

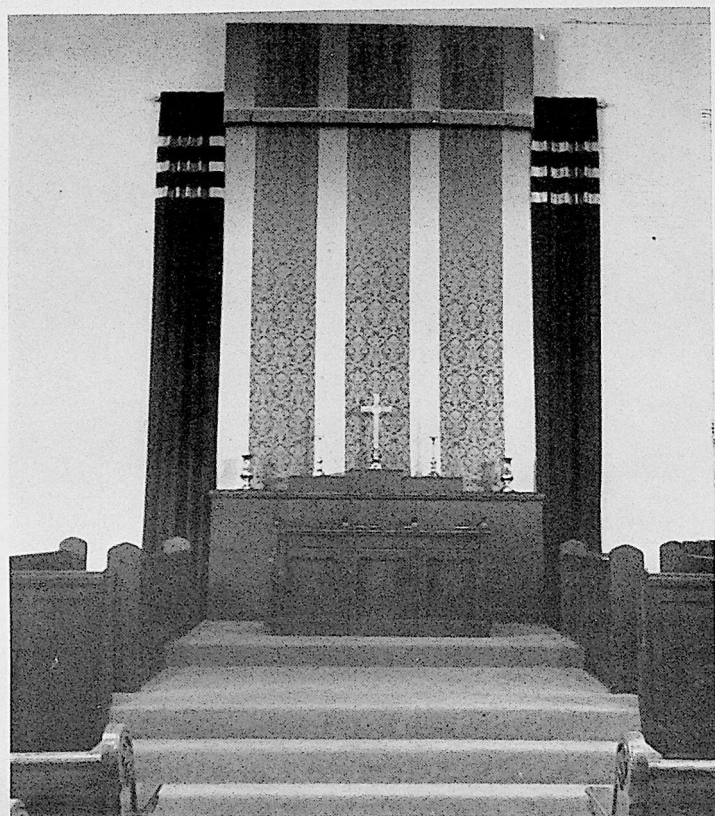
**85 YEARS**



**The First Presbyterian Church**

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

**1873 • 1958**



## Prefatory Note

IT IS THE INTENTION of this small book to present a few salient facts relating to the church congregation therein mentioned. Ever since its organization the church has functioned in accordance with the Presbyterian system of which it has been an effective part.

The volume is evidence of substantial achievement but it also is a promise of what is yet to be. This is the third time that the congregation has looked backward to measure its attainments. The major dates are 1923, 1948 and 1958.

From its inception in 1873 to the present time there has been no departure at any stage from doctrinal fundamentals.

We are justified in looking forward to more days regnant with the glory of the past.

—C. L. Young



## Foreword

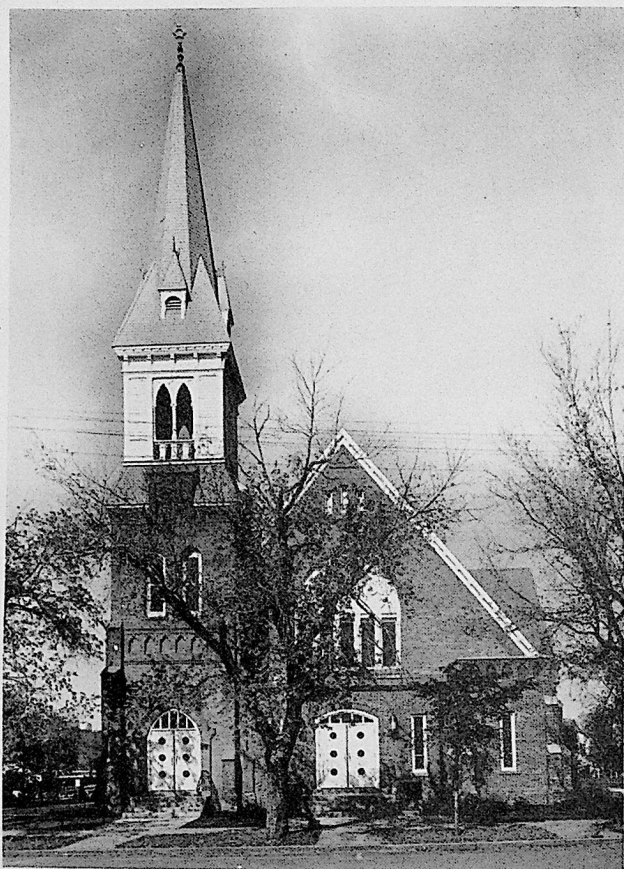
The following history of the First Presbyterian Church, Bismarck, has been undertaken at the request of the Session of our Church. It is a record of the remarkable labors and sacrifices in the establishment of this Church, the oldest church of any denomination in what is now North Dakota. As I have read the unfolding Christian pioneering done by our founding fathers, I have been amazed by their sturdy faith, patient endurance, and complete consecration. In these days of rapid communication, it is difficult for us to appreciate the obstacles which our forefathers had to encounter here.

This history indicates that the Presbyterian Church of Bismarck has been aware of the needs of men throughout its long history. When wrongs needed righting, and when unrighteousness should be replaced by righteousness, and when prophetic preaching was called for, this church always arose to meet the hour. It is at once a romance and a spiritual inspiration. We are challenged to learn from the past, but are urged to go on to new heights of spiritual power in the future.

The author of this book, Mr. Clyde L. Young, is preeminently qualified to prepare this work. Uniting with the church in 1916, he has been an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church for many years. He has the singular distinction of being a part of the Pastoral Nominating Committee that called the last six ministers. Over the years in connection with his local church, he has given his time and strength to many positions of service. He has also made a great contribution to the Presbytery of Bismarck, serving for many years as a Trustee of the Presbytery. His interest in Synod matters is seen through the wise counsel which he has given as a member of the Board of Directors of Jamestown College.

