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UNITED STATES ARCHIVES, U.S.A.  
HISTORICAL COLLECTION

# The Sixtieth Anniversary

September 15, 1940



The First Presbyterian Church

Ashland, Wisconsin

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Ministers

Carlton L. Roons, Emeritus

Fred M. Whitney

# THE ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

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9:00 A. M. The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Celebrant, Dr. Cariton L. Koons, assisted by Elders Thomas Edwards, Frank French, John Watson, and H. H. Fuller, the four Elders who served with Dr. Koons during his entire pastorate of twenty-five years. Organist, Miss Cara Wharton, former organist of this Church.

11:00 A. M. - A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE by Miss Cara Wharton

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

AN ADORING INVOCATION

THE DOXOLOGY

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN: The Church's One Foundation . . . No. 304, vs. 1, 4, 5

THE APOSTLES CREED AND GLORIA PATRI

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

THE RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

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THE SCRIPTURE LESSON — Ephesians 1:15-23

THE ANTHEM: "Hark, Hark My Soul" - - - - Shelley

Solos by Mrs. A. L. Gemme and Mrs. G. Zeisner

THE CALL TO PRAYER WITH CHORAL RESPONSES

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, PERSONAL PETITION,  
and INTERCESSION

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

THE SOLO: "Open the Gates of the Temple" - - - - Knopf  
Mrs. G. Zeisner

THE OFFERTORY by Mrs. Helen Winter

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER WITH CHORAL RESPONSE

HYMN: Blest Be The Tie . . . . . No. 345

SERMON: "The Church, The Body of Christ". Eph. 1:23, Col. 1:24  
The Reverend Norman Burton Barr, D.D.

BENEDICTION WITH CHORAL RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE by Miss Cara Wharton

6:00 P. M. - ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Toastmaster, Reverend Carlton Koons, D.D.

Main Address, Mr. Joe Mitchell Chapple

A Glimpse Into The Future, Reverend F. M. Whitney

\*\*\*\* Indicates points at which ushers will seat worshippers after the service has begun.

1880

1940

HISTORY OF  
 THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 OF ASHLAND, WISCONSIN  
 PREPARED ON 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH  
 BY ELDER JOHN A. WATSON

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In 1880 prior to the organization of our church there were two principal English speaking Protestant Churches in Ashland: Congregational and Methodist. The Methodists worshipped in a wooden building at Ellis Avenue and Third Street, while the Congregationalists used various halls in the city for their services. It became apparent that the community could not support the two churches, and as neither wished to be absorbed by the other, and as there appeared to be more Presbyterians in the two congregations than any other one denomination, it was agreed to establish a Presbyterian Church.

According to newspaper clippings, (the early Church records seem to have been lost), the Church was organized July 18, 1880, and the record shows that the charter members were enrolled July 20th of that year. The records show that there were nineteen of these charter members consisting of, Mrs. Helen R. Andrew, Edwin Ellis, R. W. French, Mrs. R. W. French, Emma R. French, Edna R. French, Clara R. French, Mrs. S. S. Fifield, Geo. W. Falsom, E. Morrison, F. W. Peck, Walter R. Sutherland, Mrs. Walter R. Sutherland, Ella Searles, Hannah Tomkins, Mrs. W. M. Tomkins, Mrs. S. S. Vaughn, George White, Mrs. Susan White.

The first pastor of the church was Reverend A. McKinnon who served from 1880 to 1883. Since then the pastors have been as follows:

E. E. Stout	1883-1887	Alfred E. Driscoll	1907-1911
J. W. McNary	1887-1890	Carlton L. Koons	1912-1937
Samuel Brown	1890-1901	Fred M. Whitney	1937-
Wm. H. Humphrey	1902-1907		

Newspaper clippings state that two Elders and two Deacons were elected at the time the Church was organized. The records indicate that Edwin Ellis and R. W. French were the two Elders. J. S. Ellis was the first Clerk of the Session, so far as present records show, and was elected to that office at a meeting of the Session held October 6, 1883. Since then Session Clerks have been as follows: Robert Ritchie, E. H. Taylor, E. B. Baldwin, J. W. Clarke and H. H. Fuller. During several periods the pastor acted as Clerk of the Session.

The first church building was a frame structure located at Ellis Avenue and Third Street and is still there, but moved to the rear of the old site facing Third Street and converted into an apartment house. Action looking to the building of a new church was first taken at a congregational meeting May 21, 1891, at which time a committee was appointed to collect funds and proceed with the work of "erecting a church edifice suitable to the size and standing of our membership, congregation, and city." At a congregational meeting held February 10, 1892 this committee reported their inability to do the job assigned them and recommended a postponement of the enterprise "until money matters are easier in the city." Their report was adopted and the committee discharged.

