

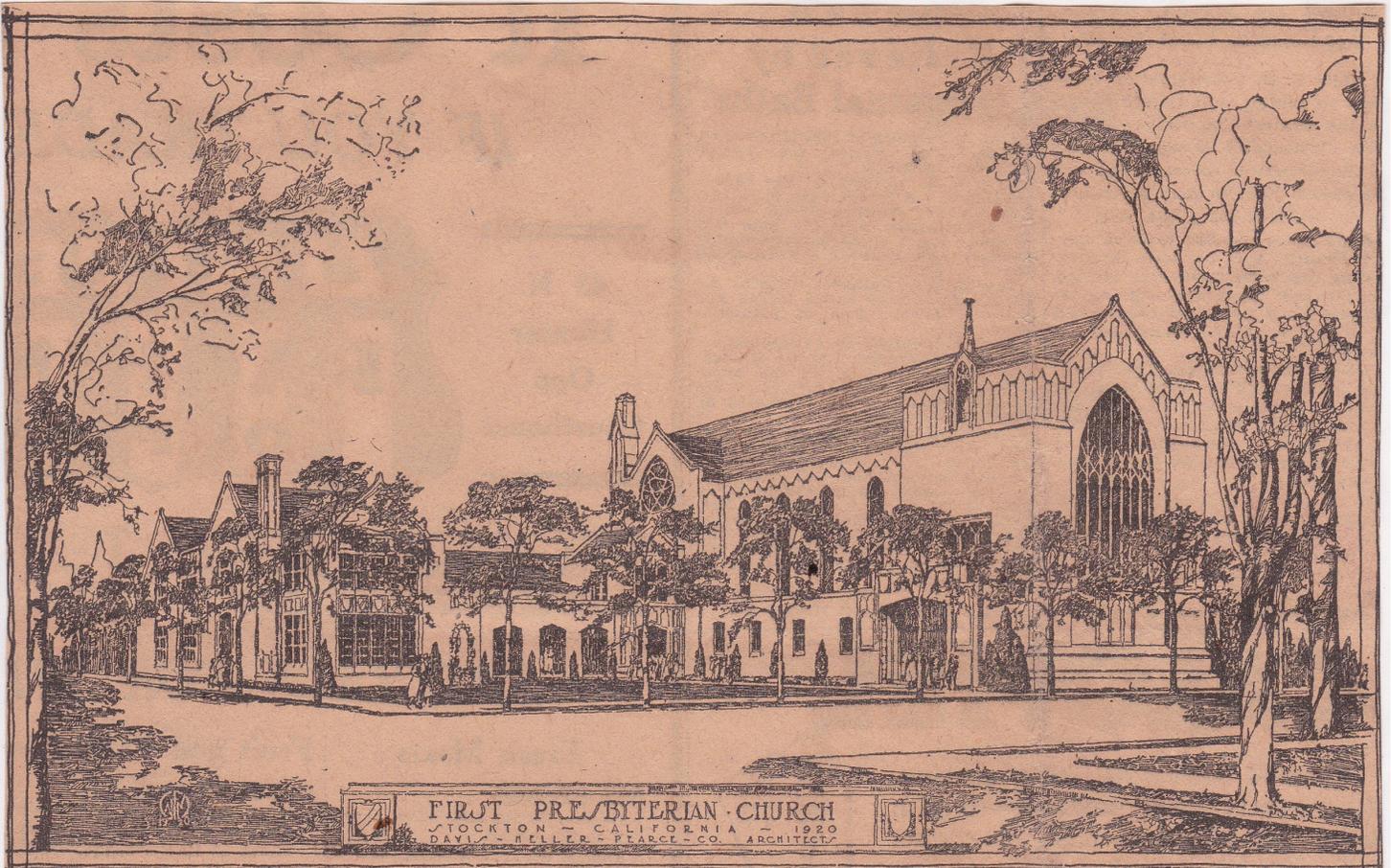
WINDOW SPECIAL EDITION

March 2023

STOCKTON DAILY EVENING RECORD, STOCKTON, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA—

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1920

The New Presbyterian Church For Which Building Drive Is Soon to Start



**EDIFICE WILL BE
MOST MODERN AND
GOTHIC DESIGN**

**WILL BE LOCATED ON EL
DORADO SCHOOL
SITE**

**Community Enterprise With
Community Features Is Aim
of the Congregation**

The first Presbyterian parish will begin its campaign soon for a building fund to erect its new church on property formerly occupied by the El Dorado school. The deed to the property will be recorded within a day or two. The new edifice will be a modern church in every detail and is well planned to be a "church for every day in the week." Those who have fathered the plan have from the first said it was to be "a community enterprise with community features" and the plans show how carefully it has been arranged with this thought in mind. The building itself is to be of Tudor Gothic design and will carry the general lines of the old Gothic cathedrals. The main building is to stand on the north side of the site facing El Dorado street and the club house and educational hall will stand a little to the rear attached to the main church and looking out upon Vine street with a slight ell turning back to El Dorado. Across the front