That this task of historian involved much labor will be evident to every reader. For his diligence and accuracy he has earned the gratitude of each of us. May the blessing of God accompany this publication, and may we who are here and those who are yet to come truly "follow in the train" of those who have gone before.

—James Payson Martin, Minister



## The Story of the Church

IN THE SPRING OF 1873 the Northern Pacific Railroad was completed to Bismarck. Reverend David C. Lyon, a representative of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, came to Bismarck and brought with him Reverend Isaac Oliver Sloan, then the pastor of the Presbyterian Churches at Belle Plain and Jordan, Minnesota. The latter minister had been a chaplain in the war between the states. He held Presbyterian services immediately after his arrival.

On Sunday, June 15, 1873, the little village of Bismarck had its first religious service. This was held in a large tent erected on the property then occupied by the McLain and Macnider Store, the building which stood on the lots now occupied by the so-called Gramb's block on the north side of the street, between Third and Fourth on Main Street. On one or two previous occasions, Mr. Lyon had visited Bismarck. He had, in fact, invited the people to religious services before the railway was completed and opened to the Missouri River.

At the evening services, notice was given that on the following day a meeting would be held for the purpose of taking initial steps looking to the erection of a Presbyterian Church in Bismarck. Unusual interest was manifest. The numerous saloons and gambling places in the town closed for the day. Even the ball game, which was scheduled for the afternoon, was canceled.

In the afternoon, services were conducted at Fort Abraham Lincoln. On the same day the Indians attempted to capture the beef herd which was grazing on the flats south of the fort. One Indian was killed and the herd of cattle was recaptured in a dash of cavalry under the direction of General Custer.

The following persons were received as the initial members of the new church: Col. C. A. Lounsberry of Wells, Minnesota; John W. Fisher of the Presbyterian Church of Duluth, Minnesota; Mrs. L. W. Boswell of the Presbyterian Church of Covington, Kentucky, and I. C. Adams of the Presbyterian Church of Kankakee, Illinois. These persons were received as members on condition that each would write and obtain a letter of dismissal from the church in which membership was held. Soon after this occurred, Mrs. Boswell moved from Bismarck without fulfilling her promise and Mr. Adams also overlooked his promise, so the only initial memberships were those of Col. Lounsberry and Mr. Fisher.

Pursuant to the notice which was given on the evening of June 15, a meeting of persons desiring to have a Presbyterian Church organized met at seven o'clock p.m. on June 16, 1873 in the United States Express office.

On motion of Reverend Sloan, the following persons were elected as a building committee: Charles F. Hobart, John N. Fisher and John S. Warn. The following persons were chosen to constitute a committee to solicit contributions for the erection of a church building: William Shaw, James E. Emmons, Mrs. Linda Slaughter, Major Woods and R. M. Douglas.

The secretary of the meeting of June 16, 1873 made the following comment in the minutes of the meeting—"This was the beginning of work which was to result ultimately in the building of an attractive church edifice." All of those interested in the undertaking were confident that it would prove successful.

Upon a request Messrs. Dutton and Miller discussed the probable cost of erecting a church building twenty-four feet wide and forty-four feet long, the dimensions of the church to be erected.



On the 14th day of July 1873, a congregational meeting was held for the purpose of electing trustees to administer the new church organization. This was done pursuant to and in conformity with the constitution of our denomination.

At that meeting, the following officers were elected trustees: Col. Lounsberry, J. S. Ford and W. S. Brown for one year; J. W. Fisher, W. H. White and William B. Shaw for two years and J. R. Jackson, J. C. Adams and C. F. Hobart for three years. The first executive officers of the board were the following: Chairman, John W. Fisher; Secretary, William White and Treasurer, William B. Shaw.

About September 1, 1873, the new building at the corner of Second and Thayer, was enclosed. Reverend Sloan then had resigned his pastorate at Belle Plain and Jordan, Minnesota and had abandoned his plan to return to the east. He assumed his duties at Bismarck under the direction of the Board of Home Missions on the 28th day of August, 1873, after encountering many difficulties.

Within six months after the small first church was undertaken, the building was in use. The first service was held in the church on December 14, 1873 and the first communion was administered there on April 4, 1874. The building herein referred to as the first building was deemed a temporary structure.

Conditions at the time were extremely primitive. The Bismarck Tribune was established on July 11, 1873. At that time the only towns in the area were Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck, Jamestown and Pembina. The Northern Pacific was the first railroad to enter the state. Farming operations of that day consisted largely of cultivation of land by the Indians. There were no schools, banks or organized churches.

At this point it becomes desirable to study the details of the military post. There were two companies at Camp Hancock. That camp was located along the Bismarck street known as Main Avenue and between First and Third Streets. Fort Lincoln was five miles south of Mandan. Several companies of the Sixth Infantry were stationed in the fort now known as Fort McKeen.

In the summer of 1873, Custer brought the Seventh Cavalry to the Post on the flats commonly known as "The Fort Under the Hill." A new site for the fort was sought and the selection was the commanding bluff from which sentries could see for miles around. Cavalry Barracks were built on the flat under the hill by order of General Sheridan who also directed the building of the Cavalry Barracks.