At the same meeting another committee was appointed to get plans and specifications for a church building to cost not over \$25,000. Out of the action of this committee consisting of J. F. Scott, R. W. French and W. M. Tomkins, came our present church building, erected on lots donated to the church by Mrs. Vaughn. Work was not started, however, till the late summer of 1896, when the foundation and first floor were put in. The superstructure was built in 1897 and the church was dedicated on June 12, 1898. The dedicatory service was conducted by Dr. Marquis of McCormick Seminary, Chicago.

According to a report of Mr. Latimer, treasurer of the building fund, made February 23, 1899, the total cost of the building, including labor and material donated, estimated at \$1500, was \$20,907 all of which was raised by voluntary subscription, except \$5000 which was borrowed from the Board of Church Erection. The loan was repaid in May 1907. At the annual meeting April 4th, 1908, the mortgage was burned by Elder R. W. French, and a prayer of Thanksgiving was offered by the pastor.

On Sunday, April 3, 1927, the Church celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of the present church building and the 15th Anniversary of Dr. Koons' pastorate. At the morning service Dr. Koons preached from the same text he used for his first sermon as pastor in 1912. In the evening a reception was given in the parlors of the church for Dr. and Mrs. Koons.

In October 1930, the church celebrated its 50th Anniversary, at which time the accomplishments of the Golden Jubilee year in repairing and refurnishing the church were recounted. At the morning service on October 5, the pastor, Dr. Koons, had as his sermon theme, "The Church" and in the evening an informal service was held, consisting of short talks relating to the history of the church during the past fifty years. During the Jubilee Year \$3,600 was spent on repairs and refurnishings of which the Ladies' Aid provided \$2,000 and the Church Trustees \$1,600.

Sunday, April 4, 1937 was observed by the church and congregation as the 25th Anniversary of Dr. Koons' pastorate. The morning service was conducted by Dr. Geo. L. Robinson of Chicago Theological Seminary, who was one of Dr. Koons' instructors. At 4:00 P. M. a popular meeting was held at which Dr. Robinson was the principal speaker. Short talks were made by Dr. Dodd on behalf of the citizens in appreciation of

Dr. Koons' service to the community; by Dr. Harries of Hurley on behalf of Chippewa Presbytery, and by Reverend Henry Maxwell of the Congregational Church on behalf of the clergy. Mr. Fuller gave a short history of the Church during Dr. Koons' pastorate during which time the church membership had been greatly increased.

Dr. Koons presented his resignation on August 15, 1937. On October 15, 1937, the Reverend F. M. Whitney began his work as pastor of the church.

In 1939 the Church was thoroughly cleaned and many improvements were added. Three beautiful Memorials were presented to the church—the Panel Work around the organ by Mrs. William Pascoe and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Judge in memory of the late William Pascoe; a Baptismal Altar by Mrs. Christie Cate and sons in memory of the late Walter S. Cate, and a Study Altar by H. H. Fuller in memory of his father, the late Reverend Henry Edgar Fuller. The newly installed Rood Beam is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. William Ritchie. Many other special gifts have been made by individuals and organizations. The Church has received three legacies—\$10,000 in 1936 from the Marquis-Vaughn Estate, \$1,000 in 1939 from the Estate of Mrs. Thomas Bardon, and \$4,000 in 1940 from the Estate of S. G. Campbell.

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## THE SESSION

The number of members of the Session has been increased four times. When the Church was organized in 1880 there were two. In 1887 there were four. In 1889 the number was increased to six. In the next few years these were reduced by death or removal from the city, to four. At the annual meeting April 1, 1909, the number was increased to seven, of which one, R. W. French, was made a life member and the other six elected for terms of one, two, and three years under the rotary system. On the recommendation of the Session, the number of Elders was increased to ten at the Annual Meeting, April 7, 1938.

Mr. Fuller is the present clerk and during the past two years has completely revised the membership roll, supplying missing data where possible and eliminating all those who by death or other causes should no longer appear on the roll. This was a difficult task requiring much inquiry and investigation, going back to the early history of the organization. The Church is indebted to Mr. Fuller for the faithful performance of a long needed job.

The present membership is made up as follows:

Reverend F. M. Whitney, Moderator		H. H. Fuller, Clerk
Thomas Edwards	W. C. Morris	John C. Chapple
Frank French	J. A. Watson	A. M. Kirby
Kenneth Todd	E. W. Edgerton	Charles Perrin





## HISTORICAL FLASHES

The oldest member of this church in point of length of membership is W. C. Morris, who has been a member for 56 years. He was clerk of the congregation for 33 years.

