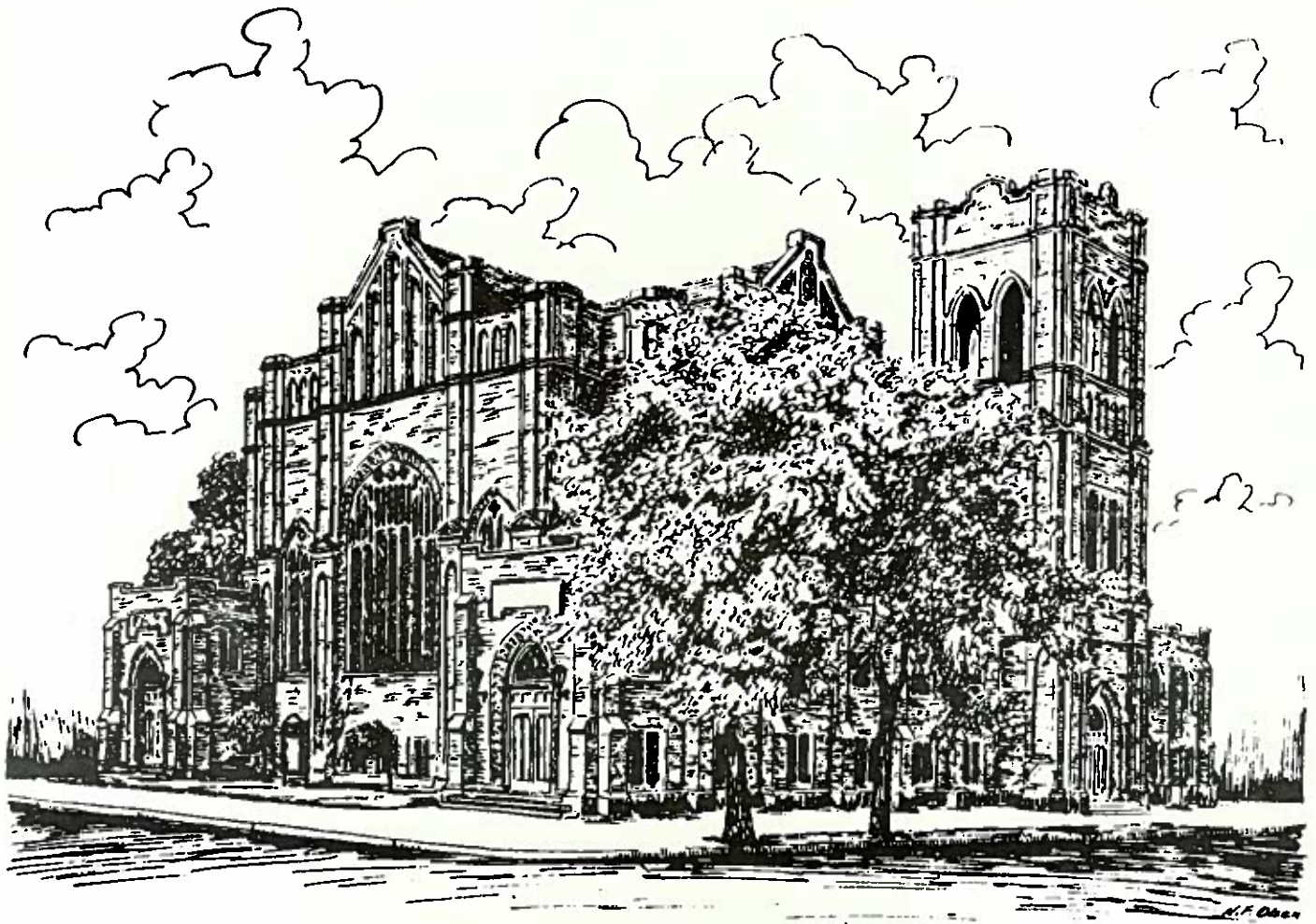


BELLAIRE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

J. Rataiczak
1988



BELLAIRE, OHIO

PREFACE

The lands of the Northwest Territory were officially opened when Congress passed the Ordinance of 1787. In April, 1788, General Arthur St. Clair, Revolutionary War hero, opened his office as first governor of the Territory at Marietta. From this first authorized settlement west and north of the Ohio River he began the sale and allotment of land and the organization of the Territory.