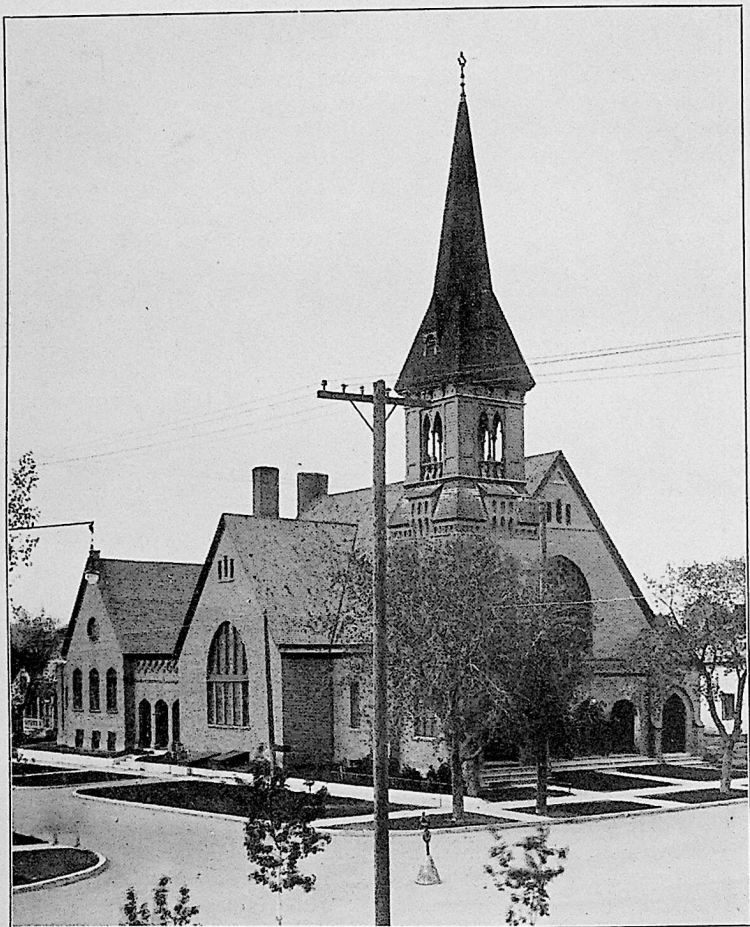
There is reference here to military activity only for the purpose of showing the nature of the atmosphere in which the members and friends of the church were obliged to live.

From the beginning, it was the purpose of the congregation, as soon as funds should be available, to undertake a much more attractive edifice than the one first provided. The congregation, on July 22, 1884, took action looking to the erection of a larger building. On July 23, the board of trustees had a meeting at which a building committee was named to undertake the construction of an edifice which would be a credit to the group. The members of the committee chosen were the following: Reverend Charles B. Austin, then pastor of the church; S. H. Nichols, C. S. Weaver, C. H. Claque, John Brown, George H. Fairchild, Elizah Coffin and Frank J. Call.

The committee was directed to employ an architect, secure plans, raise the funds necessary to erect the building, secure bids for the construction of a foundation and to submit a report.



The first important step was the employment of an architect. The one chosen was W. L. Dow of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In a letter written by Mr. Dow to E. H. Wilson, a trustee and elder of the church, on June 30, 1884, he stated that he had been unable to go to Bismarck during the preceding week, so he sent a sketch of the ground plan of the new church building, together with a drawing of the elevation of a church and chapel that could be built with the money available. He called attention in his letter to the fact that he had avoided all angles possible because they are so very costly. The roof line was broken effectively by carrying the breaks to the ground. The open porch shown in the plans was conspicuous



in all pictures of the church prior to 1950. In that year there was a revision of the plans in the front of the exterior of the church and of the sanctuary.

Mr. Dow defended the open porch on the ground that it would prove a great convenience.

In August, 1885, a structural question arose with reference to the outside stone trimmings. Mr. Dow informed Mr. Wilson that the trimmings would not be as durable nor as permanent as if faced in stone. As late as 1890, he still argued in favor of trimmings in stone. The question was referred to the building committee and that committee was instructed to proceed at once with construction under the supervision of a superintendent. A part of the cost of the building was, from time to time, reported by the committee. On August 20, 1885, a meeting of the trustees was held to hear the report. The committee was instructed to proceed with the construction. The old, original church building had been moved to the north end of the lots and the foundation of the new church was constructed immediately.

Upon completion of the church in 1892, it became the subject of much commendation for its symmetry and beauty. It was called the finest and most costly church edifice in North Dakota.

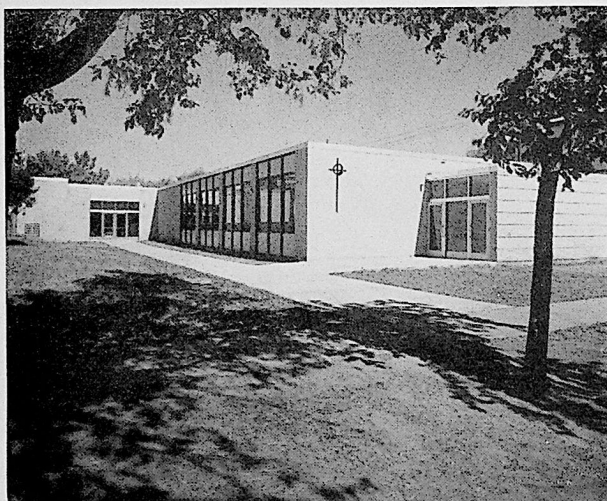
The growth of the church membership made the expansion of its facilities imperative. When the present building was erected, no foundation walls were constructed. The impermanent foundation remained in that condition until 1931.

What has been said throughout this discussion relates wholly to the church structures which were built in 1873 and in the period extending from 1884 to 1892. After the construction of the building which still stands, it was found inadequate and by 1906, considerable sentiment developed in favor of an extension of the church facilities. On October 11, 1906, a congregational meeting was held to consider the building of an addition. Lantern slides were used to illustrate the plans for the proposed structure.

