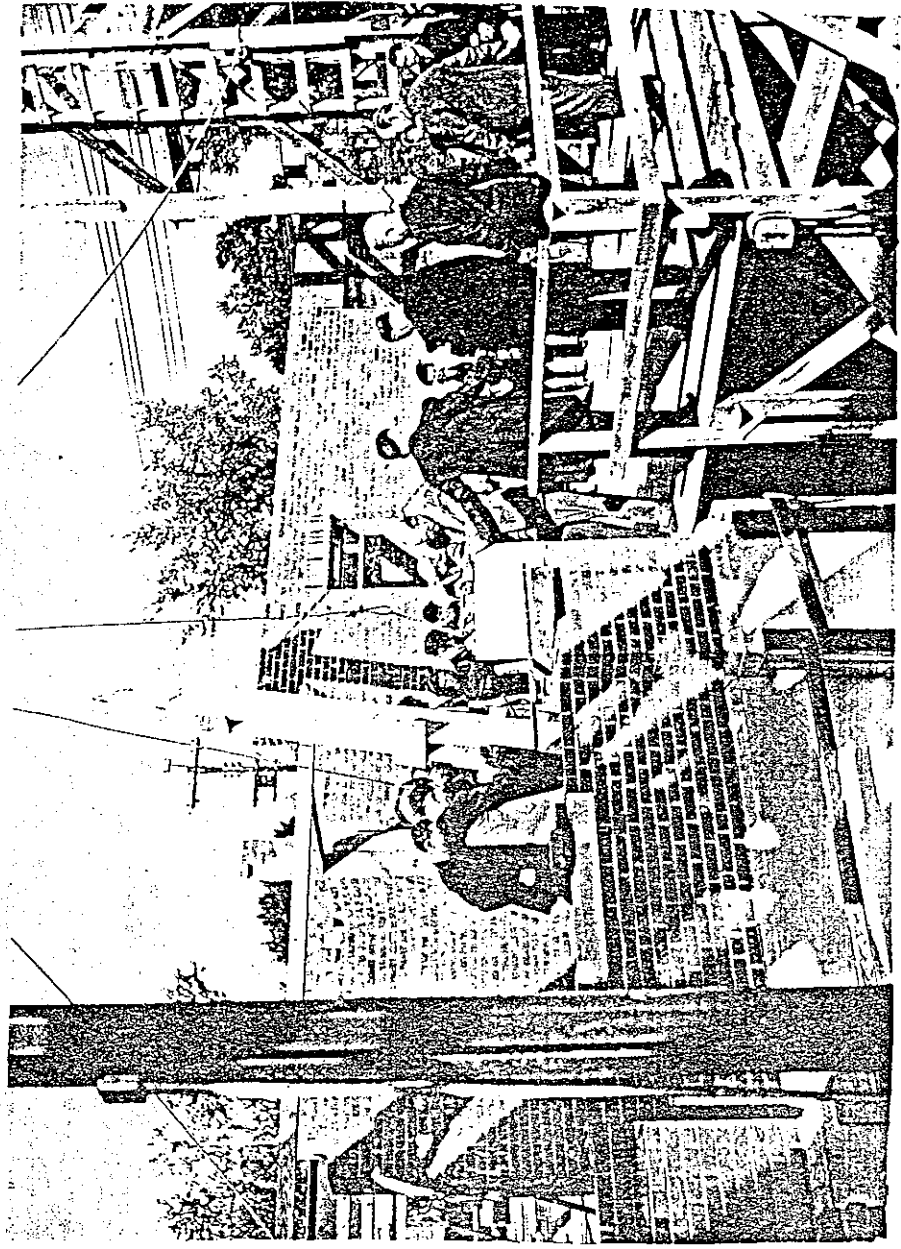
*Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me,  
For the Bible tells me so.*

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 frame 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



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

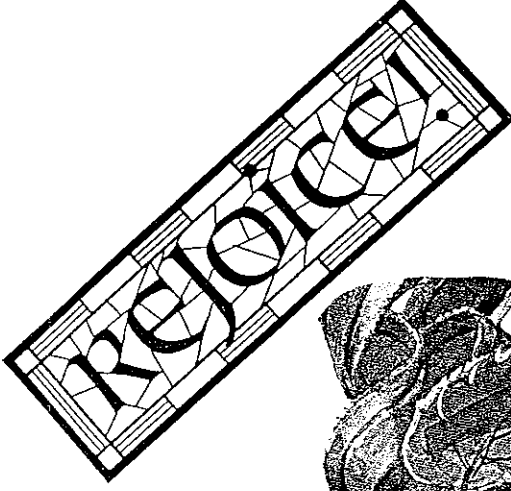
—Theadora Van Runkle  
"This house is my friend."

# The Gift of Time

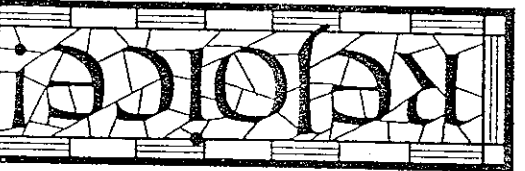
*Lord, you have been  
our dwelling place  
in all generations.*

*Psalms 90:1*

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



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

# 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.

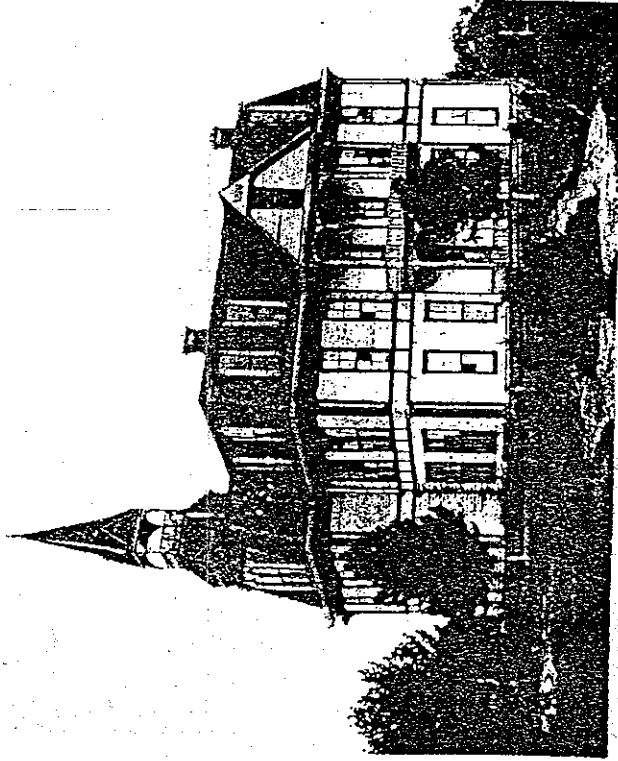
It is exciting to watch our church grow and achieve many goals, yet always looking to the future. We are thankful to be a part of First Presbyterian - past, present, future.