The oldest member of this church is Mrs. Mary Cobb who is 93 years of age. The oldest male member is Thomas Edwards, who is 87 years old.

It is interesting to know that Dr. M. S. Hosmer acted as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for 35 years.

The oldest married couple, members of this church, are Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Blume. They have been wed for 62 years.

The old-timers of the Ladies' Aid will remember how Captain Bishoff, of the old Steamer Plowboy, used to run an excursion for them now and then without charge, thus allowing them to replenish the exchequer without having to put on a dinner or a food sale. This was way back when.

Many members of the church may not realize that the west window in the auditorium is a Masonic window. Every branch of Masonry from the 33rd degree down is depicted emblematically in this window.

Throughout the years many outstanding events have taken place in our church. Obviously all can not be mentioned as one's mind can not remember them. Just to mention a few.

The largest dinner ever served in the church was that given to the returning soldiers at the close of the World's War. Mr. I. O. Hubbard, then superintendent of schools, was the speaker of the evening.

One of the largest gatherings in the church auditorium was the Armistice day service at which time the principal address was made by the late W. F. Shea.

Clarence Eddy, probably the most famous pipe organist the world has ever produced, played a concert on our pipe organ and pronounced it, while not a large organ, one of the best voiced organs he had ever played upon.

We of the present day do not realize the significance of the stained glass windows in our church. Every one of them has a symbolic meaning. The four circular windows over the doors opening into the Sunday School room from the main auditorium represent the four Gospels. It would be fine if some one could get a book on heraldry and give us the meaning of the symbols and figures on the other windows of the edifice.

An outstanding church wedding in our church was the marriage of Thomas Bardon to Miss Peck. It was a military wedding just at the start of the World's War, Mr. Bardon being an officer in the United States Army at the time. Other church weddings of note were: Burt Williams to Maude Brower, Franklin Merritt to Marian Chapple, George Quayle to Belle Bardon, Edith Latimer to Ralph Venning, Walter Cate to Edith Clarke, Jack Blume to Grace Alma Branzell.

When this church was originally erected there was not a suitable hall in the city for the holding of public assemblies, and it was agreed that our church auditorium should be made available for concerts, lectures and other public assemblies. That was the reason why for many years,

the pulpit end of the church was so arranged that it could easily be changed into a concert stage or lecture platform. The present arrangement was not made until the need for a suitable place to hold such meetings was filled elsewhere.

We often wonder if we, the present members of the First Presbyterian Church, realize what a wonderful heritage is ours in our church plant. It was given to us by those who have gone on before; all we have to do is to keep it up. If we had to raise eighty to a hundred thousand dollars to build a church, instead of the comparatively small amount it takes to keep it up and maintain services, we would have something to think about.

The history of the City of Ashland could not be written without including a liberal mention of the First Presbyterian Church. It has been a part and parcel of every good work accomplished in Ashland, either as a church organization or through individuals who have been members of the church.

Louise Homer, the famous contralto, has sung in our church. Her daughter also, Mrs. Stires, also sang at a later date.

Katherine Meisle, another famous contralto, has also appeared in concert in our church. Other artists appearing in our auditorium are: Florence Macbeth, Leginski, Dumesnil, Shattuck, Werrenwrath, Alberto Salvi, the Flonzaley's, etc.

The first presentation of the Messiah ever given in Ashland was presented in our church. This is also true of "The Holy City."

The Community Christmas celebration opening the Christmas season in Ashland, was for many years given in our church, every church in the city participating.

John A. Watson served as church treasurer for 20 years.

In the good old days the church officers used to have long terms.

For many years a most important function of the ladies of the church has been a flower fund. When members of the church or members of this family are ill they are remembered with flowers, either at the hospital or home. This is carried out also when Presbyterians from out of town are hospitalized in Ashland.

During the struggle, many years ago, to keep up attendance at the Sunday evening services, before they were discontinued, a series of lay sermons were arranged by the men of the church. Several were given, one by W. M. Tomkins, one by Henry Fuller, one by George G. MacDonald, one by John C. Chapple, one by John A. Watson, and there were probably others. Each layman chose his own subject, but the Sunday evening church attendance problem was one which the men of the church couldn't solve.

One of the outstanding terms of service as the head of a church department was that of Mrs. John C. Chapple as head of the Woman's Missionary Society. She served for seventeen years, culminating her term of office two years ago. The Missionary Society was never more active and effective than during her long term. The flower fund will be remembered as Mrs. Chapple's idea, and as carried out under her plan became a decidedly missionary project reaching countless shut-ins and sick in the hospitals or in their homes.