The sentiment unanimously favored the building of the addition which faces Second Street. More than 20 years after the erection of this addition, it became necessary to provide for further expansion. - In 1931, it was deemed advisable to provide for durability by putting a basement under the front of the church. The excavated portion of the new structure has been used through the years as a kitchen and dining room. The primary purpose of the new structure, however, was to add space to the basement. The modification of that structure was the only major change made in the church until 1949. At the congregational meeting held in February of that year, action was taken which authorized the revision of the church plan in several respects. The chancel was reconstructed and beautified. The arch at the southeast corner was closed completely and the narthex at the south-

west corner was changed to provide a cloak room. There was a complete rebuilding of the pastor's study. The old Sunday School assembly room was transformed into a beautiful colonial chapel. The manse was designed anew. Every facility was improved to the end that the beauty of the structure might be enhanced.

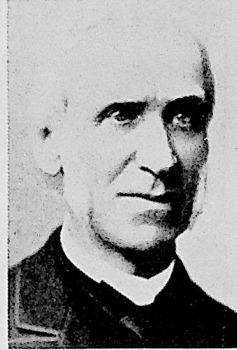
In the early fifties there came a wave of church building through the state and nation. The members of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck were made aware of needs much more compelling than any previously experienced. A thorough study of the situation was made and the congregation well nigh unanimously agreed that temporizing was futile, and that nothing short of a new building and its appropriate equipment would satisfy the manifest demands. The result is a new educational building which occupies the entire unused area acquired by the church in 1873. This building has been completed and dedicated. It contains whatever is needed to meet the educational demands of the Sunday School and other young peoples' activities. In it and a part of it, is the new dining room and kitchen, and a Youth Lounge. It also houses the offices and the pastor's study.



PASTORS  
*of*  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*of*  
Bismarck, North Dakota

### *Reverend Isaac Oliver Sloan*

IT ALREADY HAS been made plain that the first pastorate of the Bismarck Church was that of Reverend Isaac Oliver Sloan. He was born in Philadelphia on October 20, 1820 and died there on October 27, 1899. A. D. Lasker, an officer of the First New Hampshire Cavalry, reported that in the summer of 1863 he was taken prisoner by the Confederates in the war between the states and later was paroled to Camp Parole at Annapolis, Maryland. He was admitted to the Naval Academy Hospital later on and Reverend Sloan was there as the agent of the Christian Commission, rendering gratuitous but most benevolent service for the sick and wounded. He was known through his North Dakota ministry as "Father Sloan". This was a term of endearment. He frequently commented on the fact that he bore this title although he was neither a father nor a priest. The title, "Father", resulted from his frequent visits to the military personnel whom he was accustomed to visiting on the flats at Fort Lincoln.



In August 1873, after his visit to Bismarck, he resigned his pastorate at Belle Plain and Jordan, Minnesota, with the intention of returning to the East. He went as far as St. Paul and there was induced to consider the frontier condition of the territory which he had visited in the Bismarck area. For the time being he gave up the idea of returning East and returned to Bismarck to take up labor under the direction of the Board of Home Missions on the 28th day of August 1873. Father Sloan's labors in the old wooden church with the diminutive spire continued until the fall of 1878 when he resigned and returned for a few months to Philadelphia, but the call of the West brought him back and in the following year he took up work across the river in the new town of Mandan where he was stationed for five years. Later, he pioneered again at Glencoe, where his memory yet lingers. About 1894, he returned to Philadelphia where he spent the next five years with his sister. He died in 1899 at the age of 79.

Father Sloan, the first pastor of this church, lies in the hallowed ground of his native city of Brotherly Love.

### *Reverend Stephen G. Dodd*

REVEREND STEPHEN G. DODD was born in Caldwell, New Jersey, March 24, 1826. He graduated from Princeton in 1847. He was Chaplain in a Massachusetts regiment in the war between the states. From 1870 to 1878 he was pastor of the First Congregational Church of St. Johns, New Brunswick. From there, he came to Bismarck as the successor of "Father Sloan".

He served the church at its pastor from January 1, 1879 to July 1, 1879, when he left to take a position as Post Chaplain in the United States army, at Fort Assinaboine, Montana. He was stationed at that fort until 1890, his year of retirement.

He died while visiting in San Diego, California, on December 15, 1912 and was buried in the military cemetery at Fort Rosenkranz on Point Lorna.

### *Reverend William Coit Stevens*

REVEREND WILLIAM COIT STEVENS was born at Parma, Ohio, on August 24, 1853. He received his education at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1874 and Union Theological Seminary in 1877.

In 1879 he was ordained as a minister in the Red River Presbytery. He served the Bismarck Church until 1882 when he went to Oberlin, Ohio, from whence he went to Los Angeles. His declining years were spent in Kansas City, Kansas.

### *Reverend Samuel H. Thompson*

REVEREND STEVENS WAS FOLLOWED in 1883 by Reverend Samuel H. Thompson, who was a native of Donegal County, Ireland. He was born in 1842 and attended college at Glasgow, Scotland.

During the war between the states, he came to this country and became active in the Christian and Sanitary Commissions. At the end of the war he attended Princeton Theological Seminary and thereafter served as a pastor in Pennsylvania, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota and New Jersey.

He served this church as pastor for a short time in 1883. Reverend Thompson was a highly educated and cultivated gentleman. He died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in June, 1923.

### *Reverend Charles Baldry Austin*

REVEREND CHARLES BALDRY AUSTIN WAS born in Philadelphia on January 20, 1848. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1868 and received his degree in theology at the Union Theological Seminary in 1872.

He was ordained by the Steubenville Presbytery on November 14, 1872. Between his college and seminary courses for two years he taught Latin in the Ithaca Academy, Ithaca, New York. There he met Sarah Lillie Mandeville, whom he married in 1872. His first charge following his ordination was in Cohocton, New York. He was pastor there from 1872-1876. He served as a stated supply in New York Mills, New York, from 1876-1883. At this place there was built during his pastorate, the Wolcott Memorial Church edifice. The biographies of Mr. Austin show that while he resided in Bismarck during his pastorate of five years from 1883 to 1888, he was instrumental in erecting a church building. This building relates to the structure which has been the subject of the anniversary celebrations.

