



One Hundredth
Anniversary

First Evangelical Reformed Church

Detroit, Michigan

Nineteen Hundred Forty-Nine

1849

1949



COMMEMORATING THE

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

of the

FIRST EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

1949

*I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.*

Psalm 122: 1.

One Hundred Years of Worship and of Service

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

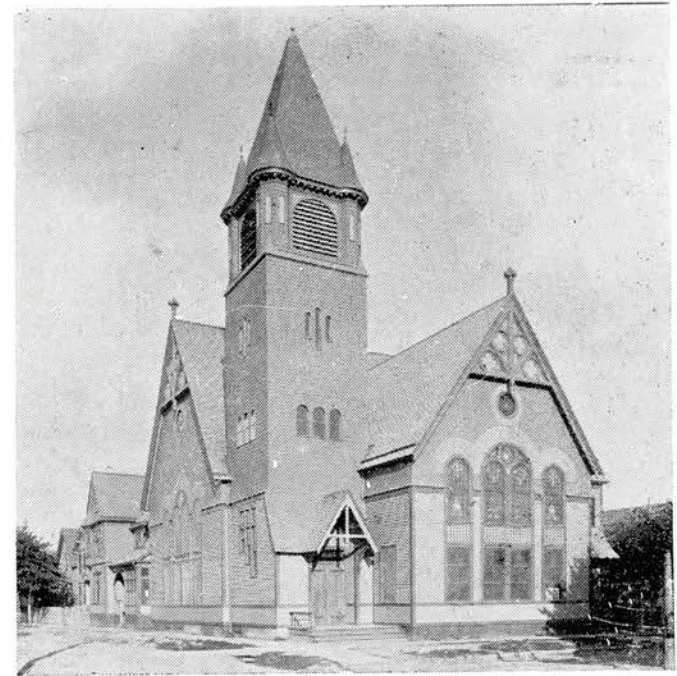
II. Samuel 7:12

Our Churches of the Past

The first church building was erected in 1851 on Monroe Street, between Brush and Beaubien. In spite of diligent search, it was not possible to find a photograph thereof.



Second church building located on Russell, between Sherman and Catherine Streets. Used from 1858 till 1891.



Third church building, erected at Chene and Jay Streets in 1891. Used till 1916.

AN INSCRIPTION

To Those of Yesterday

THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF YEARS AGO BY WHOSE FAITH OUR
BELOVED CHURCH WAS FOUNDED

To Those of Today

WHO CONTINUE TO HOLD HIGH THE TORCH OF GOD'S UNCHANGING
LOVE THAT MANY MAY TRAVEL THE HIGHWAY OF CHRIST

To Those of Tomorrow

OUR CHILDREN AND CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WHOM PROVIDENCE HAS
DESTINED TO PERPETUATE FOR MANKIND THE VALUES OF
CHRISTIAN CONSECRATION

This Token is Affectionately Inscribed

TO THE FIRST IN LOVING MEMORY
TO THE SECOND IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION
TO THE LAST IN HOPEFUL EXPECTATION OF EVER BETTER THINGS
TO BE

A Message From Our Pastor



"Age is a quality of mind—
If you have left your dreams
behind,
If hope is lost,
If you no longer look ahead,
If your ambition's fires are dead—
Then you are old.
But if in life you choose the best,
And then, continuing your quest,
True love you hold—
No matter how the years go by,
No matter how the birthdays fly,
You are not old."

Rev. J. P. Meyer, D.D.

A DVANCING years cause us no anxiety. Having reached the century mark as a church, we have come a long way, yet have we not become tired, nor grown old. The buoyancy of younger years is still upon us.

We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His providential guidance over a span of one hundred years. Some of those years may have been marked by unrest and uncertainty. But like the ancient Israelites under Samuel we praise God and confess— "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Ours is a great heritage. We are a part of the on-going life of our church, and thus a factor in the orbit of the larger Church, by which the spiritual values of humanity are sustained and advanced throughout the whole world.

Christ gave us the Church, that unique instrument and unexcelled spiritual fellowship that makes for holiness in all the realm of living. Hence we are bound to give and to maintain to ourselves and our children a church, which in all things is centered in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master. Through Him we face the future without fear, confident that He will keep us in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Him, because our trust continues in Him.

We face the future with humility, but also with confidence, that He who hath wrought a good work among us, will also bring that work to full fruition, and cause its blessings to abide.