Belmont (Beautiful mountain) County, tenth in order of establishment in Ohio, was formed on November 7, 1801. Already two small villages were prospering on the banks of the Ohio River within its bounds: Jefferson, later renamed Martinsville and finally Martins Ferry, dated from 1795 and Pultney, one mile south of Bellaire, was laid out August 22, 1799. In 1800 the population of the area soon to be encompassed in Belmont County stood at 800. By 1810 this had grown to 11,185 and when another decade had passed it had nearly doubled. Bellaire was platted and incorporated in 1834. In 1841, the first post office was opened. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad entered the village in 1848.

The first influx of settlers was mainly Revolutionary War veterans. Proud of their newfound freedom and never fearing hard work they soon had prosperous farms and thriving businesses. Rich in natural resources and blessed with the advantage of river transportation the entire area blossomed into a vigorous and expanding community.

The Presbyterian faith of these first settlers was not long in expressing itself. As early as 1798 Rev. Joseph Anderson and Rev. John Rea had organized groups in Richard (St. Clairsville) and Short Creek (Mt. Pleasant). In 1799 Mr. Anderson began a settled ministry in St. Clairsville and on August 20, 1800 he was ordained and installed as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. He also served the Mt. Pleasant Church. These two churches were the third and fourth oldest Presbyterian Churches in Ohio. Mr. Anderson was the first of our ministers to be ordained in Eastern Ohio.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BELLAIRE (1812-1920)

No story of the Presbyterian Church would begin properly without mention of the Rock Hill Church, the mother church of Presbyterianism in this section of the Ohio Valley. The Rock Hill Church was founded in the summer of 1812, being organized under the spreading branches of an oak tree on the farm of John Cunningham situated on McMahon's Creek west of Bellaire. Previous to this year, the nearest house of worship had been at St. Clairsville, whither the faithful Presbyterians of the valley had gone on horseback over the rough roads of a pioneer country. The distance and the condition of the roads had long interfered with regular worship, especially in wintertime.

Consequently, on this summer's day in 1812, a group of worshippers gathered in the open air under the leadership of the Rev. Abram Scott, a missionary of the Synod of Ohio, for the purpose of founding a church nearer home. The charter members of this new church were William Moore and wife, John Cunningham and wife, William Merritt and wife, Mrs. McKimmon, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. Elizabeth McAllister, Mrs. Kelsey, and James Simpson. John Cunningham and John Moore were chosen elders.

At first the meetings were held in the open air in a grove or in a tent. Finally a rude log cabin was built on Rock Hill by the members of the congregation themselves. Here worship was conducted for a time within the four walls before even roof or floor had been completed. When the structure was ready for occupancy, each family built its own pew. Hence no two pews were alike in the first church.

Plain and uncomfortable as such a building may seem in these days of comfort and plenty, nevertheless, it was in some instances better than the homes the worshippers lived in and it was from such small beginnings that the present Rock Hill Church came into being.

During the early fifties of the last century, sentiment began to grow in favor of organizing a church within the limits of Bellaire. There were not a great many Presbyterians in the city at first. But as the numbers grew the difficulty of maintaining a vital church life increased. In bad weather the women and children found the journey to Rock Hill a severe hardship.

About 1860, this condition was remedied by the organization of the First Presbyterian Church in Bellaire. Previous to this time, however, a small mission had been conducted for the Presbyterians in the city. As early as 1853, the Rev. John Hattery, an ordained minister, resident in Bellaire, had preached in this mission and shared as a volunteer the care thereof with the minister of the mother church at Rock Hill. Services were held at convenient times and as oppor-

tunity offered in the Methodist and Christian Churches already established in the city. Later, however, numbers and means were sufficient for building a house of worship.

