

75 YEARS  
with  
CHRIST  
in the  
YAKIMA CHURCH



by  
Mrs. L.M.  
STARR

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Yakima, Washington

October 16

1880 ——— 1955



THE FOUNDERS  
(A Dedication)

And when they had come into this place,  
they found their God had gone before them.  
And they took heart and rejoiced. And God  
gave strength to prevail over the grudging  
furrow. And they raised unto Him a Taber-  
nacle and did His work throughout all this  
land. And they instructed their children  
and their children's children in the Love  
of God. And in this day they shall be  
called Blessed and their counsels shall  
endure unto all generations.



## ORGANIZATION

On Saturday afternoon, October 16, 1880, twelve people, all but four of one family, -- Isaac Flint, Mrs. Isaac Flint, Purdy and Mrs. Lucy Flint, A. L. Flint, Minnie Flint, Hetty Flint and Clara Burch, Dr. and Mrs. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Ross, -- met and organized the First Christian Church of Yakima City. Of this number, only A. L. Flint survives. The next day, the Sunday School was organized. The meetings were held in the second floor of what was known as the Centennial Building, having been erected in 1876, and which, somewhat altered, still stands on South Second Avenue.

After the organization, the entire community was canvassed for funds for the erection of a church building. The old subscription list shows sixty-two contributors, including the leading saloon keeper. The total amount received was \$1809.32, of which Purdy Flint gave \$600 in money, \$73 in lumber and \$100 "in work for self and team".

Isaac Flint, though a farmer, became the first minister of this new church.

The Ladies Aid was organized very shortly, and the Ladies gave a "Fair" to purchase a bell. The bell is now in our Zillah Church.

The new church was dedicated January 1, 1882. It was the first and only church in Yakima City. In 1884, the Northern Pacific Railroad extended its line up the valley and the new town of North Yakima was started in 1885. The railroad offered owners of property in Yakima City their choice of lots in North Yakima, and offered to move their buildings free. Many of the residents accepted, though some remained in Yakima City. The church

decided to move, but the minister refused. Mr. Flint conducted the service the last Sunday, and the next day, the church started a three weeks move to the new site in the middle of the block between Yakima Avenue and "A" Street on the East side of Third Street.

In 1886, J. T. Eshelman of Goldendale, was called to the pastorate at a salary of \$600. During Mr. Eshelman's term of service, the Christian Endeavor, Christian Woman's Board of Missions, and the Children's Mission Band were organized.

Mr. Eshelman resigned in 1893 and Morton L. Rose came direct from Drake University and served until 1896, when B. E. Utz was called and stayed two years. A parsonage was erected on the lot north of the church in 1902.

From 1897 to 1902, F. Waldon, Ira W. Kimmell, M. F. Stevens, and W. S. Crockett served short terms. In 1902, A. C. Vail was employed, and was succeeded by Morton L. Rose, for a second pastorate, from 1905-1911.

In 1907, the present church building was erected, and it was dedicated in 1909. Charles Reign Scoville was guest speaker. Mrs. Arlene Dux Scoville was soloist. The Scovilles held a six weeks meeting and six hundred were added to the church.

Henry Bicknell gave \$3000 for the pipe organ, which was installed in the winter of 1910.

Mr. Rose resigned in 1911, and Mr. Vail was again called and ministered to the church, 1911 and 1912. O. W. Lawrence of Decatur, Illinois, was called, but had preached only two Sundays when he became ill and passed away.



W. F. Turner came in 1912 and served until 1918, when he was called into a larger field of service, becoming Regional Superintendent of Missions. Then followed S. G. Buckner, W. A. Moore, William Dunn Ryan, Glenn Hutton, and in 1936, Orval D. Peterson, who is completing his nineteenth year.

The Yakima Church has been greatly honored and blessed in having as leaders, men committed to the "Great Commission" and who have continued to lead us in the belief that "The Field is the World", so that our missionary knowledge, interest and zeal have constantly increased. Another evidence of wide vision on the part of our ministers is the fact that from the beginning, women have been a part of our Church Board, almost unheard of in those early days.

#### OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONARY GROUPS

Our Christian Woman's Board of Missions was organized sometime prior to 1890 and was a part of our State and National Organizations. The first available report is in 1904; an offering of \$4.85. Our offerings in 1955 were \$3,736.00. We had many projects, both at home and abroad, expressing our interest along many worthwhile avenues.

Sometime in 1935, in common with the National procedures, we united our Ladies Aid Society and our C. W. B. M. and became one group: the Women's Council to enlist all the women in some service for Christ and the Church. In 1950, we united with our womanhood throughout the world in closer bonds, becoming Christian Women's Fellowship, and we go forward.

The Business and Professional Women's Guild

was organized in 1929 with five members and the first month's offering was \$5.00. They have grown in every area of service, with last year's offering \$1120. In 1950, the Guild became a Fellowship, and have gone on to larger service.

Our Women's Fellowships have a large and creditable library in the church, used and appreciated by many women.

Our Men's groups started as a class, known as Moore's Men, and finally became the "99 Men". They are now the Christian Men's Fellowship, and participate in local, state and national Christian Men's Fellowships.

A Senior Christian Endeavor was organized about 1890, and on March 1, 1896, a Junior Christian Endeavor was organized to replace the Junior Mission Band, which had been started earlier. Our Youth Work steadily grew through the years. Finally it was divided into the following departments: Older Young Peoples', Senior High, and Junior High, with the morning and evening program coordinated under one set of officers in each Department. In 1946, the name Christian Youth Fellowship for Senior High and Chi Rho Fellowship for Junior High, was adopted to conform with our National Organization of Youth. In 1954-55, our Youth Budget was \$1360.80, of which \$735.00 was given to Missions.

#### OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

On April 17, 1927, our new educational plant was dedicated and has made possible more efficient teaching in our



many departments. Our Bible School, under our efficient staff and nearly one hundred volunteer teachers is giving leadership to our educational programs. Three Bible School busses bring about a tenth of our attendance. Our four great missionary days and regular offerings are observed. Total attendance in 1954-55 was 86,927, an average of 710. The General Offering was \$3739.46 and the Missionary Offering \$4275.78. Our Bible School participated in the Laboratory Training School, Community Vacation Bible School, an intensive visiting program, White Gifts at Christmas, and many other worthwhile projects. A fine Educational Library is located in our Educational Building and is available to all.

#### OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONARY OUTREACH

In 1918, through the interest and concern of our minister, W. F. Turner, members of our Yakima Church were aroused to the isolation of the Yakima Indian tribe, and the need to make Christ known to them. The President, Frederick W. Burnham, and Secretary, Grant K. Lewis, of the American Missionary Society, were contacted and came out to make a survey. In 1920 the church board was called upon to consider definite plans. After many conferences, an agreement was reached, which was concurred in by the American Christian Missionary Society, the West Washington Missionary Society, First Church of Yakima, and the Council of Indians. Buildings were erected and our Mission was a reality. This is a Christian home for Indian children who attend public schools in White Swan. It was the purpose of the Mission to bring the Indians to Christ, to teach them by example, with competent leadership and efficient staff, the way of the abundant life. This purpose has been fulfilled. We are grateful for the part we have had in

this important and rewarding work.

In 1923, we lengthened our cords and strengthened our stakes. Our own Dr. Douglas Corpron became our Living Link Missionary to China. With his wife, Grace, and their little daughter, Phylliss Ann, they began a long and fruit-ful ministry of thirty-two years to the Chinese. Because of the closing of China to all missionary work in 1948, Dr. Corpron and his family returned to Yakima where he established his practice. He continues his missionary work in a weekly clinic at our Indian Mission and serves the staff, the children and those in the area around.

The Menzies of India, who spent at least two furloughs in Yakima, aroused our interest and care for the vast country of India. These missionary families have made us aware, through the years, of our glorious privilege of sharing our Christ with even these least, and we are grateful.

