

**125TH ANNIVERSARY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

A church with "a view of the past and a vision for the future." First Presbyterian Church has "a vital and extensive ministry," states senior pastor, Rev. Dr. Craig M. Herr. The First Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Western and Raynor Avenues, Joliet, Illinois, and will observe the 125th Anniversary of its founding during the week of September 20 to 27, 1992. In honor of the occasion, Rev. Herr will lead the worship services on Sunday, September 27th, with a sermon entitled "In Pursuit of Newness." Everyone, including the community, is invited to attend either worship service (9:00 AM or 11:05 AM), with brunch being served in Hoffman Hall of the church from 8:00 to 11:00 AM, on Sunday, September 27th. There will be a nominal charge for the brunch.

The First Presbyterian Church of Joliet has a distinct past, with some of the following milestones:

August 3, 1866 -- First Presbyterian Church was organized with 28 members at the home of H.N. Marsh;

October 2, 1866 -- Rev. Oliver A. Kingsbury accepted a call to become the first pastor;

February 4, 1867 -- the church elected its first trustees, thereby making it a legal body;

December 22, 1867 -- the first church was dedicated to the service of God. The location was Western and Broadway, Joliet, it was constructed of native stone, and cost \$9000;

In 1890, the church was enlarged to approximately double its former size and an organ was purchased.

In 1913, the lot of the present church site was purchased, with additional frontage along Western Avenue obtained in 1922. Building was delayed due to World War I.

On June 21, 1925, at the Western and Raynor Avenue site, the first spade of sod was turned by Frank E. Marsh, who was present at the meeting when the First Presbyterian Church was organized in August of 1866.

In 1926, the new English Tudor Gothic style building was completed and furnished at a cost of \$180,000. The building's walls are solid masonry, faced with Joliet rock-faced ashlar limestone.

On October 7, 1950, the first steps were taken in dismantling its memorials, rich in sentiment and tradition, and moving them to the present site. The bell and a large marble table from the original building were placed in the present church tower. The sanctuary contains the original memorial windows of the first church building.

In 1959, an addition to the present building, constructed of Joliet quarry stone to match the structure of the existing building, was dedicated. This addition included office space, classrooms, and a fellowship hall, which later became known as Hoffman Hall in memory of Rev. Dr. Arthur W. Hoffman, the church's pastor from 1918 to 1953. The cost of the addition was \$250,000.

On April 17, 1966, a service of dedication was held to mark the completion of the renovation of the main sanctuary

and adjoining narthex. Also renovated were the nurseries, the bride's room and the groom's room. A new stained glass window was installed, its design worked out by then pastor, Rev. Robert W. Gibson, Jr. The organ was added to and rebuilt. The cost of this renovation was listed at \$250,000.

In 1979, property on Buell Avenue, and, in 1985, property on the southwest corner of Raynor and Western, was purchased and landscaped for additional off-street parking. Following the completion of these projects, in 1986, Rev. David Fillpot, then a co-paster of the church, accepted a beautification award from the City of Joliet on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church.

In 1992, restoration of the church organ began.

Previous church pastors and the years they served are as follows:

Oliver A. Kingsbury	1866-1869
E.R. Burdok (stated supply)	1869-1873
Jeame McLeod	1873-1876
J.W. Knott (stated supply)	1876-1877
Thomas G. Gunn	1877-1886
William M. Hindman	1886-1890
Charles A. Lippincott	1890-1895
Clarence G. Reynolds	1895-1908
Charles M. Brown	1908-1917
Arthur W. Hoffman	1918-1953
Lynn F. Taylor	1954-1958
Harold Kling (Assoc. Pastor)	1955-1955
Roger B. Simpson (Assoc. Pastor)	1956-1957
Robert W. Gibson, Jr.	1958-1971
Roy H. Hamburger (Assoc. Pastor)	1958-1963
Richard A. Ploen (Min. of Ed.)	1961-1964
James R. Carbaugh (Min. of Ed.)	1965-1968
N. Scott King (Min. of Ed.)	1969-1971
Robert C. Urquardt	1971-1973
Ronald W. Smith	1973-1987
R. David Fillpot	1973-1986
Stephen M. Phail (Assoc. Pastor)	1977-1978

George B. Thompson, Jr.		
	(Assoc. Pastor)	1984-1988
H.G. Wardlaw, Jr.	(Interim Pastor)	1987-1989
Craig M. Herr		1989-present
Kenneth C. Shedenhelm		
	(Assoc. Pastor)	1991-present

Following is a list of the youth of the church who, as adults, have entered the ministry:

Rev. Steven Plank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Plank, is currently serving as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, IL.