The Rev. R.H. Holliday was the first minister who was called to serve both the Rock Hill and the Bellaire Church. Under his ministry a campaign for funds was carried out successfully and in 1859 a small brick building was erected on the site of the former First church in the 3200 block of Belmont Street. Mr. Holliday preached the first sermon in the new building on February 12, 1860. His text was "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

On March 4, 1860, the first communion service was held in the new church and four persons were received into the church on confession of faith. On August 14th of this same year, the Presbytery of St. Clairsville granted the request of John W. Milligan, John S. Cratty, William H. Dunn, and A. W. Anderson that the Bellaire Church be organized as a separate and distinct congregation. Rev. B. Mitchell, Rev. John Moffatt, Elder N. Theaker, and William Workman were appointed a committee to organize the Bellaire Presbyterian Church at Bellaire city in Belmont County. This committee did its work promptly and on August 27th, the church was organized.

A glimpse of the church of these early days reveals an earnest and consecrated group. The elders were conscious of a real responsibility for the morals and welfare of the congregation. Many were cited to appear before the church court and answer for offenses and misdeeds credited to them by "common fame." One having attended a horse race and having gambled on the outcome of the same was called to answer charges of "gross immorality." Several were charged with keeping places "where spirituous and malt liquors are sold in violation of the law." Others were charged with willfully absenting themselves from the worship of the House of the Lord and the Means of Grace.

Under the ministry of Dr. Gaston the church grew from a struggling group of 101 souls in 1866 to a strong church of over 400 members in 1880. As the congregation enlarged, agitation for a new and more commodious building grew also. Some wanted to sell the site already purchased on Belmont Street and build elsewhere. Finally it was decided to remain where they were and to rebuild at a cost of some \$7000.

The officers of the church at the close of Dr. Lawther's pastorate in 1920 were: Elders, E.G. Adams,

D. W. Cooper, K. G. Cooper, J. W. Stewart, C. M. Wyrick, J. R. Greenlee, D. A. Ward, H. T. Tyler; Trustees, J. E. Green, W. J. Bartley, J. E. Rosser, Andrew Kern, Reese Rosser, John Schick, R. M. Giffen, Albert Ambler, G. W. Dankworth.

The Second Church 1881-1921

The Second church, the other member of this union, began its history at the Spring meeting of the Presbytery of St. Clairsville in April 1881. The record of the event reads as follows: "There being no church organization of any kind in the 4th Ward of the city of Bellaire, and the need of such a moral power being fully realized, a petition signed by 80 persons was presented to the Presbytery assembled asking that a Second church be organized in the city of Bellaire."

The prayer of the petitioners was granted and a committee of five persons was appointed to effect the organization "if the way be clear." This committee, consisting of Rev. T. R. Crawford, T. J. Melford, Rev. J. G. Black, and elders William Alexander and Hon. J. Kennon, met and proceeded with power, and on Tuesday, May 24, 1881 at one o'clock in the chapel on Gravel Hill the Second Presbyterian Church of Bellaire came into being.

While the year 1881 marked the birth of this church, there had been a Bible school in the 4th Ward of the city since May 17, 1874. This school was organized and led by Dr. J.C. McCullough, an elder of the First church. For a while the meeting place was the schoolhouse. Owing to the laws of the State, however, the school had to vacate public property, consequently, through much sacrifice and effort a chapel was erected on Jefferson Street. Over this school and its destinies Dr. and Mrs. McCullough presided till the church organization came into being.

This chapel, previously used as a Sunday School room, and now to become the first house of worship for the Second Presbyterian Church, stood on North Jefferson Street. It was a small and plain wooden structure, but suited for its purpose. The land on which it stood had been given by Thomas Cummins.

A crowded house greeted the committee on that Tuesday afternoon in May and listened to a sermon by the Rev. T. R. Crawford. At the close of the service some 75 persons were enrolled as members of the Second Presbyterian Church of Bellaire. Most of these came by letter from the First church. The officers of this new church were as follows: Dr. J. R. McCullough, elder, and John McGraw and William B. Workman, trustees.

The congregation met a few days after its establishment and called Rev. R. M. Brown of Allegheny, Pa., as pastor. The church grew rapidly in those early months of its history and in September of 1881 John S. Cratty and R. J. Riley were added to the eldership.

During the next year, 1882, the chapel was repaired and much improved for a house of worship. The report for the year 1885 shows a membership of 121 and a Sabbath School of 130 members. Benevolences were \$307 and church expenses were \$1, 475.