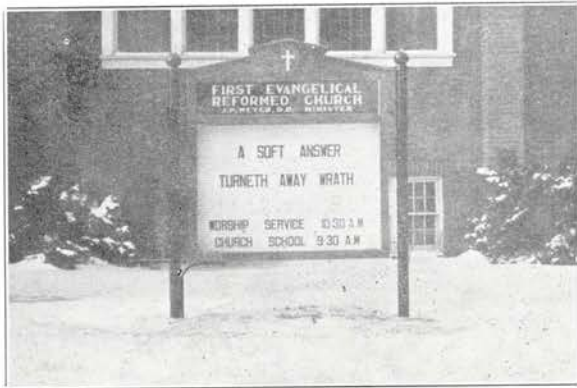
Your Pastor and Fellow-Worker,

JOAQUIN P. MEYER.

Milestones of First Church History



The Church



The Wayside Preacher

- 1849—November 20th, organization of our church, then known as Zion German Reformed Church.
- 1850—May 22nd, church incorporated.
- 1851—First building (brick) erected on north side of Croghan (now Monroe), between Beaubien and Brush.
- 1852—April 12th, dedication of first church building.
- 1857—Church building sold in February to Second Baptist Colored Church for \$3,800. July 9th, building committee authorized to buy lots on Russell Street, between Sherman and Catherine, for \$750, and to proceed with building of new church. This building, 30 x 40, cost \$1,600.
- 1862—Church rebuilt and enlarged, and a school house built, together costing \$2,200. Seating capacity of church, 200.
- 1863—April 13th, parsonage lot bought, adjacent to church, for \$450. Parsonage completed February 15th, 1864. Cost \$1,050. May 2nd, 1864, Woman's Aid Society organized, to help poor.
- 1890—Lot purchased on Chene and Jay for \$2,100. Third church and parsonage built for \$7,000. Nine years later three bells, costing \$400, placed in belfry. Following year organ bought for \$1,100. Name of church changed to First Evangelical Reformed. Preaching in English introduced.
- 1916—About middle of this year Chene Street property sold to First Christian Reformed (Dutch) Church for \$13,500. August 24th, several lots, 120 x 102 feet, at Canfield and Fischer, bought for \$4,500.
- 1917—July 8th, cornerstone of present building laid. First public worship on Christmas morning.
- 1918—June 9th, dedication of present church. Cost of church and parsonage \$41,500; with lot \$46,000.
- 1921—October 9th, dedication of present pipe organ, costing \$5,725.

1924—December 7th to 9th, 75th Anniversary celebration. Reverends C. F. Heyl, F. H. Rupnow, and E. L. Worthman, former ministers, were present.

1943—Church renovated and new lighting installed. Cost \$3,775. Total amount oversubscribed and paid from January to March. November 21st, final payment of \$8,500 on church debt, and burning of mortgage.

1946—February 1st, beginning of Dr. Meyer's pastorate. Illuminated cross manufactured and given by C. F. Bernhagen. — First issue of "The Informant" in October. — \$10,700 subscribed for necessary improvements.

1947—Interior of parsonage redecorated and modern steam heating plant with automatic oil burner installed. — New steam boiler with automatic oil burner installed in church for \$3,500. — Asphalt tile floor covering of basement at a cost of \$550. — An entirely new kitchen, designed by A. W. Fell, an elder of the church, built for more than \$4,000. — More than \$10,000 paid on subscriptions for improvements by end of 1947.

1948—New outside bulletin board, designed and built by D. K. Badertscher, an elder of the church, erected in January. — 225 copies of new Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church purchased. Campaign launched to raise \$3,000 for the building funds of Ft. Wayne Children's Home, Old Folk's Home at Upper Sandusky, Elmhurst and Heidelberg Colleges: 50% underwritten; balance to be raised at later date.

1949—February 25th, "Oldsters' Testimonial Dinner," a centennial event. — "The Messenger" sent in April, for one year, to all members in good standing, trusting that in subsequent years they themselves will subscribe. — Chancel reconstructed and sanctuary redecorated during July and August. Carpet provided for chancel, aisles, and rear of sanctuary. Total cost \$4,000.



Formerly



Today

Our Centennial Events

The Opening Centennial Festival Service

Sunday, November 27th, 10:30 A. M.
Sermon by Dr. L. W. Goebel, President of the Evangelical
and Reformed Church.

The Community Service

Sunday, November 27th, 8:00 P. M.
Sermon by Dr. Frank H. Rupnow, Pastor, St. Peter's Evan-
gelical Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

Family Night

Tuesday, November 29th, 7:45 P. M.
An evening of entertainment and sociability for old and young.