Our church now has the joy of Fellowship with our Living Link Missionary, Mrs. Ruth Heimer in Africa, with our Service Link, Mrs. Howard T. Holroyd in Mexico, and our Student Link, Dr. Douglas Corpron, Jr., who plans with his family to be a medical missionary to Africa.

#### OUR CHURCH

In 1930, our Golden Jubilee was celebrated. A former pastor and the then State Secretary, Brother Turner, preached the sermon. Six hundred were at the dinner. An afternoon program presented a pageant, with a cast of forty depicting the "History of the Church". A large collection of



pictures and articles of former years were on display. Many old scenes were shown on the screen in the evening.

In 1930, Vol. I, No. 1 of the Yakima Christian was published, and continues as "First Christian" today.

In 1940, our Sixtieth Anniversary was observed as Home Coming Day, and a dinner honoring all who had been members prior to 1908. Mr. A. L. Flint, was the only surviving Charter member present. Brother Turner preached the sermon and Brother A. C. Vail participated.

In 1944, "Debt Free This Year" was our slogan and June 11th, our Mortgage Burning Service was held.

In 1943, land was leased on the Naches River to become our Church Camp.

On July 4, 1947, our First Christian Camp and the Keystone Cottage were dedicated. Other buildings have been added. The camp is being constantly improved and made more comfortable and attractive. It has given a great deal to our various and many groups using it and promises to give increased service as the years come and go.

April 14, 1949, the ground at Fifth Avenue and Prash, which had been previously purchased for the new Broadway Church, was dedicated. A. L. Flint, our only Charter member, turned the first shovel of dirt and the church building was begun. The church was dedicated October 29, 1950. It has made constant growth and is fulfilling its need in that district.

October 29, 1950, Yakima's First Church

celebrated its Seventieth Anniversary with Brother Turner, speaker.

December 13, 1953, the Tenthousandth name was entered on our Master Church Record Book, which shows the names of all those who have united with the church since it was organized in 1880.

February 18, 1954, Our Yakima Church led our Brotherhood with 195 Baptisms.

February 6, 1955, on Sunday afternoon the new Indian Christian Church, on our mission ground at White Swan, was dedicated. The dedication was attended by many state and national workers, with many of our local people. It was a day of Thanksgiving and prayer, a fitting monument to the long years of sacrifice and service by the consecrated leaders and helpers.

Due to the Trust Fund established by Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Flint in 1929, it has been possible for many consecrated young people to further their higher education for Christian service. Our church has had the sacred privilege of ordaining through the years the following:

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Carrol Fairbanks     | Robert Tindall    |
| John Stotsenberg     | George Ross       |
| James Ballinger      | James Fairbrook   |
| Julian Fleenor       | Paul Nance        |
| Clyde Foltz          | Phillip Ryan      |
| Walter Smith         | John Adams        |
| Robert Lane          | Richard Freidline |
| (Yet to be Ordained) |                   |
| Robert E. Peterson   | James Johnston    |
| William Samuel       | Allan Lee         |
| Don McKenzie         |                   |



Others in full-time Christian Service are:

Mrs. Lynton Elwell  
Mrs. Francis Fairbanks Dossett  
Mrs. James Ballinger  
Mrs. James Fairbrook  
Mrs. Paul Nance  
Mrs. Phillip Ryan  
Mrs. John Adams  
Mrs. Gloria McRayde Martin  
Mrs. Jean Starr Williams

We are gratified at presenting this fine group of our young people and look forward to adding many more to this list.

The Yakima First Christian Church has a sacred heritage. In humility and gratitude, we rejoice in the love and loyalty of these Christians through these years. We take great joy in looking back at these seventy five years of service in the Master's name.

Inspired by such a record, we go on to ever widening areas of achievements and continuing growth in love for God and man.

Remembering the Past, we build for the Future, "Greater works than these shall ye do".

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