### Reminiscences from Bill and Debbie Bankston

*"We wove a web in childhood"*

*A web of sunny air...*

-Charlotte Brontë



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

### 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 Aronstrom

## 1874 REMINISCENCES 1994

*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

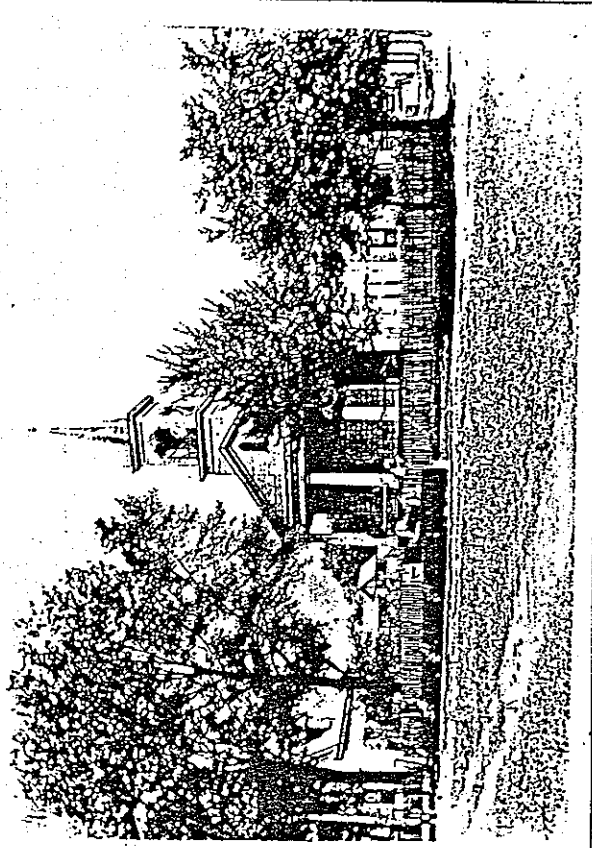
Keith and I first joined First Presbyterian eleven years ago right after the birth of our oldest son, Clint. We had been visiting the church off and on for three years, and felt very welcome. Everyone quickly helped us become involved in the church school and all other activities. There are so many memories 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

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

—Emily Dickinson

# 1874 REMINISCENCES 1994



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.

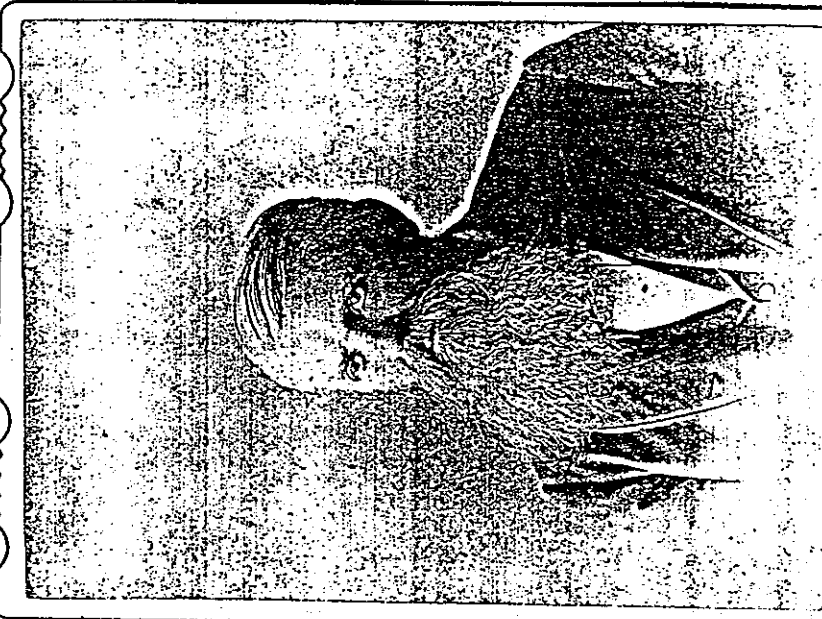
One Sunday a month Reverend Tuttle would preach a sermon at Center Church, which he built at Elderville, six or eight miles south of town. The Sunday organist was paid \$2.00 a month. The preacher was often given the resources of the land at that time which included potatoes, corn, ground peas (peanuts), 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.

*Angels Come  
to Call*

"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

# 1874 REMINISCENCES 1994



Reverend Romulus M. Tuttle

*Anthony & Hill,*

LONGVIEW,  
TEXAS.



## 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. Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carter, Mr. Lawson Henderson, Mrs. E. B. Ragland, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Witherspoon, Mrs. H. F. Eriley, 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 oak 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. E. 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. Klifgore, 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."

1921-1929, Rev. R. M. Hall accepted the call to this Church. Much progress was made during Rev. Hall's pastorate. He organized the society of "Christian Endeavor" for the young people, which became a great power in the Church. Delegates were sent to Knoxville to the Young People's Conference, the Auxiliary bearing the expense. In 1922 Mrs. J. J. Flewellen and the Auxiliary took out a joint scholarship, a memorial to Mrs. Flewellen's son Wilbut. During this same year Mrs. Flewellen was made Presbyterial Secretary of "S.P.C." In 1923 the first Missionary study was held and the offering sent to Japan. A very progressive and active pastorate. Rev. Hall's daughter, Mrs. Malcolm Martin, now resides in Longview and is a member of this Church.

1929-1931—Supplies. After Dr. Hall's resignation, for one and a half years the Church was served by two young ministers from the Evangelical Seminary in Dallas. Mr. Teed came first and only stayed a short while but greatly endeared himself to the people. Followed by Mr. Teed was Mr. Castrodate, with his wife and little son, this family having formerly been missionaries to Brazil. While here Mr. Castrodate organized a jail mission and each Sunday afternoon held services for prisoners.