Centennial Banquet

Friday, December 2nd, 6:30 P. M. at the church.
Addresses by Rev. Cecil A. Albright, Grace Reformed Church,
Detroit; and Rev. Carl Renter, graduate student at Oberlin
School of Theology, the only candidate for the ministry
from our church in its history.

The Concluding Centennial Festival Service

Sunday, December 4th, 10:30 A. M. — Holy Communion.
Sermon by Rev. Norman C. Dittes, St. Mark's Reformed
Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who served the First
Church for seventeen years, the longest pastorate in the
history of our church.

Our Centennial Guest Preachers



DR. L. W. GOEBEL,
WHO PREACHED THE OPENING SERMON



REV. NORMAN C. DITTES,
WHO PREACHED THE CLOSING SERMON



REV. F. H. RUPNOW, D. D.,
WHO PREACHED THE EVENING SERMON

Our Ministers that Served Us, and Their Years of Service

* Rev. A. Berkey, 1849—1852

* Rev. Karl Becker, 1852—1854

* Rev. H. Spies, 1854—1856

* Rev. A. Schroeter, 1857—1860

* Rev. C. Cast, 1860—1866

* Rev. P. Greding, 1866—1870

* Rev. J. Baumgaertner, 1870—1873

* Rev. J. Niehoff, 1873—1876

* Rev. Wm. Hansen, 1876—1885

* Rev. C. F. W. Hustedt, 1886—1897

* Rev. C. Baum, D. D., 1898—1910

Rev. Frank H. Rupnow, D. D., 1910—1913 *christian*

Rev. E. L. Worthmann, 1913—1916

Rev. C. F. Heyl, 1917—1920

* Rev. L. D. Benner, 1921—1927 *confirmed*

Rev. Norman C. Dittes, 1928—1945 *married 1931*

Rev. J. P. Meyer, D. D., 1946—

* Deceased. *St. Peter's Evan. Reformed - 1947*

*"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you
the word of God; consider the outcome of their
life, and imitate their faith".*

Heb. 13, 7.

Special Centennial Gifts

A leatherbound Pulpit Bible, in loving memory of the Rev. L. D. Benner, by the Benner family.

An all brass Communion Table Set of two fourteen inch Candlesticks and an engraved Missal Stand, by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Beck, in loving memory of their respective parents.

Twenty new Choir Robes and Satin Stoles, two complete sets of Pulpit, Lectern, and Communion Table Hangings, richly embroidered, by the Rhodora Club.

A gift of more than \$1200 towards the purchase of the Church Carpet, by the Women's Guild.

ADMINISTRATION and ORGANIZATIONS

The Consistory

Officers

D. K. Badertscher, President
Arthur W. Fell, Vice-President
Howard Fielder, Secretary
Frank Buppert, Financial Secretary
Glen Paul Fler, Ass't Financial Secretary
Charles Doss, Treasurer

Elders

D. K. Badertscher	Arthur W. Fell
Clarence E. Smith	Howard Fielder
Joseph Brotz	Arthur Tapert

The Elders, with the Pastor, constitute the Spiritual Council.

Deacons

Harold Kaminski	Charles Doss
Frank Buppert	Donald Belz
Glen Paul Fler	Wm. A. Braden
Mrs. Jos. Butler	Mrs. S. J. Murdock

The Church School and Catechumenate

Religious education is the weak spot of American Protestantism. Our system of separation of church and state puts Protestant churches at a disadvantage. On the one hand we must compete with parochial schools, on the other with the public schools where attendance is assured by law. Attendance at our church schools is voluntary. Thus the task for us is clear. Unless we realize the importance of our church schools and confirmation classes, our children will grow into maturity without a sense of moral direction. Do the right thing by your children! Give them religious training!

Officers

Ernest Beck, Superintendent
Vacant Position, Secretary
Samuel Fandrich, Treasurer

The Choir

Christianity abounds in song. And nothing adds so much to spiritual uplift in the worship service than well rendered anthems. When Christ was born the very heavens broke forth in paens of praise, and wherever men confess Him their thoughts rise on the wings of song. Whoever can sing serves the cause of God by joining the choir of his church.

Organist and Choir Director

Miss Margaret McMillan

The Missionary Circle

A small, but consecrated group of women, who meet monthly in the homes of members. Missions, at home and abroad, are carefully studied and generously supported. Substantial aid is also given to World Service projects. The work of this group is highly commendable. Accessions are welcomed.