It was in 1887 that the agitation for the removal of the chapel from its site on Jefferson Street to one on Noble Street between 43rd and 44th Streets came to a head. A congregational meeting was held to consider the advisability of such a move. While no decision was reached at this time, the chapel was later moved to the Northeast corner of 43rd and Noble Streets, upon land donated by W.G. Barnard.

In 1889 plans were made for the building of a new church on the site. A committee of six was appointed to take charge of the matter and solicit funds for the purpose. At that time the church membership numbered 201 and the annual budget reached the sum of \$2, 289. The building committee consisted of John H. Milligan, R. M. Gilliland, Frederick Seabright, John McGraw, Thomas Blon, W. C. Carnahan, and J. G. Crawford.

In 1904, Rev. W. V. TeWinkel resigned. He was succeeded by Rev. Charles Helliwell of Mannington, W. Va. in 1906. During the two years vacancy the congregation began building operations and carried on the work without a minister. Preaching services were cared for by supplies. Rev. Mr. Helliwell remained until the church was dedicated. He resigned in 1909, after a three-year pastorate.

Rev. Basil R. King came to the church on February 1, 1910 and immediately began preparation for the dedication of the new church. The date finally set was September 25, 1910. The Rev. Dr. J. D. Moffatt preached the sermon, Rev. Calvin G. Hazlett made the opening prayer and the pastor made the prayer of dedication. The delay in dedication enabled the church to have this service in an edifice free of debt. Real progress in the life of the church is reflected in the minutes of the next few years. A gradual increase in membership and giving power is noted. The two best reports in the history of the church are those of 1913 and 1915. The last named showed accessions to the number of seventy and a total membership in the church of 302 and in the Sunday school of 324. At the morning service on September 24, 1916, Rev. Mr. King read his resignation, thus bringing to a close a pastorate of six years, the longest in the history of the church.

The Rev. Frank L. Freet took up the work of the pastorate in January 1917 and continued as pastor until November 8, 1920, when he left to become a state secretary of the Christian Endeavor society. The last report of the church to the General Assembly showed a membership of 240 and benevolent gifts of \$843.00. At the close of its history the Second church officers were as follows: Elders; Dr. J. M. McDonald, clerk of session, Prof. J. V. Nelson, C. D. Lamb, G. H. McDonald, G. L. Matheny, D. W. Darrah, C. Dawson, Walter Kinsey, and W. C. Carnahan. Trustees; Harry Neff, J. H. McGraw, William Bishop, Harry Russell, C. D.

The Presbyterian Church of Bellaire (1921-1928)

During the latter part of the year 1920, both churches were without pastors. No definite thought of union had entered the mind of either congregation. In fact there was at the beginning little hope for it. Each church was seeking a pastor for itself. Then one candidate made the happy suggestion that now was the time, the appointed time, to try such a step if it was ever to be tried. Thereupon, Dr. J. M. McDonald made a call upon Mr. D. W. Cooper and the matter was talked over. It happened that the sessions of the churches were to meet shortly and the matter was separately brought before each session. Thus the difficulties were slowly removed and early in 1921, a plan of union was presented to each congregation. At first, the reception was not very favorable. Later other congregational meetings were held, and owing to the fact that the members of the sessions of both churches were so thoroughly committed to union, the plan ultimately was accepted. In June 1921, the final legal steps were taken that made both churches one. Presbytery had at its Spring meeting given its consent and blessing to the plan of union.

Part of the plan of agreement was that a new church should be built on a new site other than any then owned. It was agreed that the combined congregations should worship in the Second church till a new edifice should be built.

The two congregations were united, the boards of officials were united, and the various church organizations were united in a most happy manner, and on the 26th day of October 1921, the united congregations called Rev. Boyd McCleary of Palmyra, New York as the first pastor of the new church.

On December 18th, 1921 the newly called pastor preached his first sermon in the Second church.

In July 1922, a congregational meeting was called to choose between two sites available for a new church. The site at the corner of Guernsey at 36th Streets was chosen and the trustees were empowered to buy the same at the cost of not more than \$36,500. The purchase was made later in the summer and the property known as the Dickens and Schlernitzauer site passed into the possession of the church.