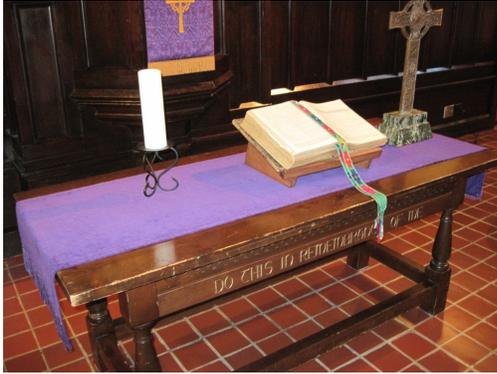
of the community house is an open cloister opening out upon the court parked with beautiful grass, flowers and shrubbery. The church itself will open onto this court and a great are glass window will adorn the end facing upon El Dorado street. Inside, the church is much like the old building recently taken down excepting that the aisles will be enclosed in arches like the great cathedrals and will afford those entering the church opportunity to enter unobserved. A spacious foyer occupies the rear of the church under the great window and lends a distinctively friendly atmosphere to those entering and leaving service.

Community House

Perhaps the newest features and most interesting of the new church are to be found in the community house into which the congregation is putting the largest part of its investment.

A TOUR OF OUR HISTORIC BUILDING

HISTORIC COMMUNION TABLE



The Communion Table was a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Brace S. Davis. Mr. Davis was an Elder and it is believed that he built the table. It was designed from a communion table built for a church in Salsbury, Massachusetts in 1854. Our table was made from timber salvages from our first church building after it burned in the Summer of 1936. It was presented to the church by Mr. & Mrs. Davis on March 26, 1937.

OUR CHURCH BELL



The bronze bell was purchased in the East and shipped to the West Coast, where it was installed in our first church building.

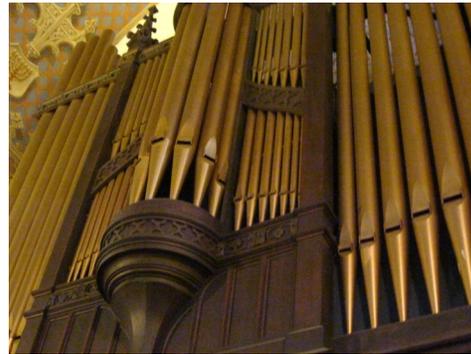
The bell was cast in 1850 and has been in every church building occupied by First Pres, including our present building.



E.M. SKINNER ORGAN

Our organ is celebrating its 100th birthday too!

When our current building was finished in 1923, a new pipe organ was donated by Mrs. John C. Thompson as a memorial to her son, Edward Rees Thompson. Mr. Thompson was an accomplished musician and the organist in our former building. At the time of installation, our organ was one of only two on the entire West Coast. In 1937, the Thompson Memorial Organ was augmented by a set of cathedral chimes donated by the Kings Daughters in memory of Mrs. John. C. Thompson.



CELTIC CROSS

The cross was purchased with memorial funds in 1954. There are no identification markers on the cross such as the artisan who designed it, or where it was created. One can only guess why the artisan chose to add elephants in the design. We do know that elephants are common in religious iconography.



In Africa the elephant signifies strength, royalty, dignity, wisdom, longevity, and happiness. For Christians in Africa, the elephant is a symbol of clarity and temperance and signifies Christ trampling a serpent. This is an animal with extraordinary longevity and a mind that never forgets. Its symbolism as the Son of God is well founded.

BAPTISMAL FONT



The Baptismal Font was a gift from Mrs. J. A. Patterson in memory of her husband. It was installed in 1925. Its base is a pillar of Verdi antique marble. Its basin is supported by four bronze angels seated on the Verdi marble pillar.



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



"Our beautiful stained glass windows which adorn our Sanctuary were installed over the course of over two decades, with the final group of aisle windows dedicated in 1956.

They were made by Charles J Connick, Associates, and are

almost all donated on behalf of loved ones and families who have been a part of our church community. Stained glass is an art form from a time when many people were not



literate, and these colorful images told the story of the Bible with no need for words or reading. If you follow along the smaller windows along the aisles on either side of

the Sanctuary, you will find the life of Jesus told in scenes. The large clerestory windows up high on these same sides depict Biblical figures and contain scenes from their lives woven into the artwork. The Great East Window is the culmination of the entire series and represents the Great Commission, with Peter and Andrew carrying their fishing nets on either side of Jesus Christ. Throughout the windows, the background is interlacing geometric shapes in red and blue, which represent divine love and wisdom. Above the organ at the front of the Sanctuary there is a dove descending, representing the Holy Spirit descending upon the church. These lovely windows are full of details of Biblical and church history to discover—how many can you find?"