1931-1938—Rev. R. L. Owen. Rev. Owen's pastorate was the beginning of the men's work in the Church, a banquet being held for them every month and sponsored by the women. The men made possible an Educational Director and Secretary for the Pastor. In 1932 a brick manse was built at 1100 Turner Drive, on a lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. Opha Grissom. The young people took the "Highway Plan," no longer having the "Christian Endeavor." The spirituality of the congregation greatly increased during this pastorate with quite an increase in membership. More earnestness of purpose, cordiality and good fellowship was enjoyed than at any time previous.

1939-1945, Rev. A. F. Fogartie, D.D., came to Longview Church from Selma, Alabama, on April 23, 1939. Plans were made for a new Church building and by July, 1940, excavation for the new Church was finished. Church services were held each Sunday at the Senior High School. On October 6, a date to be long remembered by members of the Church, a cornerstone of the Church was laid. Dr. Fogartie, assisted by the outpost minister, Rev. Wm. H. Walker, conducted the service. Dr. Fogartie stood on one side of the cornerstone and Rev. Walker on the other, each with a hand on the stone and the entire congregation joined hands to form one unbroken circle with the ministers and the cornerstone. March 16 was designated as the date for the official opening of the new Church. On that day the first service was held in the new Church. In September of 1945, Dr. Fogartie resigned his pastorate here to become the superintendent of Home Missions of the Synod of Arkansas. While here Dr. Fogartie enjoyed a wide and varied friendship and caused widespread sorrow to those who loved him so dearly upon his resignation.

## CHURCH HISTORY (Continued)

1946—Rev. Thomas Hardy Talbot, Ch. (Lt. Col.) U. S. Army, was called to this Church, March 16, 1946. In November of that year, the officers of the Church launched their plan to retire the entire indebtedness on the Church by the first of the year, January, 1947. With the untiring efforts of the Deacon Board, Mr. Opha Grissom, Chairman of the Board, and Mr. O. L. Norton, Chairman of the Finance Committee for the campaign, the entire indebtedness on the Church was retired. The Session then designed March 16, 1947, the sixth anniversary of the new Church and also the first anniversary of Rev. Talbot, as the dedication of the Church, at the morning worship. With thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings, with gratitude to every one who had shared in the erection of the Church, the building was dedicated to the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom. Mr. Opha Grissom, a representative of the Church, delivered the keys of the Church to the minister, Rev. Talbot.

Much progress has been made in the past two years. A Director of Religious Education, Miss Nell McCall, has been added to the Church Staff. The Church School, with Mr. Gene McWhorter as superintendent, and Miss McCall's leadership has grown into one of the finest in the Church's history. The Woman's Auxiliary, now called "The Women of the Church" is doing a wonderful work, with five circles, one training circle and a Junior and Senior Business and Professional Women's Circle. The wonderful dinners and social hours, sponsored by the women and the extra furnishings and touches they have given the Church will be long remembered. The Men of the Church has grown into a large and active group and are doing a fine work. The young people of the Church, "Presbyterian Youth Fellowship," are most outstanding. With Rev. Talbot's love for young people and Miss McCall's able direction they have come a long way, now having about 35 active members. This year the Church had good representation from them both at the Young People's Conference in Kerrville and at Camp Gilmore. Two of our young people are on the Presbytery Council, Miss Nancy Rogers and Miss Ann Houliston. Out of their own budget they furnished pews for the new chapel at Camp Gilmore. The Young Adults of the Church, consisting mostly of young married couples; a wonderful group, faithful and devoted to their Church, enjoy many hours of fellowship together. Miss Verta Eckman, our faithful organist, might well be called "A Child of the Church," as she has never held a membership in any other Church and has served as organist for many years. Miss Verta at the organ and Miss Viola Eckman in the choir is a part of the Church. Mrs. J. F. Collier, Choir Director, is doing a good job with the voices in the Church and Mrs. Wm. J. Houliston, secretary, keeps up with the business and financial status for the Church.

The Church has enjoyed many improvements this year. The Sanctuary, Ladies' Parlor and Fellowship Hall were installed with air conditioning; furnace heat has been added to the Nursery and Primary rooms, a cottage built at Camp Gilmore and many smaller improvements and additions. There are many we would like to mention if space would permit. Ours is a grand Church with a grand membership and a greatly beloved pastor, who not only keeps his own flock intact, but is very close to the people of Longview in religious, civic and social affairs.

« »

### ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

11:00 A.M.	Sunday, November 14	Dr. David L. Stitt
6:30 A.M.—Vesper		Mr. Hampton Bowman
7:30 P.M.	For All the Young People of the City	Dr. David L. Stitt
7:30 P.M.	Monday, November 15	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	

« »

### 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. Baurd, 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. Castrordale (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

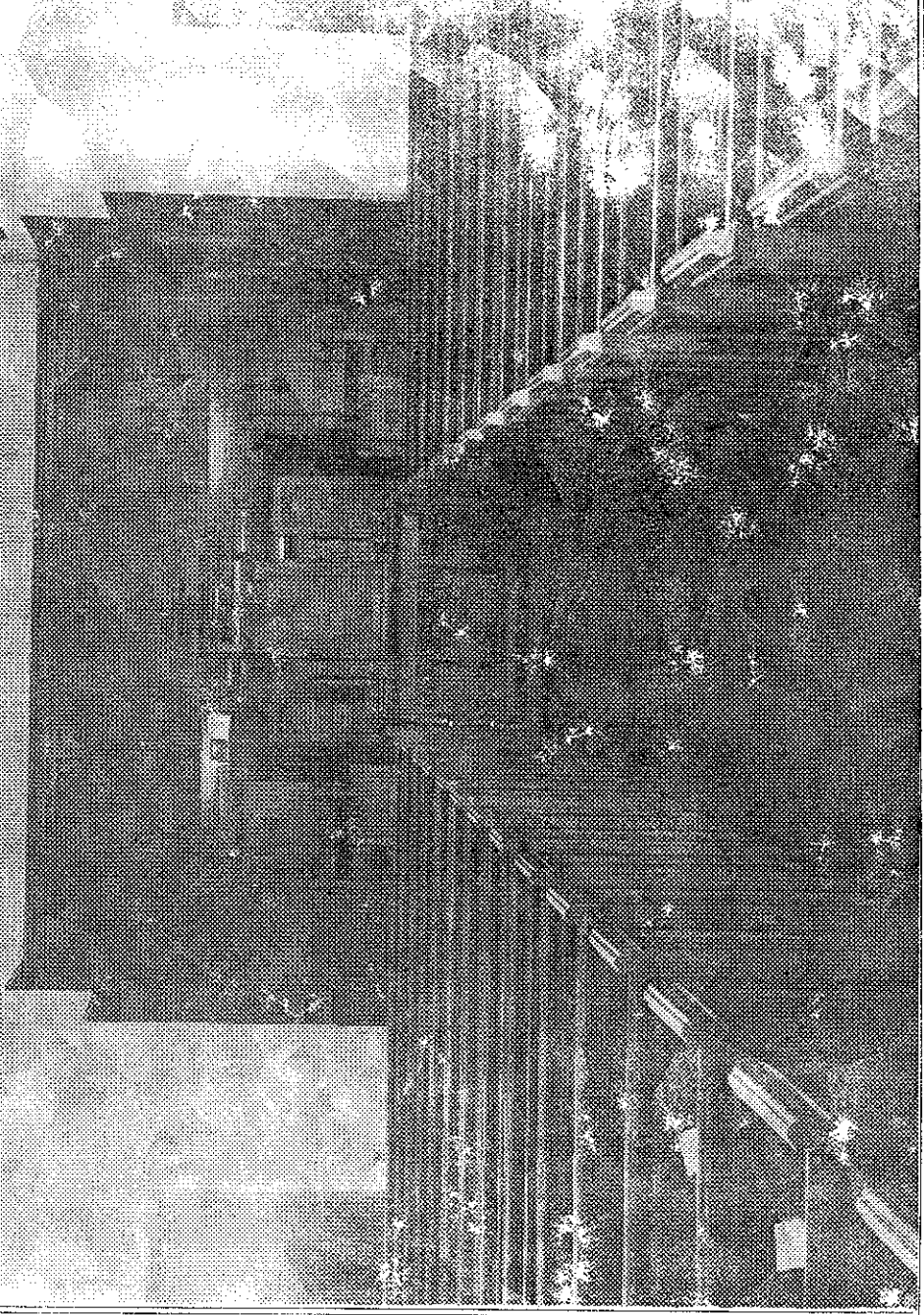
#### Sunday:

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
-----------	-------------------------

# Diocese



## The First Presbyterian Church

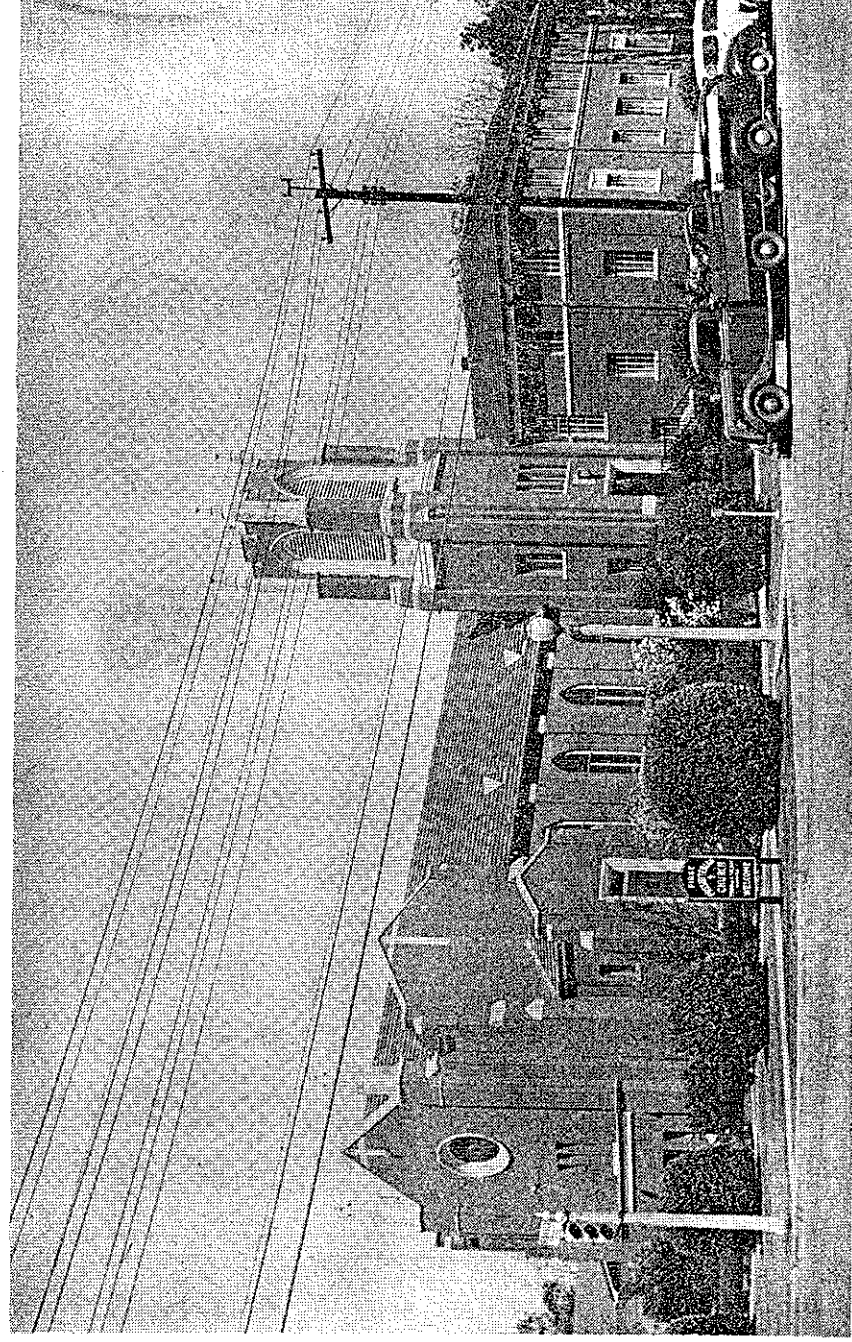
*Langview, Texas*

1873-1948

# The First Presbyterian Church

Corner Methvin and Center

Longview, Texas



## “The Friendly Church in the Heart of the City”

“Whoever thou art that enterest 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.”