Mr. Austin also had pastorates at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, from 1888-1893 and served as an evangelist in Detroit from 1894-1896. He also was stated supply at Beckwith Memorial Church in Cleveland, Ohio. He was pastor at Vance Memorial Church at Wheeling, West Virginia, from 1897-1903 and also served the church at Haddonfield, New Jersey, from 1903-1905. He was pastor at Toms River, New Jersey, from 1905-1912, where, after eight years of service, he rounded out a period of forty years in active ministry.

His last service was as pastor emeritus at Toms River, for ten years. He received a D.D. degree from Lafayette College in 1898. He died in Philadelphia on December 31, 1922.

### *Reverend James Marshall Anderson*

REVEREND JAMES MARSHALL ANDERSON was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, in 1827. He came to the United States at the age of two and was educated at Williams College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He held divers positions as an educator, including a professorship at Williams College, but entered active pastoral work in 1890 with churches in New Jersey before coming to Bismarck in 1889.

Under his charge the present church was completed. His sturdy opposition to the attempt of the Louisiana State Lottery to fasten itself on North Dakota in 1890 is a well remembered feature of his work at Bismarck. Retiring from the pastorate in 1893, he made his home at Duluth, Minnesota, until his death on August 23, 1907.

### *Reverend Archibald Durrie*

REVEREND ARCHIBALD DURRIE was born at Madison, Wisconsin, July 26, 1858. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1879 and McCormick Theological Seminary in 1887 at which time he was ordained. Prior to coming to Bismarck he was pastor at Kilbourn City, Wisconsin, from 1887-1889 and at Superior, Wisconsin, from 1889 to 1893.

He was called to Bismarck in 1893 where he remained until 1901. His later pastorates were at Hastings, Minnesota, from 1901 to 1905; Kendrick, Iowa, 1905 to 1911; Ione, California, 1911 to 1918; Monrovia, California, 1918 to 1919; Superior, Wisconsin, again 1919 to 1921 and at Leadville, Colorado, 1921 to 1924.

He was Moderator of the Synod of North Dakota in 1899. He died at Leadville, Colorado, on January 21, 1924.





### *Reverend Andrew Hayes*

REVEREND ANDREW HAYES was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, on June 14, 1864. His A.B. Degree was received from Waynesburg College in 1890. He graduated from the Western Theological Seminary in 1893. He did post graduate work at the University and at the Free Church Seminary of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1901. He received an A.B. Degree from Princeton University in 1894 and an A.M. Degree from Princeton in 1900. He received his Ph. D. Degree from Jaylor University, Uphland, Indiana, in 1902.

He was pastor at Beulah and Cross Roads in Pennsylvania from 1894 to 1900; and of First Presbyterian Church at Bismarck 1902 to 1906.

### *Reverend Charles Willis Harris*

DR. CHARLES W. HARRIS was born at Sugar Grove, Pennsylvania, on March 16, 1873. His academic education was obtained at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, and his Theological course at Princeton Theological Seminary.



He held pastorates at Mapleton, Lisbon and Minot, North Dakota and in 1905 was called to the church at Bismarck where he remained until 1916. His term as pastor was longer than that of any other pastor. In 1916 he accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church at Bozeman, Montana. During his ministry in Bismarck, a new chapel and a new manse were erected.

Shortly after his removal to Bozeman, the United States entered World War I and Dr. Harris left his field to serve in the Y.M.C.A. in France. After the close of the war, he, for a time, was student pastor at the University of Indiana and later served as professor of religious education at his Alma Mater. For several years he served churches at or near Weaverville, North Carolina. Dr. Harris died in 1954.

### *Reverend Harry Cunningham Postlethwaite*

DR. POSTLETHWAITE was a native born Pennsylvanian. He graduated from Franklin College and from McCormick Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of the churches at Hanna City, Illinois, Marshfield and Marinette, Wisconsin. He was called to the Bismarck church in the middle of 1916.

Owing to a prolonged illness in 1923, Dr. Postlethwaite was out of the pulpit for many months. During this period the church was served by Reverend Harper C. Burns, a Congregational minister formerly of Mott, North Dakota. Upon his recovery, Dr. Postlethwaite resumed his normal duties, but feeling that his work was unduly burdensome, he resigned in 1925. Later, feeling much improved, he went to the Federated Church at Platte, South Dakota. After two months of service there, he passed quietly away during the Christmas worship service, December 20, 1925.



### *Reverend Paul S. Wright, D.D.*

EARLY IN 1925 a call to the pastorate of the church was extended to Dr. Paul S. Wright. He was born in Tabriz, Persia, on September 18, 1895. His parents at that time were missionaries to Persia but returned to the United States in his early years. He received his education at Wooster Academy, Wooster College and McCormick Theological Seminary.

His first pastorate was that of the church at Crosby, North Dakota, followed by the pastorates at Bismarck, Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, First Presbyterian Church at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and the First Presbyterian Church at Portland, Oregon. For several years he also served the church at large as a member of the General Council and as a member of the Board of Christian Education. In Oklahoma City he was vice president of the Council of Social Agencies. In Portland he was a member of the Board of Directors of Oregon's Mental Hygiene Society, the Oregon Prison Association, Portland Council of Churches and the Institute of Foreign Relations. He served overseas in World War I.



During a part of his pastorate in Bismarck his sermons were broadcast; a director of Religious Education was employed and a missionary was sent by the church to Chile.

