



# SILVER ANNIVERSARY

1928-1953

OF THE

## *Building Dedication*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Yakima, Washington

February 1-8, 1953







Church was organized in a tent, 1885

### History of Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Yakima had its beginning in 1885 when the Northern Pacific Railway located in a new area called North Yakima. There were no preaching services in the new town, and the Rev. J. R. Thompson, acting as Synodical missionary for the Washington Territory came to fill the need. His first meetings were held in a tent near Chestnut and Front Streets. The congregation sat on boxes on one side of the tent, while the other side was filled with bunks for the railroad workers.

Later that same year the congregation built its own church building in which they worshiped until 1902. By then the rapidly growing work demanded room for expansion. A second building was erected in 1903 on the corner of Third and A Streets, where the Liberty Building now stands. An educational unit was added to this structure in 1911.

### Building Needed

By 1924 the church, then 39 years old with a membership of 903 and Sunday School enrollment of 758, had again outgrown its walls. The pastor,

Dr. David W. Ferry, and the Session saw the need of a new church building. A fund committee, consisting of C. H. Hinman, C. E. Hewitt, J. S. Freece, N. K. Buck and W. B. Dudley was appointed. November 30, 1925 was set for the fund drive, and a goal of \$175,000 was established. It proved to be a day of miracles as more than that amount was pledged in the one day. Pledges came in at the rate of \$10,000 a minute for the first six minutes and \$3,000 a minute for the next forty minutes.

The Session knew the people were really behind the new building program. The plans committee, O. K. Conant, E. J. Wyman, Ed McWilliams, N. P. Hull, E. D. Collins, Mrs. C. E. Hewitt and Mrs. W. B. Dudley, engaged Albertson & Richardson, Seattle architects, to draw up the plans. The site committee, O. E. Jones, W. M. Watt and G. I. Clithero, selected the corner of West Eighth and Yakima Avenues. The construction contract was let to W. M. Yeaman of Yakima, and everything was in readiness.



First church building, 1885



THE MEN'S BROTHERHOOD BIBLE CLASS, 1925

*The men of this class played a great part in the building of the new church.*



GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY, OCTOBER 3, 1926

*Adults in front row, W. B. Dudley, Mayor of Yakima; Mrs. A. E. Ward, Dr. David W. Ferry, Pastor; R. D. Childs, Sunday School Superintendent, and Professor A. C. Davis, Yakima Public Schools.*

PROGRAM ON BACK





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First church building, 1885

### Ground Breaking

Ground was broken on Sunday, October 3, 1926. At the ceremony, Dr. Ferry read the 5th chapter of I Kings and Mrs. A. E. Ward turned the first soil. Mayor W. B. Dudley, Prof. A. C. Davis and R. D. Childs each spoke. The committee supervising construction were O. K. Conant, B. E. Kelly and J. S. Dunham. The cornerstone was laid Easter Sunday, April 17, 1927 by Dr. W. C. Thompson, moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The building was first occupied October 9, 1927 and was formally dedicated February 5, 1928. In delivering the dedication sermon, Dr. Frank C. McKean, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Spokane, declared "this building is the greatest religious achievement in the Pacific Northwest in the past year."

### Mortgage Retired

When the market crashed in 1929, there was still \$125,000 to be paid on the building. Though the members made great sacrifices to keep up their pledges, the building had to be refinanced. Finally the payment was completed during the pastorate of Dr. Robert N. McLean. The mortgage was burned from the pulpit by Dr. Ferry at a New Year's Eve service December 31, 1944. The total cost of the building including site, furnishings and interest came to \$332,000.

Our building, now 25 years old, is being used to near capacity with a full church program. There were many back in 1927 who thought the proposed building was far too large. But with an eye to the future the committee built to allow for expansion of the entire pro-



Second building erected in 1903

gram. And shortly after the building was dedicated in 1928 the facilities were filled regularly. Through careful planning and scheduling—especially during the Sunday morning hours—the building now serves a church membership of 2600 and Sunday School of over 2000.

### Building Used to Capacity

There are three Sunday worship services, Sunday School classes for all ages—87 classes in all—four Sunday evening fellowships, a complete recreation program, potluck dinners, Bible study, prayer meetings, Women's Association, radio ministry, and Boy Scout troop, putting the building to full use in 1953.