Rev. William H. Levering, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Levering, is currently serving as pastor of the Flenington Presbyterian Church, Flenington, NJ.

Rev. Patricia Davison Foust, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davison, is currently taking time off. She and her husband, Rev. Jerry Foust, reside in Texas where he serves as pastor of the Height Presbyterian Church, Houston.

Rev. Bruce Sylvester, son of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Sylvester, is currently serving as pastor of the First Congregational Church, Palm Beach, FL.

Rev. Brad Carloss, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Carloss, is currently serving as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Atta, IA.

Rev. Mark Morrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Morrison, is currently serving as pastor of the Stidham Memorial Church, Lafayette, IN.

Rev. Judy Knutson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Knutson, is currently serving as assistant chaplin of the Bonell Good Samaritan Center, Greeley, CO.

Rev. Lisa Danielson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Danielson, is currently serving as a hospital chaplin in Cincinnati, OH, and is looking for reassignment.

Rev. Peter Keith, son of Dr. and Mr. John Keith, is currently serving as pastor of the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, Orchard, NY.

Rev. Herr states "that the church has a long tradition of demonstrating Christ's love by supporting community projects." The church's community involvement is funneled through its Mission Council.

MISSION COUNCIL

Following are some of the projects of the Mission Council, which is chaired by Elaine Griffin:

Participation in JACOB (Joliet Area Church Organized Body), where 74 church members worked with representatives from 19 other local churches to set working goals in areas of education, neighborhood improvement, jobs, and public safety, demonstrates the determination to "make a difference."

During this past year the congregation selected building a house for Habitat for Humanity as an all-church project. The Habitat house, built on a lot donated by a church member, Ken Pritz, is nearing completion. Habitat makes decent homes available to needy families. The recipient family helps with the construction and acquires the house with a low cost, interest-free mortgage. At least half of the entire church body was involved with raising money, general contracting,

labor, donating materials, or some other aspect of making this home possible. Church members contributed approximately 1000 man-hours of labor to this project, and the bonding of church members during the construction of this home was unbelievable, states church member, Ido Nap. The joy of working together toward a common worthy goal heightened the enthusiasm and satisfaction in this exciting project. Plans are already underway to build a second house as a joint project with another local church.

In 1986, the County Medical Society expressed concern and asked for community assistance in finding a solution to the growing segment of the population lacking access to health care. A former co-paster of First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ronald Smith, spearheaded a community task force to formulate the concept and lay the groundwork for a "free" clinic, providing medical care to the poor and those without other resources. Church member Elaine Griffin served as coordinator and temporary Executive Director to bring the clinic to fruition. Start-up funds were contributed by First Presbyterian Church, the Catholic Diocese, and the Will/Grundy Medical Society. The Will/Grundy Medical Clinic opened its doors to the working poor, the unemployed, and the suddenly single in March of 1988, and continues to provide quality primary, diagnostic and therapeutic medical care, at no cost, to an ever-increasing number of patients (2500 in 1991). Many church members fill various positions at the clinic serving

as volunteers, and its present Director of Nursing, Fran Burkey, is also a church member. First Presbyterian Church continues to financially support the clinic, as do many other churches, social and service clubs, businesses, and individuals. The clinic is an unique example of how this community addresses its share of a nation-wide problem through the support of volunteer physicians, nurses, clerical help, and the donated services of hospitals, the health department and pharmaceutical firms.

