

Original church built 1879
Side room added 1907

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First Presbyterian Church

Pine City, Minnesota



*"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling
place in all generations."*

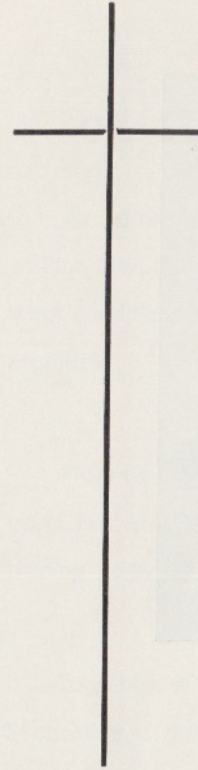
Psalms 90:1

Sunday, September 13, 1970

Centennial Celebration

1870 - 1970





As we observe our Centennial let us ponder deeply on what the Church means to us. We feel we know something of what motivated the pioneers when the Presbyterian Church was established in Pine City. But are we fully aware of what our role is in the days ahead? We can all be a part of the answer to that question when we commit our lives anew to the Christ who said: "That the Son of Man did not come to be served; He came to serve and to give His life to redeem many people." (Matthew 20:28)

Amid a world of breathtaking change Christ calls us to be His servants of reconciliation. We cannot escape that call to respond to the needs and opportunities that surround us.

This Centennial celebration offers us a most favorable opportunity and incentive to make such a commitment.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



IRVING O. THOMPSON

Born at Shakopee, Minnesota
Graduate of Shakopee High School
Graduate of Macalester College
Graduate of Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Omaha
Has served town and country churches in Nebraska, North Dakota,
and Minnesota.

PRAYER

Our Gracious God, as disciples of Thine, help us that we might renew our allegiance to Thee. There are so many forms of ministry for the church of our time. We are called to a ministry of healing, of compassion, of forgiving love, of reconciliation. May each of us be ready to say to Thee: "Here am I Lord, use me." We offer this prayer in the spirit of Christ that the world might have life and have it in all its fullness. Amen.

1870 - 1970

One Hundred Years - Our Centennial Year

As we come to this, the 100th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Pine City, Minnesota, it is our desire to look back to our beginnings, to see what conditions prevailed in the community and to see why this church was organized.

From time immemorial the Ojibway Indians had lived and hunted in these parts; but up to the year 1836 the only whites found here were those who had trading posts at Pokegama and Chengwatana.

Long before there was a Minnesota, the Rev. Frederik Ayer and Rev. Wm. Boutwell and their families established a church, school and printing press in a collection of primitive structures at the present Ralph Ausmus homesite, on the East side of Lake Pokegama.

There was no Pine City in 1836, but the little village of Chengwatana had sprung up on the banks of the Snake River on the government road.

Here was the first county seat, until the railroad between St. Paul and Superior came through in 1870. Then the village was moved bodily to the present site, and a busy lumbering town came into being. To this pioneer lumbering community, missionaries came from the Presbytery of St. Paul to minister to the lumbermen and their families. Rev. D. C. Lyon visited Pine City several times in 1870.

Soon a desire was expressed by a number of persons for the organization of a Presbyterian Church and the following petition was sent to the Committee on Missions of St. Paul Presbytery:

Pine City, Minnesota

November 16, 1870

"We the undersigned persons desiring a Presbyterian Church to be organized in this place and wishing themselves to become members at its formation, hereby request the Presbytery of St. Paul to take early steps to effect the same."

Signed: Ann E. Bryan

Sarah E. King

Augusta Ferson

In answer to the above petition a committee of Presbytery, the Rev. D. C. Lyon and the Rev. D. E. Wells, came to Pine City on November 23, 1870. Soon after examination and consultation it was decided to grant the prayer of the petitioners. The following persons were accepted as members of the church about to be instituted: By letter: Mrs. Ann E. Bryan, Mrs. Sarah E. King and Mrs. Augusta C. Ferson. Miss Ida F. Ferson was accepted by confession.

There was no pastor, no church building and no money, but these women did have a mission. Because of this they established a mission church. It has grown with the years. They extended the hand of fellowship to all who came into the community, including the other churches which have since followed their example. That church which they ushered into the world with prayer and dedicated with service, has since given of itself to provide an understanding of God and His goodness to hundreds of men, women and children. Through its precepts and the examples of its pastors, officers and members, it has proven that the spirit of the Holy Trinity can grow among those who have mingled here and those whose lives they have touched in far distant places.