Officers

Mrs. L. D. Benner, President
Miss Minnie Buggert, Vice-President
Mrs. Ernest Beck, Recording Secretary
Mrs. E. F. Klank, Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Henry Pfaff, Treasurer

The Ladies' Aid

A group of women meeting monthly at the church. The name of this organization has traditional connotations — "Leave it to the Ladies' Aid!" Always planning and untiring in their efforts, they have been most helpful to our church in various ways throughout the years. Membership in this organization provides a fine service opportunity for church women.

Officers

Mrs. Samuel Fandrich, President
Mrs. Joseph Butler, Vice-President
Mrs. Olga Renter, Secretary
Mrs. Carl Gall, Financial Secretary
Mrs. Carl Bothe, Treasurer

The Rhodora Club

This is a group of women, who are significant to the church because of their generosity and very diversified church interests. They meet monthly in the homes of members, for which reason membership is restricted to twenty five. Attendance at their meetings is almost always near the 100% mark.

Officers

Mrs. Florence Moss, President
Miss Helen Abraham, Vice-President
Mrs. Wm. A. Stegmeyer, Secretary
Mrs. W. H. Ehrler, Treasurer

The Women's Guild

All women of the congregation are considered members of the Guild. Its governing body is constituted of its officers and various representatives of the different women's organizations in the congregation. A member of the National Women's Guild of our denomination and of its state and regional affiliates, our Guild controls and governs to a large extent the projects of the women's organizations in the church.

Officers

Mrs. Samuel Fandrich, President
Mrs. Carl Bothe, Vice-President
Mrs. Howard Fielder, Secretary
Mrs. Stanley Murdock, Treasurer

The Youth Fellowship

An organization serving the needs of older teen-agers, aiding them to build a substantial Christian life on the foundations of personal devotion, religious understanding, and social fellowship. Open to all confirmed youths and such of that age and over.

Officers

Robert Butler, President
James Machleit, Vice-President
Joan Raines, Secretary
Audrey Deneau, Treasurer
Mr. and Mrs. H. Hedlund, Counselors

The Fidelians

A young women's organization, meeting monthly and devoted to the cultivation of Christian fellowship, the study of institutional needs, and special services to their church. They are in charge of the nursery on Sundays during the worship period. Their meetings have an atmosphere of informality and congeniality.

Officers

Miss Marian Terry, President
Mrs. Wm. A. Ross, Vice-President
Mrs. Ralph Maske, Recording Secretary
Mrs. P. Roy, Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Jean Papp, Treasurer

The Jonathan Brotherhood

Our men's organization, furnishing a social and fraternal outlet to the men of the congregation, meets monthly at the church. The meetings aim to contribute to the devotional and church educational needs of our men, besides providing amply for the cultivation of Christian friendship and comradeship.

Officers

W. A. Braden, President
Joseph Butler, Vice-President
Charles Doss, Secretary
Howard Fielder, Treasurer

The Girls' Guild

The principle of the "baseball farm" system becomes apparent in this organization. Here girls constitute a kind of Junior Guild, where they become acquainted with the entire range of educational and service projects of church women. Self-evidently when these girls grow into womanhood, they will already be well acquainted with all the functions and services of organized women's groups.

OFFICERS

Judith Raines, President
Donna Murdock, Vice-President
Roslyn Bachmann, Secretary
Jean Tapin, Treasurer
Mrs. S. Murdock, Counselor

The Centennial Committee

All members of the Consistory and the following:

Miss Minnie Buggert

Mrs. Samuel Fandrich

Mrs. Florence Moss

Mrs. Fred Homann

Mr. Ernest Beck

Mr. Robert Butler

Miss Marian Terry

Auxiliary Committees

The Historical Committee

Mrs. Emilie Shackett

Miss Mildred Boker

Mr. Joseph Butler

Dr. J. P. Meyer, Chairman

The Family Night Committee

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. H. Hedlund

Miss Gladys Butler

Miss Marion Harris

Mr. Arthur Tapert

Mr. Ernest Beck, Chairman

The Banquet Committee

Miss Minnie Buggert

Mrs. Florence Moss

Mrs. Henry Pfaff

Mrs. Wm. Schmidt

Mrs. Stanley Murdock, Chairman

EPILOGUE

*To every man there openeth
A way, and ways, and a way,
And the high soul climbs the high way,
And the low soul gropes the low;
And in between on the misty flats,
The rest drift to and fro.
But to every man there openeth
A highway and a low.
And every man decideth
The way his soul shall go. —*

Oxenham