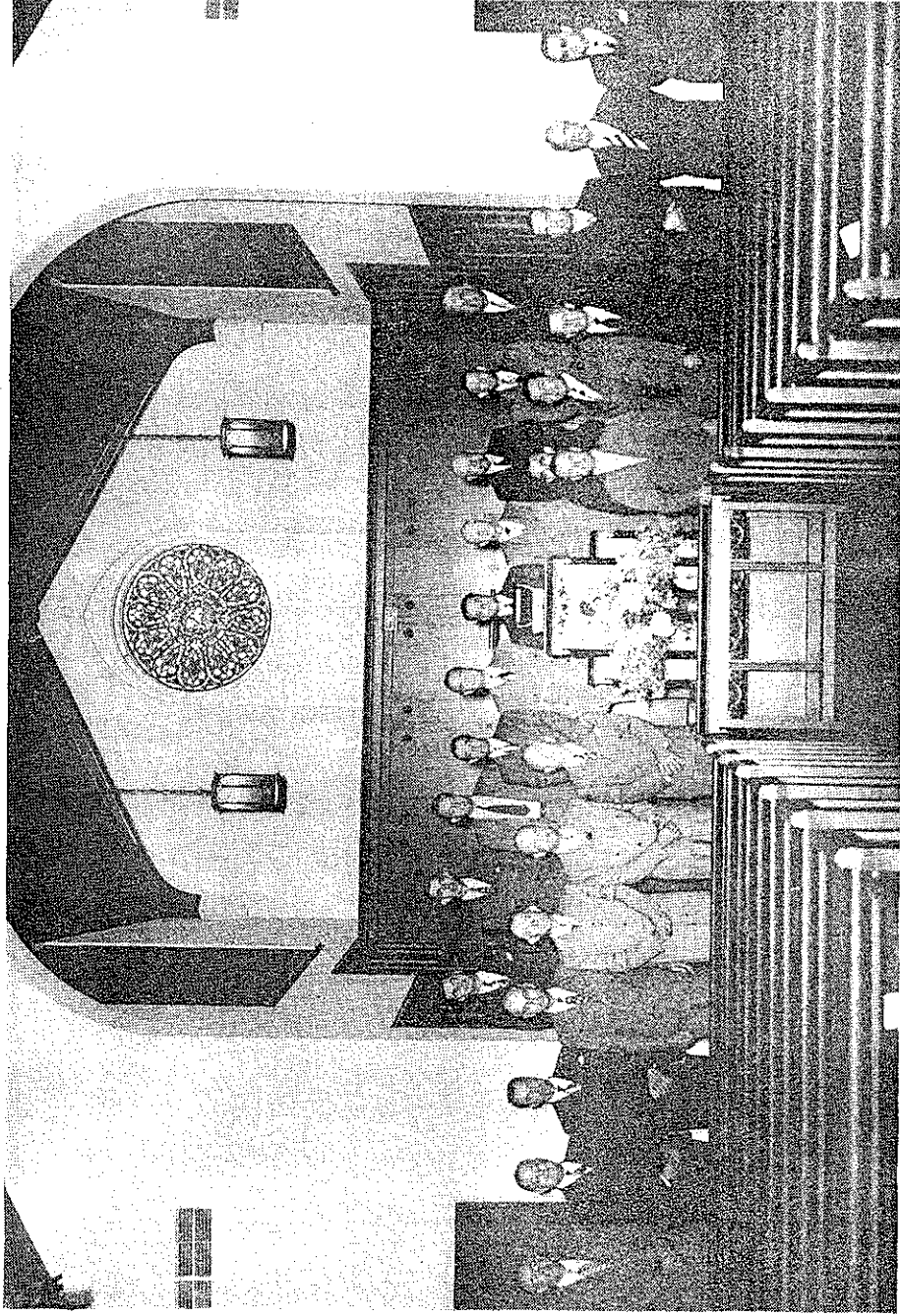
ENTER TO WORSHIP

1100 Turner Drive  
Telephone: 3124

*Thomas H. Talbot, Minister*

Church Office  
Telephone: 4213

DEPART TO SERVE



### THE SESSION

T. H. Talbot, Moderator	Joe Finley	J. A. Mansinger
Conrad Vernon, Clerk	O. H. Grissom	B. D. Marshall
Don Brazier	H. L. Herron	M. M. Martin
Paul Culver	Elmer Isgren	Curtis Morris
Joe Dunsworth	R. L. LeFourneau	E. O. McWhorter

(Meets first Wednesday evening of month)

Dr. H. H. Niehuss
O. L. Norton
Remberth Rea
Charles Seward
W. Bruner Smith
J. Melroy Thompson

### THE DIACONATE

H. D. MacDonald, Chairman	J. W. Hutchings
George Sammons, Benevolence Treasurer	F. M. McCain
L. J. Barbary	E. R. McWhorter
Searcy Birdsong, Jr.	Sam Moore
J. W. Booth	Frank Rains
Walter Brooking	Lawrence Rogers
W. H. Christian	Clark Sample
John B. Dickson	
Robert Flanagan	

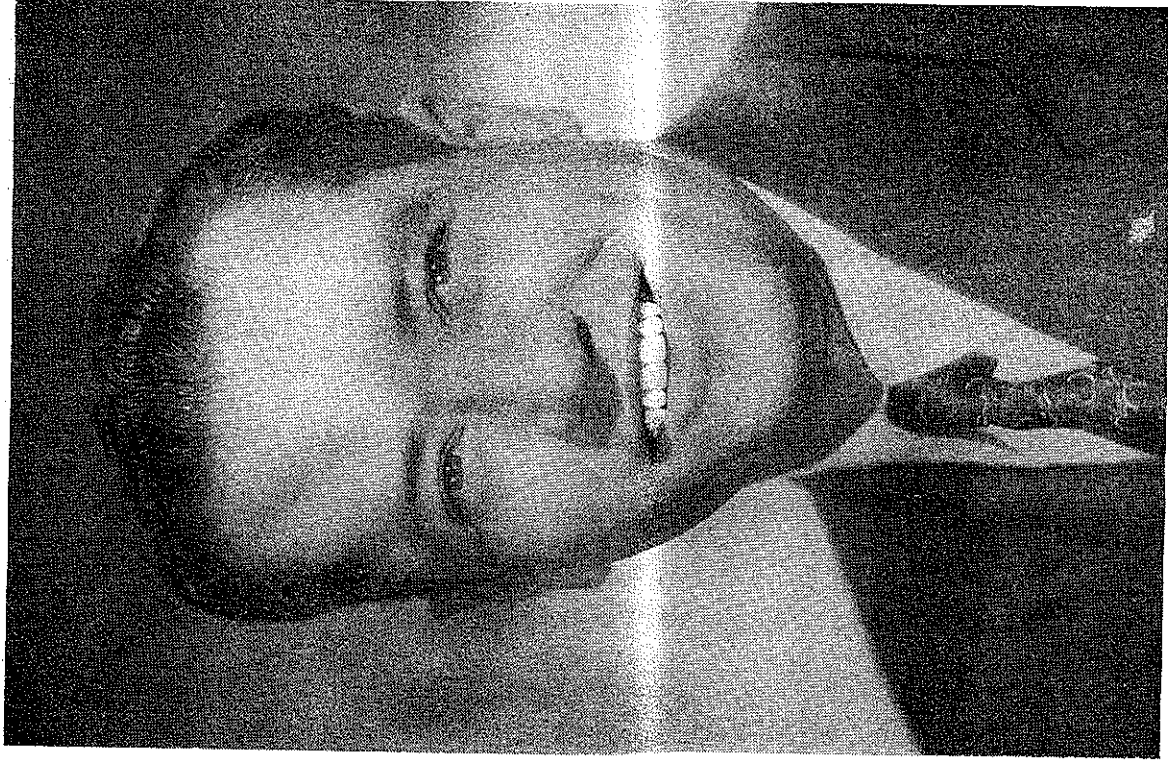
(Meets second Monday evening of month)