CALLED PASTORS THROUGH THE YEARS



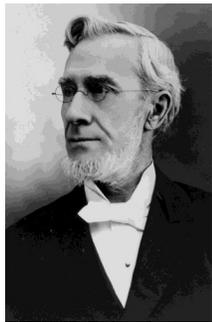
James Woods
1850-1854

On March 17, 1850, Woods, 7 men and 1 woman (the pastor's wife) organized First Presbyterian Church.



William C. Mosher
1854-1855

He was the first Moderator of the Los Angeles Presbytery.



Thomas K. Davis
1856-1857

He was a Welsh Presbyterian.



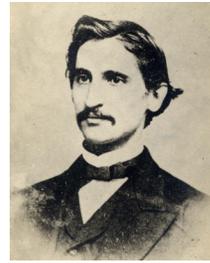
John Anderson, D.D.
1857-1862

Under his leadership the church outgrew the first building. In 11 months, he raised money to contract a new church.



R. P. Happersett, D.D.
1862-1865

He lived in the church and was also Superintendent of Schools.



J.A. Skinner
1865-1868

He served only 3 years.



Ben-Ezra-Stiles Ely, D.D.
1868-1872

He was a former attorney and an eloquent and interesting speaker.



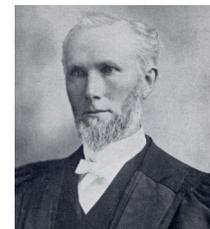
Samuel Robinson
1872-1877

He had just graduated from Oxford College in England when he came to Stockton in 1872.



L.Y. Hays
1877-1878

8 ladies met in the Pastor's study to organize a missionary society. First women's organization in the Western US to support missionary projects



Robert Mackenzie, D.D.
1879-1880

He was considered the finest pulpit orator in Stockton and church was crowded every week.



Levi M. Schofield
1880-1882

After serving here, he served many churches on the East coast.



Horace S. Snodgrass
1882-1883

He served as a Stated Supply Pastor.



Cecil Spencer Sprecher
1883-1886

Sunday School membership increased. Entire front of the church was extended and a second story was added for Sunday School rooms.



Donald Munro
1887-1890

A very popular pastor. Congregation split due to his theology. Left the church along with a large portion of the congregation to form a new church.



J. B. Campbell
1890-1894

King's Daughter's Circle organized.



Philo Fuller Phelps
1894-1897

Member of the Sacramento Presbytery and served as Stated Supply. He was an evangelist for the San Francisco Presbytery.



J. Wilson Lundy, D.D.
1897-1916

One of the most popular ministers, serving 19 years. Congregation grew to over 300.



William Graham Moore, D.D.
1916-1917

He died shortly after his installation from complications of surgery. He was the father of an active member of the congregation.



John M. Skinner, D.D.
1917-1924

The church grew rapidly under his guidance. He began the drive to build a new church on El Dorado & Vine Streets.



Ward Willis Long, D.D.
1925-1953

Along with his spiritual leadership, he gave much energy to paying off the church's mortgage.



Theodore Tritenbach, D.B.
Co-Pastor
1949-1953

Instrumental in implementing the first parish paper, "The Presbyterian News and Views."



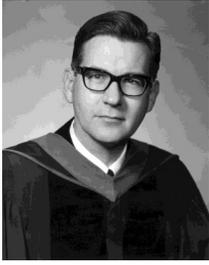
James William Baird, D.D.
1954-1964

Congregation grew to need 2 services. Outreach expanded with radio broadcast. Koinonia Hall was completed.



Marvin Jerome Keyser
1964-1972

Church floundered and membership dwindled. Rev. Keyser resigned.



David C. McCulloch, Jr., D.D.
1974-1989

An era of new leadership and enthusiasm began. A Vietnamese Fellowship was started. Congregation grew.



Steven Carter, D.D.
1990-2002

Along with the Presbytery and General Assembly and other churches, a Spanish language congregation was developed.



Thomas A. Pitman
2004-2007

A second, more casual service was initiated. When he left, many members of the congregation left with him.



Gus Wright, III
2010-2016

He worked with the unhoused in our neighborhood and brought in new members.



Ashley M. Love
2019-

Rev. Love was four months into her first call here at FPCS when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. She and this wonderful congregation have weathered many storms and celebrated many joys together already. She is excited to see where Jesus our Good Shepherd leads us in the years to come!

KOINONIA HALL

Wishing to bring new members to the church, there was a need to provide a facility that could provide seven day a week ministry. The new facility would reach out to the neighborhood and nearby schools, provide recreation, club work, counseling and fellowship. It would be large enough for the congregation to sit down for dinner in one room. The dinner would be prepared in a kitchen with state of the art equipment.