In addition to supporting the Will/Grundy Medical Clinic, Habitat and JACOB, the Mission Council of First Presbyterian Church distributes meaningful financial aid to more than 11 local charities, namely, Morning Star Mission, Groundwork, Meals on Wheels, HELP Food Pantry, Lambsfold, Salvation Army, Sheltering Arms, Daybreak, Adelante, AIDS Ministry of Illinois and Amnesty International. Much of the money for this support is raised by the Antique Sale Committee through its annual fundraiser, as well as local estate sales. Half of the cost of the Habitat house was provided by profits from the 1991 Antique Sale. The committee works year round to put together a large sale each spring, displaying interesting and unique items which have been donated or consigned by church members and the community at large.

The Mission Council also oversees church use and space for a variety of not-for-profit organizations that provide counseling and support groups. Presently, AA, ACOA, Incest

Survivors, Gamblers Anonymous, Tough Love, and Overeaters Anonymous meet at the church on a weekly basis. Head Start is expected to begin preschool classes this fall, utilizing Sunday School classrooms.

The night deacons provide Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to needy families, maintain a food pantry at the church, and meet other special needs within the congregation as they arise.

Day deacons coordinate nursery care during worship services, are "greeters" to church-goers on Sunday mornings, and visit both shut-ins and nursing homes.

The church has always encouraged active participation by its members and many thousands of hours are donated each year by volunteers in countless community endeavors. First Presbyterians apparently believe that the reward of a job well done is the opportunity to do more.

PARISH COUNCIL

The First Presbyterian Church's Parish Council, chaired by Joyce Miner, oversees a variety of church programs, including:

Stephen Ministry is a group of lay people in the congregation who have been trained (training takes approximately 5 months to complete) to be "caring listeners" to those with a special need -- either long term or short term. This includes persons experiencing a crisis due to a loved one's death (or impending death), loss of a job,

divorce, family stress, etc. Confidentiality is strictly observed.

ACME (Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment) has trained leaders from the congregation -- currently, Joyce and Will Miner and Pam and Keith LeVasseur. ACME sponsors weekend retreats and other events designed to help married couples communicate in a more effective way and facilitate positive growth in their relationship. This ministry started in 1982 and, to date, over 100 couples have participated.

This fall First Presbyterian Church will be offering a program entitled "Newlyweds," the purpose of which is to encourage couples who have been married less than 2 years to develop a loving, growing relationship by learning communication and conflict resolution skills, develop marital intimacy, and provide guidance in establishing priorities, goals and values in their marriage.

The church's annual women's retreat will be held on November 21 and 22, 1992 at St. Francis of the Woods, Mokena, IL. Past retreats have provided participants (an average of 60 women attend each year) with a time of relaxation, fellowship and spiritual growth.

Ms. Beth Richards, Director of Christian Education, conducts a monthly meeting called "Mothers of Young Children," which is designed to meet the needs of mothers with preschool age children. Child care is provided so that the moms can participate fully in the program and discussion.

The PWC (Presbyterian Women in the Congregation) sponsors several special events throughout the year. Two that are well attended, not only by church members but by the community, are the annual Fall Style Show, and the "Cookie Walk." The latter is held the first Saturday in December and features homemade cookies and crafts. In addition to a variety of luncheons and programs throughout the year, PWC Circles meet monthly for fellowship, prayer, study and discussion.

Some of the many other activities sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church include:

MUSIC MINISTRY

First Presbyterian believes that praising God through music is an integral part of Christian life and provides a powerful expression of one's faith. The church's Director of Music is Martha Sayles.

The Chancel (college age or older) choir provides music for Sunday morning worship and special music for the seasons of the church year. Youth choir is composed of boys and girls 6th through 12th grades. The Choristers involve boys and girls in 2nd through 5th grade and they sing regularly for worship services and once a year present a special musical. Cherub choir gives children 4 years old through the 1st grade an opportunity to sing during worship services.

First Presbyterian is proud of its Handbell Choir. The "bell ringers" play frequently for worship services and special occasions. The church received the handbells in November, 1971 and

were donated by long-time member, Glen Evans, in memory of his wife. They are known as the "Lucille Evans Memorial Handbells."