In May, 1955, Dr. Wright was elected Moderator of the General Assembly, at Los Angeles. He remains as pastor of the church at Portland. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Park College.

### *Reverend Floyd Emerson Logee*

REVEREND FLOYD E. LOGEE was born at Cambridge, Ohio, January 10, 1889. He was educated in the public schools of that state and finished his academic studies at Western Reserve University in 1911. Thereafter he went to the Y.M.C.A. as secretary at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut and was graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1916.



After serving a year at Monon, Indiana, he became a chaplain in the United States Army during World War I. His first pastorate was at Circleville, Ohio, from whence he went to Birmingham, Michigan.

He was called to Bismarck in 1929, where he served for a decade. In 1940 he was called to Butte, Montana, and from there to Orrville, Ohio. In the later part of 1956 he resigned the Orrville pastorate and entered upon a mission project at Boca Raton, Florida, where he is now serving.

*Reverend Chester W. Hamblin, D.D.*

DR. HAMBLIN was the pastor of the church from September 1939 until December 1, 1944. He resigned on that date to assume the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church at Salem, Oregon.

He was born at Duluth, Minnesota, in 1905. His education was obtained in the public schools of Superior, Wisconsin. He was graduated from Macalester College, St. Paul, with a B.A. Degree in 1927. He then attended McCormick Theological Seminary and graduated therefrom in 1930.

He served as a missionary for the church at Kodoli, India, in 1930 and 1931. He became pastor of the Maywood Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City and held that pastorate until 1939 when he accepted the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church at Bismarck. From Salem, Oregon, Dr. Hamblin assumed the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church at Palo Alto, California, but resigned that position after five years of service.



*Reverend Joseph Bachman, D.D.*

DR. JOSEPH BACHMAN was born in Waterloo, Iowa, July 21, 1911. He graduated from the Kansas State Teachers College at Pittsburg, Kansas, and from there went to and graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1940. He was also a student for a time in Union Theological Seminary in New York City.



He was general secretary of the Student Y.M.C.A. at Pittsburg, Kansas, from 1935 to 1937 and director of boys work at Christopher House, a settlement project in Chicago, from 1938 to 1940. From 1940 to 1942, he served as the minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Sullivan, Missouri, and later became a chaplain in the United States Naval Reserve. From 1943 to 1945, he was an assistant minister at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. He was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Bismarck from February 1945 to October 1954. He served as Moderator of the Bismarck Presbytery and as Moderator of the

North Dakota Synod of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1954 he resigned the pastorate of the Bismarck Church and accepted the pastorate of the Calvary Presbyterian Church of Long Beach, California. In 1951, Jamestown College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He died at Long Beach on February 14, 1957 and left surviving him, his wife and one daughter, Gail.

### *Reverend James Payson Martin*

REVEREND JAMES PAYSON MARTIN was born at Gary, Indiana, on July 26, 1926. In 1930 his family moved to Bloomington, Illinois, where his father became, and ever since has been, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Bloomington. Mr. Martin was educated in the public schools of Bloomington and graduated from Maryville College in 1947. His theological education was obtained at McCormick Theological Seminary. In 1948, while still a student at the seminary, he became a member of the staff of the First Presbyterian Church of Gary as minister of music and youth. Here he had entire charge of the music and youth programs.

He graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1950. In that year he accepted a call from the Riverside Presbyterian Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota. On February 14, 1955, he accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck, where he is now serving.



## ASSISTANT PASTORS

### *Reverend Alvin L. Zimmerman*

REVEREND ALVIN L. ZIMMERMAN was born at Louisville, Kentucky, on February 26, 1921. He was graduated from the Louisville Male High School in 1938, from the Louisville University in 1947 and from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 1956.



From 1941 to 1942 he was a clerk in the United States Post Office in Louisville and also was employed as an apprentice on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. From September 1942 to April 1946, he served in the United States Marine Corps. He was both deacon and elder of the Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church of Louisville and served as supply in the pulpits of churches in Kentucky.

He was Assistant Minister of First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck from February, 1956 to October 1, 1957, when he became minister of the Presbyterian Church at Ord, Nebraska.

### *Reverend Charles Bennett*

REVEREND CHARLES BENNETT was born at Jamestown, North Dakota, in the year 1922. He graduated from Jamestown High School in 1938 and from Concordia College in 1942. From 1942 to 1946, he was in the Army. He received his B.D. Degree in 1951 from New Brunswick Theological Seminary (Reformed Church in America). He attended Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, where he received a Th. M. Degree.



His first pastorate was for three years in First Reformed Church, Mount Vernon, New York, from January, 1951, through December, 1954. In the fall of 1954, he was called to the Presbyterian Fellowship at Williston, North Dakota, and on January 1, 1955, he became the pastor of the church at Williston.

He is a member of the American Legion, the Kiwanis Club, and Junior Chamber of Commerce. On December 2, 1957 he became the assistant pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck.

Due to mental and emotional strain, Mr. Bennett requested permission in May, 1958, to be released from his work in Bismarck. His future plans are uncertain at this time.

## Religious Education

ON AUGUST 1, 1872, Linda W. Slaughter organized a Sunday School at Camp Hancock. Mrs. Slaughter was the wife of Dr. B. Frank Slaughter, who was the post surgeon of the 7th Infantry stationed at Camp Hancock.

Mrs. Slaughter taught the children until the railroad reached Bismarck in June 1873. With the railroad came missionaries of the Presbyterian Church like "Father Sloan", Reverend D. C. Lyon and others, who were eager to spread the gospel.