Koinonia Hall was built in 1961 and has served the community of Stockton to this day.

Over the years, programs have included serving senior citizens to take part in various recreations.

Other church groups would have a pleasant place to meet and worship.

Neighborhood children would be able to play sports, like basketball and volleyball after school and also take advantage of tutoring, should they need the extra help with school work.



IMPORTANT MILESTONES IN BUILDING KOINONIA HALL

January 9, 1956—Congregation decides to remain in present location and to serve the inner-city of Stockton.

January 21, 1957—Congregation hears recommendation that preliminary plans for another building to house the activities that are now being conducted in Westminster Hall to allow for expanded programs for all groups, with an emphasis on youth activities.

May 6, 1957—Congregation elects Building Planning Committee under Edward Betz, Chairman.

August 7, 1958—Contract signed with architectural firm of Reynolds and Chamberlain.

January 19, 1961—Bids are opened and contract let to Modern Engineering and Construction Company.

January 23, 1961—Ground-breaking ceremony is held.

October 8-13, 1961—Dedication Week.

THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

Today, our beloved church campus is in the midst of a resurgence of activity following the COVID-19 shutdown, and God is blessing First Presbyterian Church with many new partners and opportunities. On Sunday mornings, two congregations in addition to First Presbyterian worship here on campus, making our classrooms and meeting spaces almost fully in use week to week. As a host congregation with Family Promise, our classrooms are converted four weeks a year to house families experiencing homelessness. During these weeks Westminster Hall becomes a living and dining room, and Geneva and the Parlor become bunks for our overnight volunteers! During the weekdays, our front office is not only a hub for church activity, but has become a place of help for our neighbors who are in need of basic supplies. Our congregation faithfully donates ready to use food, toiletries, and socks which are packed into bags for the many people who knock on our office door each day.

Moving across the breezeway to Koinonia Hall, each Wednesday between 65-85 neighbors are warmly welcomed into our gym to receive food, clothing, books, and household goods during our weekly food pantry distribution. Without Koinonia's kitchen and storage area, this vibrant and growing ministry would not be possible! Throughout the week the gym is also used by multiple youth and community basketball groups and once a month a popular local AA meeting. You may notice our lovely garden area where our members grow beautiful vegetables throughout the year. Often the extras get gleaned for the food pantry distribution. We continue to have more opportunities to host community events on campus, and we are delighted to use this beautiful sacred space to bless our neighborhood and city as God leads us. Please join us in praying for our next 100 years!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO HELP SUPPORT THIS EVENT

Cynthia & Ron Allison

In memory of AJ Alessio,
Dorothy & Louis Lee &
Mario Alessio

Gloria Balis

In Honor of Nathan Allison
In Honor of Lee and Gloria's
wedding anniversary

Alice Callistro
Sylvia Cavanaugh
Carol Dietrich

In Memory of Dorothy Callistro

Janette Dones
Tola Eley

In Memory of Alex Dones
In Memory of Nita Taylor
In Memory of Dana Ferguson

Donna Hammel
Gail Herron
Craig Holmes
Doug & Cheryl Hunt

With Gratitude for past Building-Care Crews: Aub Thomas,
Larry Taylor, Jerry Roek, Verner Strombom, & Doug Hunt

Eleanor & Bob Lawrence
Marilyn Lloyd

In Memory of Elizabeth A Lawrence
In Memory of Robert Lloyd
In Thankfulness for God's Blessing and love shown at
El Dorado & Vine

Jane Knoop
Gretchen Louden
Lee Mecum
Kim & Earl Roider
Janet & Jim Sepiol

In Memory of Ellen Knoop
In Memory of Jim Louden
In Memory of Suzanne Mecum

Wilfred Tamon
Suzi Treganza
Christina Wohlford
Margaret Zuckerman

In Memory of Eve Roeser
In Memory of Edna Stewart

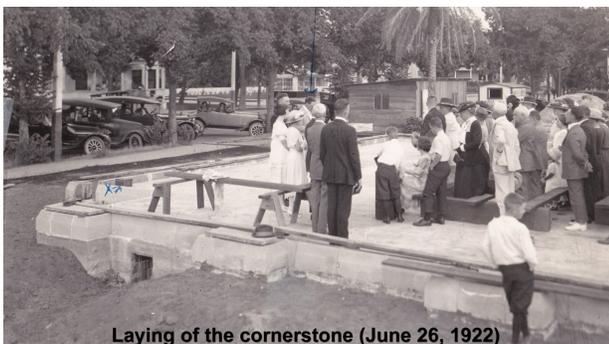
In Memory of Kathy White



"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do
good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10

Our thanks also to the
Ruth Camp Music Fund
The Bob Lloyd Fund

For generous support to help underwrite these events.



Laying of the cornerstone (June 26, 1922)