Merrill Matthews, Treasurer
Talmage Horn, Secretary

J. D. Saxon
Lawrence Skipper
Hamp Smead
J. L. Tune
R. L. Whitehead
L. S. Whitson
R. W. Whitworth

### 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



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.

#### THOMAS HARDY TALBOT

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

« »

"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.

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."

1921-1929, Rev. R. M. Hall accepted the call to this Church. Much progress was made during Rev. Hall's pastorate. He organized the society of "Christian Endeavor" for the young people, which became a great power in the Church. Delegates were sent to Knoxville to the Young People's Conference, the Auxiliary bearing the expense. In 1922 Mrs. J. J. Flewollen and the Auxiliary took out a joint scholarship, a memorial to Mrs. Flewollen's son Wilbut. During this same year Mrs. Flewollen was made Presbyterial Secretary of "S.P.C." In 1923 the first Missionary study was held and the offering sent to Japan. A very progressive and active pastorate. Rev. Hall's daughter, Mrs. Malcolm Martin, now resides in Longview and is a member of this Church.

1929-1931—Supplies. After Dr. Hall's resignation, for one and a half years the Church was served by two young ministers from the Evangelical Seminary in Dallas. Mr. Teed came first and only stayed a short while but greatly endeared himself to the people. Followed by Mr. Teed was Mr. Castrodale, with his wife and little son, this family having formerly been missionaries to Brazil. While here Mr. Castrodale organized a jail mission and each Sunday afternoon held services for prisoners.

1931-1938—Rev. R. L. Owen. Rev. Owen's pastorate was the beginning of the men's work in the Church, a banquet being held for them every month and sponsored by the women. The men made possible an Educational Director and Secretary for the Pastor. In 1932 a brick manse was built at 1100 Turner Drive, on a lot donated by Mr. and Mrs. Opha Grissom. The young people took the "Highway Plan," no longer having the "Christian Endeavor." The spirituality of the congregation greatly increased during this pastorate with quite an increase in membership. More earnestness of purpose, cordiality and good fellowship was enjoyed than at any time previous.

1939-1945, Rev. A. F. Fogartie, D.D., came to Longview Church from Selma, Alabama, on April 23, 1939. Plans were made for a new Church building and by July, 1940, excavation for the new Church was finished. Church services were held each Sunday at the Senior High School. On October 6, a date to be long remembered by members of the Church, a cornerstone of the Church was laid. Dr. Fogartie, assisted by the outpost minister, Rev. Wm. H. Walker, conducted the service. Dr. Fogartie stood on one side of the cornerstone and Rev. Walker on the other, each with a hand on the stone and the entire congregation joined hands to form one unbroken circle with the ministers and the cornerstone. March 16 was designated as the date for the official opening of the Church. On that day the first service was held in the new Church. In September of 1945, Dr. Fogartie resigned his pastorate here to become the superintendent of Home Missions of the Synod of Arkansas. While here Dr. Fogartie enjoyed a wide and varied friendship and caused widespread sorrow to those who loved him so dearly upon his resignation.

## CHURCH HISTORY (Continued)

1946—Rev. Thomas Hardy Talbot, Ch. (Lt. Col.) U. S. Army, was called to this Church, March 16, 1946. In November of that year, the officers of the Church launched their plan to retire the entire indebtedness on the Church by the first of the year, January, 1947. With the untiring efforts of the Deacon Board, Mr. Opha Grissom, Chairman of the Board, and Mr. O. L. Norton, Chairman of the Finance Committee for the campaign, the entire indebtedness on the Church was retired. The Session then designed March 16, 1947, the sixth anniversary of the new Church and also the first anniversary of Rev. Talbot, as the dedication of the Church, at the morning worship. With thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings, with gratitude to every one who had shared in the erection of the Church, the building was dedicated to the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom. Mr. Opha Grissom, a representative of the Church, delivered the keys of the Church to the minister, Rev. Talbot.

Much progress has been made in the past two years. A Director of Religious Education, Miss Nell McCall, has been added to the Church Staff. The Church School, with Mr. Gene McWhorter as superintendent, and Miss McCall's leadership has grown into one of the finest in the Church's history. The Woman's Auxiliary, now called "The Women of the Church" is doing a wonderful work, with five circles, one training circle and a Junior and Senior Business and Professional Women's Circle. The wonderful dinners and social hours, sponsored by the women and the extra furnishings and touches they have given the Church will be long remembered. The Men of the Church has grown into a large and active group and are doing a fine work. The young people of the Church, "Presbyterian Youth Fellowship," are most outstanding. With Rev. Talbot's love for young people and Miss McCall's able direction they have come a long way, now having about 35 active members. This year the Church had good representation from them both at the Young People's Conference in Kerrville and at Camp Gilmont. Two of our young people are on the Presbytery Council, Miss Nancy Rogers and Miss Ann Houlliston. Out of their own budget they furnished pews for the new chapel at Camp Gilmont. The Young Adults of the Church, consisting mostly of young married couples; a wonderful group, faithful and devoted to their Church, enjoy many hours of fellowship together. Miss Verta Eckman, our faithful organist, might well be called "A Child of the Church," as she has never held a membership in any other Church and has served as organist for many years. Miss Verta at the organ and Miss Viola Eckman in the choir is a part of the Church. Mrs. J. F. Collier, Choir Director, is doing a good job with the voices in the Church and Mrs. Wm. J. Houlliston, secretary, keeps up with the business and financial status for the Church.