The first elder to be installed was Wm. Francy, in 1873, who served as clerk for many years.

The first Sunday School was organized by Mrs. Ann E. Bryan.

At first all church meetings were held in the Dudder Hotel, but later on in the school house. In 1878 the church decided to build a place for worship. The records show that on July 16, 1878 a meeting was held at the school house for the purpose of effecting an organization giving the trustees the power to borrow \$350 from the Church Board of Election to complete the church building.

This church building, the very first in Pine City, was dedicated in 1879.



In 1907 the side room was added. This was accomplished largely through the zeal of Mrs. Matthews, a pastor's wife. She was also instrumental in getting the pulpit furniture, the piano, and the first hymnals, as a gift from House of Hope Church, St. Paul. Mrs. Matthews was also an able speaker and filled the pulpit for quite a while after her husband became ill.

A manse was built about 1909 under the leadership of Mr. H. W. Harte. Rev. Paddock was the first pastor to occupy the Manse.

A remodeling program was begun in 1947 when the building was raised and a basement built to give more room for Sunday School and social functions. This work was done under the supervision of Rev. J. H. Mastin and the fellowship and cooperation of the men and women during this period was a joy to all. The new Fellowship Rooms were initiated with a meeting here of St. Paul Presbytery in the fall of 1948.

The plans to enlarge the sanctuary had to be deferred for a time, but in 1954, under the leadership of Rev. J. K. Macfarlane it was decided to go ahead and finish the project.

The task proved to be much greater than anticipated, but by the steadfast efforts of all the committee members in soliciting funds, and with much voluntary labor, the old building was straightened out and renovated. An entirely new entrance was made and there were new walls, new floors, and a new furnace. The new pews, the lovely pulpit and the altar cross, the fine Sunday School rooms, the Pastor's study, and the modern kitchen make us truly thankful to all those who helped to make it possible.

At our 85th Anniversary Celebration this beautifully remodeled church building, and all the members of this church, were re-dedicated to the work of God.



In 1961 the present Manse was purchased. Rev. Douglas Throckmorton and his family were the first to occupy the present Manse.

The "Old Manse" was torn down in 1969, and we now have a lovely lawn at the front of our church which is now in the process of being landscaped.

From the very first this church has looked to its women for help in many ways. A Ladies Aid was organized early in the history of the church, and the cleaning, the money collecting, the dinners served by them, were often the sole means of keeping the church going. They still do these things, and are still busy raising money to help keep the church going. Several years ago the name of the organization was changed from "Ladies Aid" to the Women's Association. There are 90 members on the roll. They are organized into two circles. The Gleaners Circle meets in the afternoon, and the Mary Martha Circle meets in the evenings. Both circles have a Bible study and also do all they can to assist the Association as a whole.

We would like to pay tribute to all the women of the "Ladies Aid" and the "Association" who have worked so hard for their church in the past 100 years. There are so many outstanding persons that it is impossible to name them all. But our thanks and appreciation goes to each and every one.

The officers for the Association for this year are Mrs. Millie Nelson, President, Mrs. Ruth Thompson, Vice President, Mrs. Grace Challeen, Secretary and Mrs. Margaret Shumway, Treasurer.

The officers for the Gleaners Circle are Mrs. Carol Ward, President and Mrs. Bernice Reep, Secretary-Treasurer.

The officers for the Mary Martha Circle are Mrs. Grace Challeen, President and Mrs. Florence Nethercott, Secretary-Treasurer.

☆ ☆

As in every church, the Sunday School has always been a vital factor. Here again there are so many names of people who have worked in this field of endeavor that it is impossible to list them all. But we do thank all the dedicated workers, the superintendents, the secretaries and treasurers, all the teachers and those who taught the Released Time classes on Wednesdays. At the present time Mrs. Betty Karas is the Superintendent and Lorraine Karas is the Secretary-Treasurer. Thanks to them all for the wonderful job they have done and are doing. They can be sure that their teaching and influence past and present has and will go out into the world with our young people.

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We have an outstanding choir of 25 members, and their music has become a vital part of our church services. Their annual concerts are occasions that we all look forward to. Mrs. A. W. Smith is the choir leader and pianist for the church. Mrs. Robert Ovick and Mrs. Clyde Shumway and Miss Susan Ward are her assistant pianists.