ADULT EDUCATION

First Presbyterian is a church that values Christian education and seeks to provide courses which will increase one's knowledge of God's word, individually challenge a person, enhance people's sense of community, and broaden awareness of Christian responsibilities in the world today. Adult courses are offered fall, winter and spring during the Sunday School hour. Courses scheduled for the fall of 1992 include:

"Prophetic Voices" led by associate pastor, Rev. Kenn Shedenhelm.

"To Feast at the Table of Life" with Dana Medina as the leader.

"Bible Discovery" with Bill Allen and Will Miner.

"We Decide Together -- A Guide to Making Ethical Decisions" will be led by Ralph Schoen and Bob Herrick.

"Ready or Phffft" with Chuck Jensen and Louis Judson.

A Sunday evening adult study group, known as "Kerygma: Discovering the Bible" is a comprehensive study of the Old and New Testaments," which is taught by Rev. Herr. Another Sunday evening class this fall will be led by Rev. Shedenhelm -- "Knowing, Believing and Living the Good News" -- promises to be a stimulating and thought-provoking journey of faith.

Beginning October 6, and each Wednesday morning thereafter, there will be an adult Bible study group, led by Rev. Shedenhelm.

Based on the church's lectionary, this course will span the entire scope of the Bible -- from Genesis to Revelation, from the Psalms of David to the letters of Paul.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

First Presbyterian Church offers a broad variety of classes and activities for children and youth.

Infant- and babysitting/child care -- a nursery is provided for infants through 2 years of age during worship services; and for the many other programs of the church, there is both a nursery and child care available.

Pre-school children 3 to 5 years of age meet during both worship services for a program that includes Bible stories, songs and art/craft projects.

Children's worship is held during both adult worship services, wherein children from kindergarten through 5th grade can participate. This brief children's worship segment is designed to prepare children for worship and enhance their understanding of worship in the reformed tradition.

There is a full array of Sunday school classes offered during the educational hour from 10:05 AM to 11:00 AM. These classes utilize curricula from the reformed tradition and are specifically tailored for ages 2 through grade 12.

Jr. and Sr. High fellowship groups meet separately on Sunday evenings for food, worship, lively discussions, and activity-oriented programs. In addition, events such as retreats and mission trips enrich the church's youth programs.

Confirmation classes start weekly each January for 10th graders. Following the final class in April, the confirmands are expected to share their statements of faith with the Session before they are confirmed in the presence of the entire congregation.

Vacation Bible school is held daily for one week each June for children ages 3 through the 5th grade, who meet together for Bible study, to sing Christian songs, participate in art projects, and have a time for recreation and refreshments.

The R.A.F.T.E.R.S. program is held each summer for grade school children through the 5th grade. Two to four trips are scheduled each summer to enable the youngsters to explore the wonder of the world God has made.

SHARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

There are many opportunities for members of First Presbyterian Church to get together, to grow in faith, or simply to enjoy Christian friendship.

The "Saturday night gang" is primarily designed for people in their 30's and 40's who enjoy fun and fellowship. This group's activities include dinners, ball games, and other social events.

Sociables is another active social group meeting monthly, and recently have enjoyed excursions to Starved Rock, Comiskey Park and downtown Chicago.

The Adult fellowship group meets the first Thursday evening of each month for supper and a special program.

Men's breakfast group meets the first Friday of each month at a local restaurant for breakfast and fellowship.

All-Church dinners feature special programs on a periodic basis. These family nights are designed for people of all ages and every member is encouraged to participate.

Emmaus dinner groups (informally known as "Dinner Bell" groups) are designed for 4 or 5 households. These small groups take turns having meals at one another's homes once a month. These dinner groups provide an excellent opportunity to become better acquainted with other members of the congregation.

Small group ministries are offered in a variety of formats. There are prayer groups, study groups, covenant groups, and serendipity groups, but all groups are designed for people who are committed to spiritual growth and willing to let deeper friendships develop with others in the congregation.

Sunday morning coffee and fellowship is a time set aside between Sunday morning worship services to encourage informal fellowship.

DATED: 9/92