The process of organizing was very informal. Mrs. Slaughter brought together a small group which met west of the Northern Pacific depot. It was a general group. Over the entrance of its meeting place were the words: "Sunday School, All Welcome". After the school began to function it was reorganized as the "Union Sunday School", so that people would attend without reference to creed. Mrs. Slaughter was the superintendent and Col. C. A. Lounsberry was the secretary. Somewhat later after this school had functioned for some time there was a further reorganization in what was known as the Presbyterian Sunday School of Bismarck. J. C. Adams was elected superintendent and was succeeded by H. J. Douglas. Upon his retirement the organization was led by John W. Fisher. At the same time Dr. Slaughter presented a small library of Sunday School books to the school, and in 1873 large additions were made by Reverend D. C. Lyon. The books were secured from The Third Presbyterian Sunday School of Philadelphia. These books were in constant use during the town's earlier years. Obviously, this was the first library of any kind in the territory which later was designated by the name of "North Dakota". Considering the primitive conditions prevailing within the boundaries of such area, the social ideals of the territorial days were exceptionally high. The first meeting dealing with the problem of housing was held on June 16, 1873.

The Louisiana Lottery controversy brought about a meeting calling for vigilant action resisting this issue in the territory. In 1887 the right of the lottery to operate in the state of Louisiana expired. That state refused to renew the life of the institution. Other states refused to permit its operation within their borders and there was an attempt to fasten the institution upon North Dakota. Reverend J. M. Anderson, the pastor of our church at the time, was a very determined leader against the lottery.



Another was O. P. Ryder, the superintendent of schools. The Sunday Schools took a very lively interest in the debates and the children through the Sunday School, learned that lotteries are an evil thing.

During the early days the Sunday School pupils took a deep interest also in the Loyal Temperance Legion. This was an undertaking the purpose of which was to enlist interest of youths in the subject of temperance.

From the time the Sunday School was organized in 1872 to June 3, 1928, the church school was of a simple type. About 1920 vigilant efforts were made to introduce the use of modern methods. Leaders in the movement to modernize methods were Mrs. H. C. Postlethwaite, the wife of the minister, and Miss Bertha Palmer, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in North Dakota.

In 1925 Dr. Paul S. Wright became the pastor of the church and undertook the modernization of methods of organization in the school. His efforts resulted in the employment of Miss Helen Budd as director of religious education. Upon the resignation of Miss Budd, her successor, Miss Helen Vaile, became director. A Board of Education was elected and the new organization looked forward to being an efficient one.

In the years which now have passed there have been great strides in method and an especial interest has become manifest on account of improvement in facilities. The interest which officers and pupils have taken has ended in the erection of the well equipped Educational Building, recently dedicated. It should prove a great stimulus to a deeper spiritual life.

## The Women's Association

THE LADIES AID, now the Presbyterian Women's Association, in the church through the years has been an incessant accumulator of funds. In the normal years substantial amounts have been paid to the Board of Trustees for such use as might seem desirable or necessary. The improvements made in the basement in 1931 were paid in large part, by the Aid. The Church Parlor was rebuilt out of funds substantial in character. The women paid for the pipe organ which was installed in 1923. Many other expenditures were financed by the women out of their earnings as an organization.

The author has sought in vain for records which would show in detail the story of the work done in the church by the women. Regardless of records, it is a fact that the women have done much to give the church vitality. From the time that the church was organized, the women's society contributed generously the money they earned for use by the officers who were charged with administration of the church's affairs.

There are many ways in which a church can function and though it seems to carry on without clamor, the aggregation as a whole is eager to serve effectively in every conceivable way.

As appears from the early history of the church, the organization was effected on June 15, 1873. Out of the first adherents to be accepted as members of the church, only one of them was a woman, Mrs. W. A. Boswell of Covington, Kentucky. She, however, remained for a very short time. There were no early attempts to preserve records of church activities. It seems improbable that Mrs. Boswell should have initiated women's work in the village. It is known that very early after 1873 the women were very deeply engaged in working to collect funds for the new first church building. There were suppers and bazaars and other attractions maintained to make it feasible to turn the money over to the building committee.

The older residents enjoy telling the stories of gamblers and others who were social outcasts and who made it a sort of business to patronize church entertainment with their ill gotten gains. It is said that one prominent character appeared at a bazaar and asked the women in charge to set a price on the entire collection of the articles in full view. The sum named was paid in full; then the buyer donated them back to be sold to those present. The generosity of the donors in those cases was unique. The

women who were active in the conduct of such bazaars clearly marked themselves as the possessors of courage, enthusiasm and genuine loyalty.

The reader is reminded that in the seventies there were no well equipped kitchens in the churches nor in the homes either. It was customary for each housewife who participated in a supper or bazaar to carry linen and dishes and silver, as much as she could spare, to serve the tables.

As the years progressed, the earnings increased proportionately. It was the practice to turn over ten per cent of the year's earnings to Missions. Wherever there was monetary need the "Aid" was ready to serve. The balance of proceeds of earnings from a project was used upon some new project.

Those are practices of the past. Increasingly, the finances of the church are placed on a business basis. What formerly was sold over bazaar counters now is sold in furtherance of good will. We need not speculate as to the activity of the women of the church. All that they do as an organization betokens industry and loyalty and zeal. In their way they serve the causes of National Missions and Foreign Missions and all religious activities.

## Music

THROUGHOUT THE EARLY HISTORY of the church, the instrumental music was furnished by a small reed organ. During his ministry, Dr. Hayes led the congregation in efforts to obtain a better musical instrument. The change was effected about 1900. The first organist was Mrs. R. Penwarden. She was succeeded by O. H. Holt. The second instrument was a two manual one. All of the pipes were wooden and it was very sweet toned. For several years after installation, it was pumped by hand but later electric pumping was substituted. To finance the installation, a concert was given by Miss Gertrude Sans Souci, a composer and organist, and by Maude Ulmer Jones, soprano. Both of these artists came from Minneapolis. The money received for admissions was turned over to the organ fund.