The Pine City Church has always been a small Church and has had a hard struggle to keep its head above water. Money was always scarce, and growth has been slow. It was a Mission Church for 90 years, receiving support from the Minnesota Synod, until in 1960 when we became self-supporting. There are at present 164 members on the Church roll, and we have a budget of a little over \$12,000. In the last several years all obligations of the Church have been met on time, which gives us great cause for rejoicing, for it shows that the members are assuming their responsibilities as Christian givers.

When Mesdames Bryan, King and Fersons, mother and daughter, met one hundred years ago in the parlor of Braketts Hotel, they would, of course, have no anticipation of the bright and shining light in which their names are being enshrined by us upon this anniversary. If it were possible for the dead to speak to the living, certainly we can hear their voices calling out to us and to those destined to follow us, "Go ye, and do likewise."



In 1961 the First Presbyterian Church of Pine City adopted the Unified Board of government for our Church. Thereby we have only Session members instead of Session members and trustees. The Session members this Centennial year are:

Mr. Ralph Ausmus

Mr. Paul Beeman

Mrs. Darwin Carlson

Mrs. Eunice Pofert

Mr. Victor Gergen

Mr. Forrest Rike

Mr. Robert Ovick

Mrs. James, Clark, Treasurer of the Church

Mrs. Clyde Shumway, Clerk of Session

Pastors Who Have Served Our Church

Rev. Prescott Fay	1872
Rev. J. A. Cochran	1874
Rev. James A. McGowan	1876
Rev. Goods	1879
Rev. A. W. Beemin	1882
Rev. Farris	1883
Rev. W. C. Smith	1883 - 1884
Rev. C. Allen	1885 - 1887
Rev. McGowan	1887 - 1887
Rev. A. W. Benson	1888 - 1890
Rev. C. C. B. Duncan	1890 - 1894
Rev. P. Knudsen	1894 - 1899
Rev. Wishard	1899 - 1901
Rev. Edson	1901 - 1902
Rev. D. Campbell	1902 - 1903
Rev. Baxter	1903 - 1903
Rev. Wm. Hendry	1904 - 1905
Rev. Wm. Matthews	1906 - 1908
Rev. J. A. Paddock	1908 - 1910
Rev. Cribbs	1910 - 1910
Rev. Wm. Anderson	1910 - 1911
Rev. Frank McKean	1911 - 1913
Rev. E. J. Clark	1914 - 1919
Rev. T. J. Buckton	1920 - 1923
Rev. J. G. Reinhardt†	1924 - 1928
Rev. D. W. Thompson	1928 - 1939
Rev. Geo. A. McLeod	1939 - 1941
Rev. Alfred Martin	1943 - 1946
Rev. John Mastin	1946 - 1952
Rev. James Macfarlane	1952 - 1957
Rev. L. Douglas Throckmorton	1958 - 1963
Rev. Irving O. Thompson	1964

The Future of First Presbyterian

The celebration of a centennial is properly much more than a review of events, momentous at the time at which they occurred but of minor importance when reviewed from the perspective of a century or even of decades. From what our written records and the memories of our older members provide we know that, as is so frequently true in churches located in communities such as our own, our institution has been beset by one major problem which has been met by one major force.

The problem has been that of finance and the partial solution to that problem has been the unflagging zeal of the women, particularly the mothers who put a value upon all that First Presbyterian meant to them beyond what could be measured in economic terms or was always concurred in by their husbands. They knew in their hearts and proved by their hands that the pastor who baptized their babes and officiated at their funerals was as important to their homes as any government official paid from taxes. So, too, were the Sunday School teachers who gave of their time and their very considerable talents that the word of God might carry some meaning to those who later came to sit in church pews here but more probably in other churches. This is also true of those who provided week day religious instruction during released time from our public schools.

All this is a summary of historical fact. What of the future?

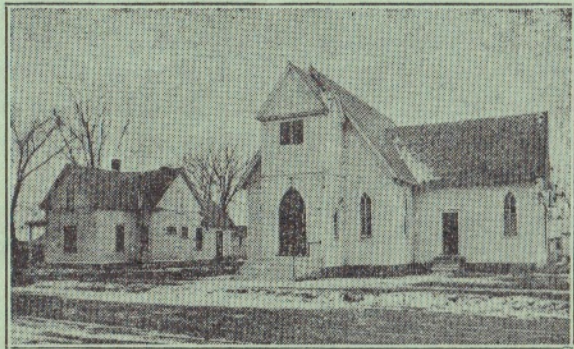
That future will contain problems more severe than met our people during the six wars, the dozen or more depressions and recessions, the evolution from lumbering to agriculture, to at least partial industrial type of economic change and all the other adjustments, which have been Pine City's life and continue to call for adjustment now and will continue to do so in the future. Change is not only the order of the day. The rapidity of that change calls for our church to be ever alert and responsive to what that change requires of us.