No move was made looking toward the building at that time. Other matters of more vital importance were pressing, especially the matter of building an organization for work and the increasing of the morale of the congregation. A building committee of nine members was chosen and Mr. Fred Faris of Wheeling was asked to submit plans for a new church edifice. The building committee was as follows: Dr. J. M. McDonald, chairman, C. D. Keyser, Frank Ambler, J. W. Stewart, John H. McGraw, Fred McConn, J. R. Greenlee, Prof. J. V. Nelson, and H. T. Tyler.

In the fall of 1925, conditions seemed favorable for a campaign for funds for a new building. The expert advice of the Presbyterian Board in charge of Building Fund campaigns was sought, and as a result the second Sunday of December 1925 was the day set for the campaign, under the leadership of Mr. McGarran and Mr. Tompkins.

On that day, in one-half hour at the close of the morning service, some \$92,000 was pledged for the fund. An every-member-canvass that same afternoon brought the fund still higher, and at the close of the evening service on that same Sunday some \$120,000.00 had been pledged. The next few days brought in \$9,000 more in pledges. Earlier in 1925, the First church property had been sold at a price of \$55,000. This money, with the unexpected response on the part of the enthusiastic congregation, gave the committee some basis for their plans for expenditure. Plans for a new church to cost in the neighborhood of \$200,000 were perfected and accepted by the congregation. The committee was instructed to proceed at once to the letting of contracts.

Thus it was in April of 1926 the old houses on the Dickens and Schlernitzauer site were removed and work at once started on the foundations of the new church.

The cornerstone was laid on Sunday afternoon of November 14th, 1926. Services were held in the auditorium of the new High School building. Dr. Snowden preached the sermon, Rev. T. A. Patterson of Neffs; Rev. J. H. Norris of Rock Hill; Rev. J. Rogers Sillars of Bridgeport; and Rev. H. G. McMillan of St. Clairsville assisted in the service.

The church was finally ready for occupancy on the 19th of February 1928, and the first service was held on that day. As the structure neared completion there was a steady growth of interest and enthusiasm. At last, the revelation of the beauty and commodiousness of the new edifice was a joy to everyone. Part of the joy was due to the fact that the beauty of the church interior exceeded greatly the expectations of the congregation.

The 1928 Easter service in the new church was the largest in its short history. Thirteen infants were baptized into its fellowship and forty-seven were received as communicant members.

In March, 1928, the trustees of the church disposed of the Second church building to the Trinity Episcopal church of Bellaire. After extensive remodeling, this building continues its service as a House of God and a place of worship.

The dedicatory service of the new Presbyterian Church was held on the afternoon of May 6th. The Rev. William O. Thompson of Columbus, President of Ohio State University and Ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, delivered the sermon.

During the years 1921-1928, union of the churches provided for a steady growth in numbers, power, and interest. The task of building had drawn all closer together. A common burden had increased

strength. In this seven year period, some four hundred united with the church, most of these on confession of faith. Of necessity the budget had grown until in 1928

it was \$18, 000. The membership was 730, after a careful pruning of the church roll.

OUR CHURCH FROM 1928-1960

The story of this congregation from the dedication of the church encompassed years whose events were to change the life of our entire nation. A climate of optimism prevailed in the late twenties. Though a debt of \$105, 000 at 7% interest faced the congregation at dedication, spirits remained high.

Seventeen months later, October 24, 1929, the stock market crash was to plunge the entire American economy into depression. Bellaire had felt the recession two years earlier. Early in 1927 strife in the coal fields closed mines. That fall the Carnegie Steel Company closed its Bellaire works without warning, never to resume operations. Until the time of the bank holiday in March, 1933, the congregation labored continuously to reduce its indebtedness. It became evident that the debt must be refinanced.

A meeting of the congregation May 3, 1933 authorized the Board of Trustees to issue and sell bonds in the amount of \$80, 000. The rate of interest was 4%. The issue was oversubscribed and the debt situation somewhat eased. Dr. McCleary himself was one of the largest individual purchaser of bonds. Current operating receipts had fallen to \$13, 390 and benevolences for this year totalled only \$1, 000.