The Church has enjoyed many improvements this year. The Sanctuary, Ladies' Parlor and Fellowship Hall were installed with air conditioning; furnace heat has been added to the Nursery and Primary rooms, a cottage built at Camp Gilmont and many smaller improvements and additions. There are many we would like to mention if space would permit. Ours is a grand Church with a grand membership and a greatly beloved pastor, who not only keeps his own flock intact, but is very close to the people of Longview in religious, civic and social affairs.

« »

### ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

**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

« »

### 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

« »

### ORDER OF SERVICES

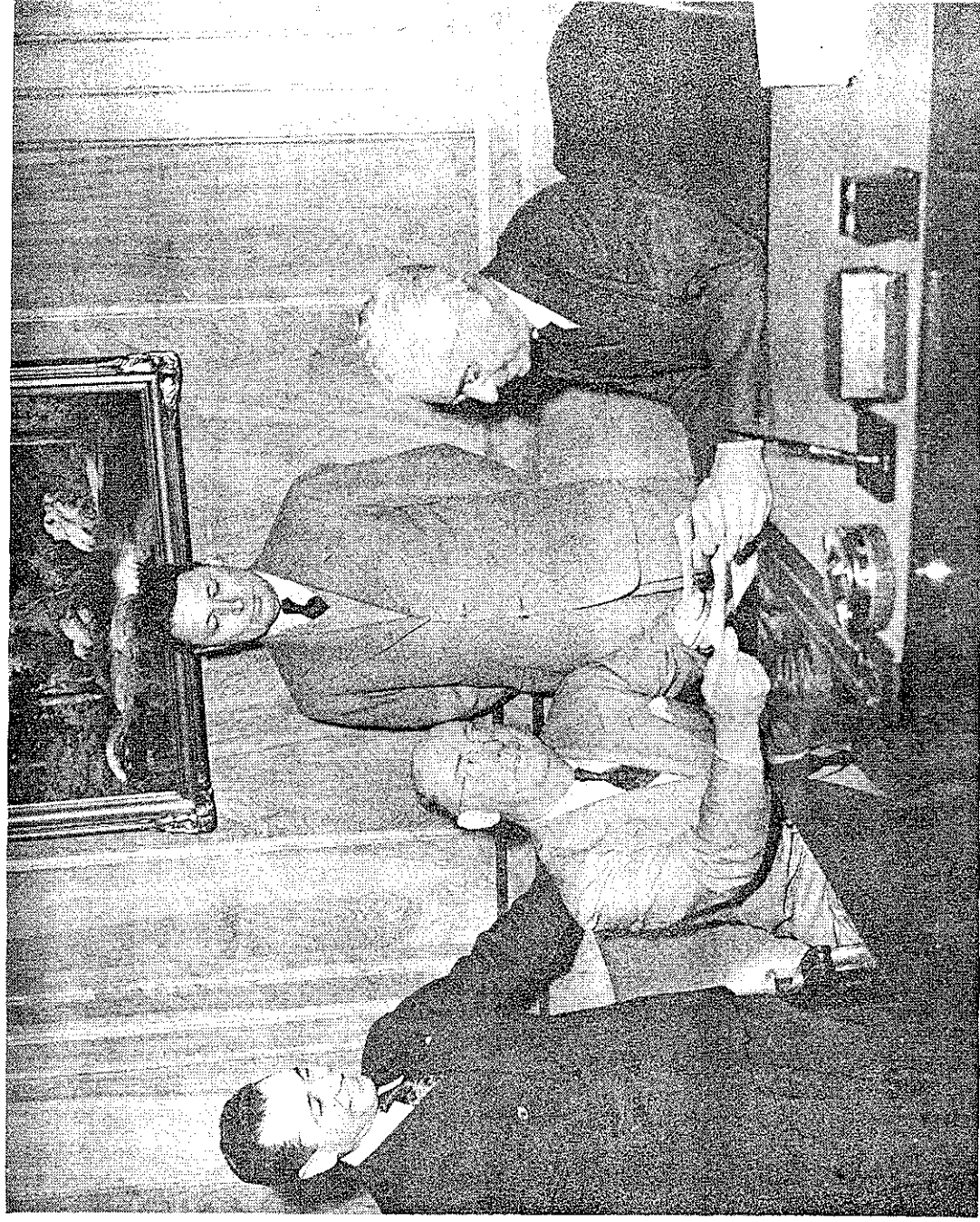
#### Sunday:

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 1874.

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 entire staff of pastor, Rev. Win. 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. Odeh, Chairman, chairman of the Deacons Board, and Mr. F. J. Jones, chairman of the Finance Committee for the year, and the untiring efforts of every Deacon of the year, 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.

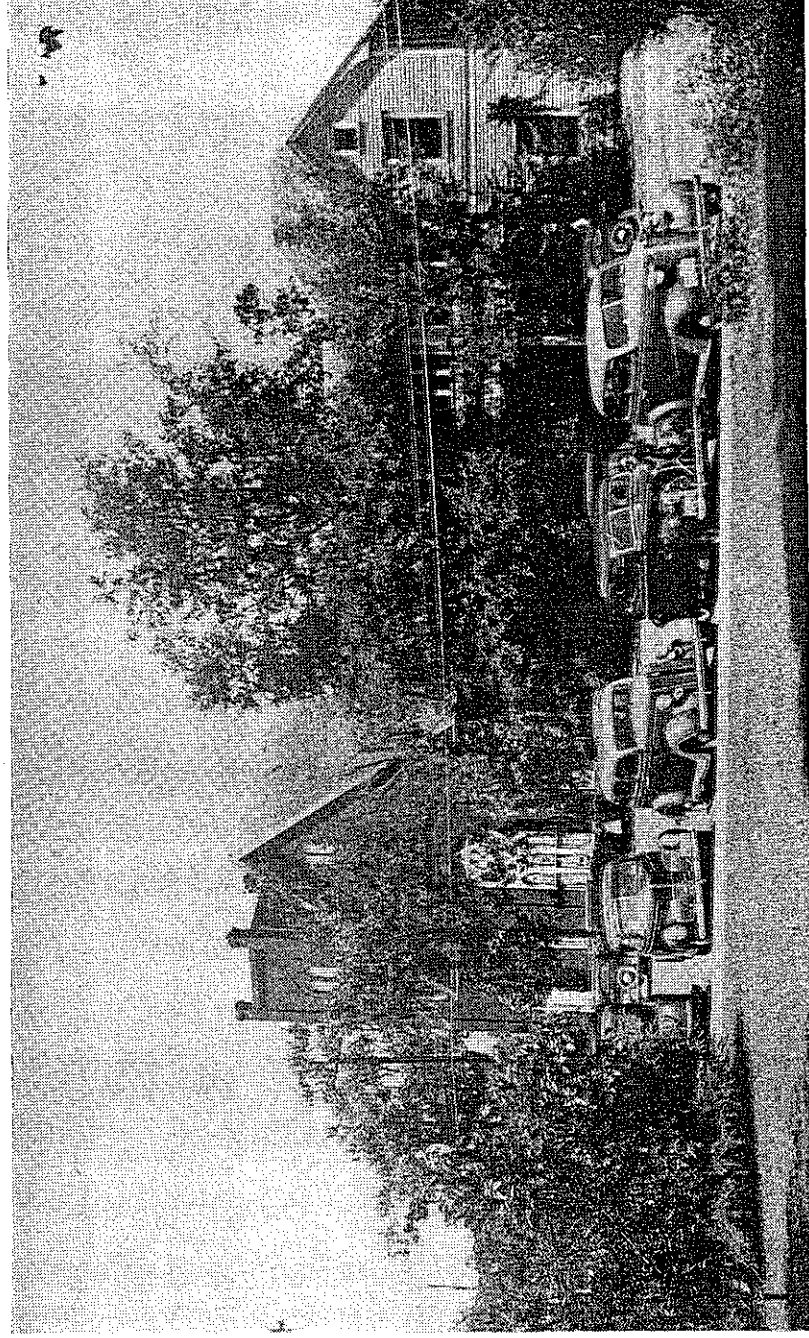
« »