What is required is that the Christian faith not become less, nor the children of God fewer in number because of the distractions of what we term modern civilization. Those who love the Lord must not only increase in number. They must also grow in their dedication to all this church has stood for during the past century.

There must be teachers heading class discussions on Sundays and on week days. There must be men's and women's voices raised in song in the choir and in the pews. There must be those ready to say "Yes, Lord" when nominated for church office. There must be those who will pray during the week and find some of the answer to their prayers by what they do themselves to cause those prayers to be realized.

Upon the occasion of this our centennial let us covenant together to make the hopes, the dreams and the prayerful petitions of our forefathers come to a realization as much greater than that hoped for by the little group of women who met in a public parlor of a little pioneer town as the environment in which we now meet is superior to that in which they received the assurance there was and would be A First Presbyterian Church Of Pine City.

James Clark, Chairman of the Centennial Committee



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Centennial Celebration

1870 - 1970



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
Pine City, Minnesota
Irving O. Thompson, Pastor

Mrs. A. W. Smith Pianist and Choir Director

CENTENNIAL WORSHIP September 20, 1970

* * * * *

- PRELUDE
*PROCESSIONAL "Crown Him With Many Crowns" 213
*OPENING SENTENCES
*INVOCATION - CONFESSION - LORD'S PRAYER
*THE GLORIA PATRI
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Ezekial 37: 15 - 23
PRAYER HYMN "Father, in Thy Mysterious Presence" 384
PRAYER
CHORAL RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer" 535
THE DEDICATION - OUR OFFERINGS AND OUR LIVES
The Scripture Sentences
Prayer of Dedication - *Doxology
NEW TESTAMENT LESSON - Matthew 18: 15 - 22
THE SERMON "Forgiveness"
*HYMN "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" Vs. 1 and 2 416
*THE BENEDICTION
*CHORAL RESPONSE "Amen! Amen! Amen!"
*RECESSIONAL "The Church's One Foundation" Vs. 1 437
*POSTLUDE

* Congregation Stands

* * * * *

WELCOME to all worshipers. "This is our Father's House -
the home of praise, prayer, fellowship and worship. May
all who enter here find pardon, peace and inspiration."

NOTICE: There will be a special meeting of the Congre-
gation of the First Presbyterian Church of Pine City,
Minnesota on Sunday, September 27, 1970 in the church
sanctuary, as a part of the regular worship service,
for the purpose of electing three (3) Elders, a Treasurer,
and an Assistant Treasurer, and adopting a budget for
1971.

Margaret Shumway,
Clerk of Session

SESSION ACTION - September 14th

1. Voted to have worship and congregational meeting on September 27th as one complete meeting.
2. Named Elders Henrietta Clark, Eunice Pofert, Paul Beeman, Victor Gergen and Robert Owick to arrange and assist with World Wide Communion on Sunday, October 4th.
3. Approved Budget for 1971 to the amount of \$14,492 as prepared and recommended by the Stewardship Committee. The same will be presented to the congregational meeting on September 27th.
4. Voted to have Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 25 with men in charge of arrangements for the dinner. The pastor will make arrangements for the 10:30 A.M. worship with prominent participation by adults and youth. Betty Karas will choose her helpers for decorating the church. How meaningful this will be depends on how willing we are to pledge a portion of our time, treasure, and talents to the work of the Kingdom in 1971.
5. Voted to continue voluntary means of garbage disposal. This means with the accumulation of garbage and waste at the church, we be willing to dispose of same with whatever arrangements we have made for our own households. In this way we will be able to save two or three dollars per month for garbage collection.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

1. Choir Practice each Wednesday at 7 P.M.
2. Mary Martha Circle meets on Thursday at 7:30 P.M. Hostesses are Agnes Gergen and Cora Wood.

THE MISSION OF THIS CHURCH: To provide for the public worship of God; to preach the Redeeming Love of Christ; to welcome the strangers; to comfort the sorrowing; to help the needy; to create the spirit of Christian Fellowship, to serve the community, the nation, and a needy world; this is the mission of this Church.