The organist having the longest term was Mrs. Belle Moore. She came to Bismarck in the summer of 1895 and remained the organist at the morning service until the death of her husband in 1914. Upon his death, Mrs. Moore became the organist at both services until August, 1920.

After the organ obtained at the turn of the century had been in use for more than twenty years, the growing congregation made it imperative that a more modern instrument be obtained. Accordingly the ladies of the church proposed the purchase of a new organ to be installed in the fiftieth anniversary year. The organ was installed during the year 1923 and has been used ever since such installation. The following organists have served the church throughout the life of the church: Mrs. Penwarden, Mr. O. H. Holt, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Marcellus, Genevieve Menard Hughes, Minnie Shuman, Florence Gage, Mrs. Ella Clayton Smyth, Mrs. Wray, Mary Atkinson, Marion Leshner, Ann Hurlburt Peterson, Mrs. Hugh Wright, Mrs. R. E. Morris, Florence Fitch, Muriel Crabtree Thorberg, Harriet Johnson, Mary Margaret French, Winnie Lou Halverson and Mrs. P. R. Schneeman, who still is serving as organist. The vocal music for years found its expression in quartets. The first of these to be organized consisted of Mrs. F. J. Call, soprano; Mrs. O. Holt, alto; Col. C. B. Little, bass, and H. J. Durant, tenor.

The next choir also consisted of a quartet. The following were its members: Mrs. John French, soprano; Miss Elizabeth Jones, alto; William Chase, tenor, and George Humphreys, bass. Upon the removal of Mr. Chase from Bismarck, he was succeeded by Henry Halvorson, William Miller and P. E. James. Others sang at different times and on different occasions either as members of a quartet or of chorus choirs. For several years the choir consisted of the following members: Mrs. G. E. Wingreene, soprano; Mrs. F. J. Bavendick, alto; Henry Halverson, tenor, and George Humphreys, bass.

In the early forties, the choir was organized with Techla Knoll as the director. She was succeeded by Sally Lou Larson. Following next was I. E. Solberg who was succeeded by Harold Van Heuvelen, the present director.

During the years 1955 to 1957, inclusive, there has been considerable interest in youth choirs. At the present time such choirs are classified as cherub, angel, carol, chapel and chancel choir for adults.

## Sequel

ONE WRITER HAS CHARACTERIZED the preceding eighty-five years as a period of struggle, aspiration, discouragement and success. He says that out of the pages of the first volume of minutes of proceedings of the session come the ghosts of the past.

Referring to Reverend Isaac Oliver Sloan as the first pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, it is said that it is difficult to find words with which to describe the love and veneration in which his memory is held by those who knew him. Those who admired him did not talk of his ability as a pulpit orator, but rather of his gentleness and kindness, and his warm and friendly human interest in their welfare. He was not robust, and his voice had in it a quaver indicating moderation. The labors of Father Sloan were performed for the most part, in the little church with the "diminutive spire". He spent five years at Mandan and also built the church at Glencoe. In 1894 he concluded his work at the latter point and returned to Philadelphia where he died at the age of 79.

In 1881 the church erected the structure, for many years known as the manse, and which a few years ago was sold to Frank Everts, who changed the same into an apartment house in the east half of the block.

During Rev. Charles Harris' ministry the Manse at 216 Avenue B West was built. This Manse was occupied by the various ministers until May 1, 1957. At that time, the opportunity came to purchase the present manse at 321 Hannifin Street. This was done, and the former Manse was sold.



Since the growing congregation in Bismarck demanded the full-time services of two ministers, a second Manse was erected, the work beginning in November, 1957, and completion came in March, 1958. This house is located at 601 Crescent Lane.

A member of the church has left a terse description of the first building in the following language: "You must remember that through all of the

early years the services were held in the unprepossessing wooden structure on the church corner. It was homely enough to dampen the ardor of any church lover." In eighteen eighty-three there was a local boom. The capital had been moved from Yankton to Bismarck. Addition after addition of realty was laid out. Some additions extended a mile or more beyond the capitol as the same now is located. It was expected that at least a hundred thousand would locate in the area.

The church building was too small and Reverend Austin, in his tenure, initiated a building campaign. On a designated Sunday the campaign was initiated by opening the subscriptions, headed by George H. Fairchild. The old building was dragged to the rear of the lots, facing on Second Street. Thus the new building was commenced and in the following year it was enclosed so that services were held therein. The boom collapsed and a series of bad years followed. The depression continued for a period of eight or nine disheartening years and the church was used in the hope that when a favorable year should come it would be possible to continue and to complete the old building.

Every once in awhile an institution will become a dominating factor in community life. That is true of the life of our churches. In 1889 the state was created. The pastor of the church was Rev. James M. Anderson. The construction process was pushed forward. The beautiful spire was completed and a new constitution was adopted. The authority of Louisiana lottery to operate was about to expire and it attempted to have the enterprise fastened upon the State of North Dakota. Under the leadership of Rev. Anderson, meetings were held, the purpose of which was to defeat lottery by decent citizens of the state. A two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislative assembly was required to defeat the lottery. On a Saturday evening a meeting of protest was held in the church and on Sunday morning following, the atmosphere was described as "electric with solicitude." The service was attended by a large congregation. Reverend Anderson preached a powerful sermon from the following text: Proverbs 16:33 — "The lot is cast into the lap but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord." Through these influences the lottery measure was defeated.

The archives of the church show a long list of laymen who have rendered valiant service as officers of the church. A study of the records has suggested that no attempt be made to name all of the officers of the church who have served between 1873 and 1958. There is one long and fully detailed volume of minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees. There also are two volumes of minutes of the Session and Board of Deacons of the church. These records should be so preserved that they can be consulted at any time.

  
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