### 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.

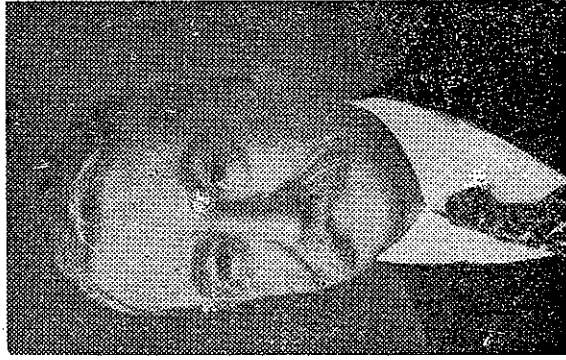


« »

## 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 908 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



## 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 City," the First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas, will, in 1994, celebrate its one hundred twentieth anniversary.

The first church was founded by sixteen 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. 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. George Moore, and Mrs. T.A. Flewellen. 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 dollar, one hundred acres of his cornfields, extending from Tyler Street north to Highway 80, to the then Southern Pacific Railroad. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (pages 161 - 163 and 253 - 254) of the Old Longview Town

/

<sup>6</sup> Plat. This property is on the \_\_\_\_\_  
corner of Methvin and Center Streets, the deed duly recorded  
in the deed records of Gregg County.

<sup>7</sup>  
In 1874, the first church building was dedicated. It  
was built on a foundation of quarried rock from rock hill,  
the highest elevation in the area. <sup>8</sup> The building 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 <sup>9</sup> which still calls our people  
to worship today. Tradition tells us that the bell came  
from "Walnut Grove" plantation located south of the Sabine  
River. 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. He was pastor until 1880, when he resign-  
ed his pastorate. He was followed in 1881 by Reverend Mr.  
J.C. Buchanan, and 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  
<sup>12</sup>  
Aid Society." Some four men were honorary members. Also  
during Reverend Buchanan's tenure, nine members, by order  
of the session, were dismissed at their own request to  
<sup>13</sup>  
form the new Alpine Presbyterian Church north of town.  
During this time, the Presbyterians, Baptists, and  
Methodists often met together after attending Sunday School  
<sup>14</sup>  
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 concert 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.

20

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

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

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 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, <sup>32</sup> 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 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.

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

2nd 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  
City,"<sup>1</sup> the First Presbyterian Church, Longview, Texas,  
will, in 1994, celebrate its one hundred twentieth  
anniversary.

The first church was founded by sixteen resident  
members in Longview, of the Old School Southern Presbyterian  
Church,<sup>2</sup> 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.  
George Moore, and Mrs. T.A. Flewollen. 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, to the then Southern  
Pacific Railroad.<sup>4</sup> 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 <sup>5</sup>

(pages 161 - 163 and 253 - 254) of the Old Longview Town

<sup>6</sup> Plat. This property is on the

corner of Methvin and Center Streets, the deed duly recorded in the deed records of Gregg County.

In 1874, the first church building was dedicated. It

was built on a foundation of quarried rock from Rock Hill,

the highest elevation in the area. The building which

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

still calls our people to worship today. The grounds were

planted with pineoak 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. 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,"

February 2, 1882, charging an initiation fee of twenty-five

cents, weekly dues of five cents. Some four men were honorary members. 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.

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 two books, The Lone Star and The Texas Presbyterian.

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 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 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, thereafter fifty dollars a month. The manse next door was rented for ten dollars a month. He taught the Bible Class, electric lights were installed, and Sunday afternoon services were held in the jail.<sup>19</sup> 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 this 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.

<sup>20</sup>

The second church building was erected during the time Reverend Dr. George H. Steen was pastor, year 1900, who 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 sixteen hundred dollars. Then in 1907<sup>21</sup> 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.  
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.

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. 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.

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.<sup>29</sup> 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<sup>32</sup> 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 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<sup>33</sup> moved 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

40

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

41

appointed to plan for the 1990's. Through this committee,

the renovation of the old office and educational wing was

42

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

41

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 ~~X~~ and other programs. *A count*

Bill and Dot O'Neal have shown continued devotion to this healthy, active ~~X~~ and spiritually growing congregation. *E count*  
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.

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. 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 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 Ringek,  
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," 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. These charter members were  
Colonel and Mrs. R. B. Levy, Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Carter,  
Mrs. T.A. Fleweller, 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), Lots number \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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.<sup>7</sup> The Reverend Dr. W.K. Marshall, organizer of the church,<sup>8</sup> 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,"<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> A Mission church was organized in the Elderville community.

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. Gallahan 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. 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. 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 in 1962 had increased from three hundred and thirty in 1946, 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. 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, who was joined in 1979 by Dr. Jim Smith as the

17

18

Director of Christian Education and Music. A Mother's Day Out program grew into a Pre-school and Day Care Center in

19

1979, 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 Drain Holtkamp Memorial Organ in 1982. The renovation of the original building that houses

20

21

offices, 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.