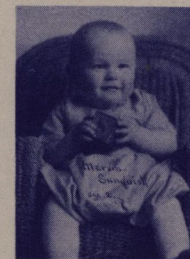
Three pastors have served the congregation the past 25 years in the new building; Dr. D. W. Ferry, under whose leadership the church was built; Dr. R. N. McLean, who was largely responsible for the retirement of the debt; and our present pastor, Dr. Mark L. Koehler.

This House of God is your church home. So come, the doors are open. Join with us and make use of it as we glorify the Lord in His House.

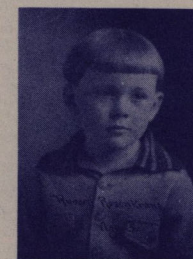
### from the CRADLE ROLL 1928



HUBERT HULL



MARVIN SUNDQUIST



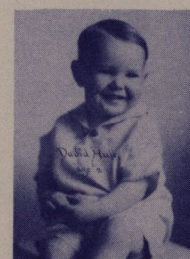
RUSSELL ROSENKRANZ



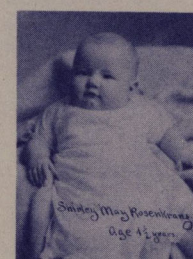
ROBERT THOMPSON



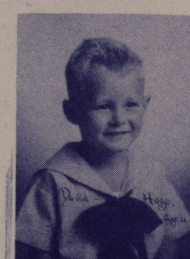
HOWARD PRENTICE



DAVID HULL



SHIRLEY MAY ROSENKRANZ



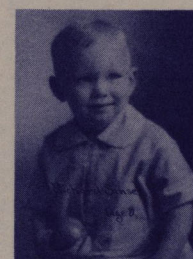
DAVID HOGE



JOHN KERSLAKE



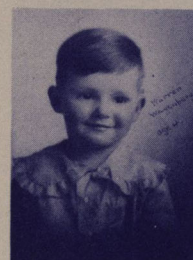
GERTRUDE SNELLING



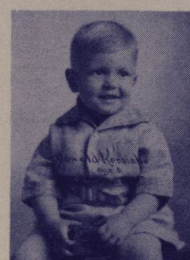
RICHARD SINSEL



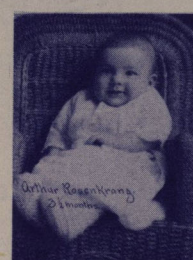
DONALD RAY GRAHAM



WARREN WAYENBURG



DONALD KERSLAKE



ARTHUR ROSENKRANZ



GERALDINE TENNANT

There were 68 pre-Sunday School age children on the roll at the time the church was dedicated. Many have now grown to take an active part in present work of the church.



# ANNIVERSARY WEEK EVENTS

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## Sunday, February 1

**9:30 and 11:00 a.m.** **Dr. Mark L. Koehler** preaching on "The Great Procession." These services open a week which will stress renewed loyalty and dedication to the church and thankfulness for the blessings of the past years.

**7:30 p.m.** **Film** on the history of our church, telling the story of its origin in 1885 and growth to the 50th anniversary in 1935.

## Tuesday, February 3

**6:30 p.m.** **Men's Banquet** with the Honorable Arthur B. Langlie, Governor of the State of Washington as speaker. Don Goodall will be toastmaster. The Women's Association will serve a baked ham dinner, \$1.50 per plate.

## Wednesday, February 4

**12:30 p.m.** **Women's Association** luncheon and program, honoring the ladies who were members of the Women's Society in the old church building. Past presidents of the Women's Association will tell the highlights of the years they served.

## Thursday, February 5

**6:30 p.m.** **Potluck Supper**

**7:30 p.m.** **Old-Timers' Night.** This will be an opportunity for those who remember the exciting days 25 years ago to share their memories with others.

## Friday, February 6

**8:00 p.m.** **Handel's "Messiah"** presented by the combined choirs under the direction of Joseph B. Holloway and featuring four outstanding Northwest soloists: Phyllis Graham, soprano, Seattle; Josephine Albert Spaulding, contralto, Salem, Oregon; Edison Harris, tenor, Seattle; Russell Marshall, bass, Seattle.

## Sunday, February 8

**9:30 and 11:00 a.m.** **Dr. David W. Ferry**, pastor emeritus, preaching by recording at worship services.

**7:30 p.m.** **Pageant**, "The Yakima Presbyterian Panorama," directed by Miss Mary E. Baker. The history of our church presented in pantomime with Tom Bostic as narrator. Special numbers will be sung by the Temple Choir.

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