On March 1, 1934, after an outstanding ministry of over 12 years, Dr. McCleary resigned to accept the call of First Presbyterian Church, Oneonta, New York. He had taken the old First and Second Churches, formed them into one strong congregation and led them in building one of the valley's finest church homes. Little wonder the members chose the dedication of the church to express their gratitude on a large bronze plaque in the narthex in appreciation of

Our Pastor And Friend
Whose Leadership Made Possible
The Erection Of This Church To The
Service of Christ.

When the Rev. J. Earl Jackman arrived ten months later to serve as pastor the grip of the depression was upon the church. The 1935-36 directory is evidence of the fact. From a membership of 730 at dedication it had fallen to 569. Current operating receipts were down to \$10, 837 and benevolences amounted to only \$469. The church school receipts were \$325. Nevertheless a full program of activity continued. Organizations reporting in the yearbook included the Women's Auxiliary, Women's Missionary Society, the McCleary Missionary Society, the Budget

Club, Senior Christian Endeavor, Intermediate Christian Endeavor, Light Bearers, Boy Scouts, Dorcas Class, Plus Ultra Class, Protheon Class, Semper Paratus Class, and the Willard Philathea Class. After four years Dr. Jackman resigned to join the staff of the Board of National Missions in New York. He subsequently distinguished himself as secretary for our work in Alaska.

When the Rev. O. Frank Storch became pastor in October 1939, clouds of war were gathering over Europe with the resulting advance of the American economy. It became apparent that efforts must be made to retire the indebtedness. At a meeting of the congregation, Kenneth G. Cooper was named chairman of a campaign committee seeking \$33, 000 as the first step toward retirement of the entire debt "in this generation." Carl Koch was named treasurer of these funds. The campaign met with success and again, on February 13, 1945, the Board of Trustees asked the congregation to organize a second campaign. J. V. Nelson was named chairman of this effort and Carl Koch continued as treasurer. There was some dissent to this second campaign. The budget of the church had risen to only \$15, 570. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees just prior to the congregation's action the minister had made a fervent plea to retire the debt so that funds could be sought for Christian Education leadership. He noted that in his five years of ministry he had received 165 members and had lost by death, transfer or suspension 166.

The second campaign also met with success and the fruit of hard labors was realized on January 24, 1951, when, two years ahead of schedule, the congregation was able to burn the mortgage and to stand debt free for the first time in 23 years.

The ministry of Rev. J. Franklin McHendry from 1945 to 1950 marked the first period of numerical growth in membership. Membership had risen to 724 in 1950 and while the budgets had shown less growth they now stood at \$16, 813 for operating needs and \$2, 555 for benevolences. It was at this time also that the rotary system was established for members of the Session.

With the coming of the Rev. Stewart W. Radford in October, 1950, the congregation turned to increased emphasis upon church school and general program. Miss Betty Jo Jacobs served a two year period as full time director of Christian Education. Church School attendance increased and the program was enriched. During the long period of indebtedness, funds had

been available for only minimum maintenance on the church plant. The fifties were to be marked by extensive improvements to the physical plant of the church.

On August 14, 1956, the entire congregation and community was saddened by the death of Rev. Stewart W. Radford, in Florida where he was vacationing with his family. His ministry had been marked by sound growth. Membership had risen to 755, the operating budget to \$27, 962, and the benevolence giving to \$5, 852.

The Rev. Roland L. Showalter served from January 16, 1957 through August 31, 1960. During this time Session revised the membership rolls and 160 names were removed. The decline in population within the city and the removal of many families to new homes westward in or near St. Clairsville had its effect. At the

completion of his pastorate the membership numbered 610.

Current operating receipts for 1959 had totaled \$38, 595 and the benevolence giving totaled \$6, 244. Continued emphasis by the Session and the Board of Trustees upon stewardship was reflected in giving records of the fifties. A weekly congregational paper, called Presbyterian Post, was printed and mailed to the homes.

A service on Sunday, February 16, 1958, marked the thirtieth anniversary of the first service in the church. Forty-four persons who were present at the first service sat for the photographer following the anniversary service. The new HYMN BOOK, a pan-Presbyterian hymnal, was placed in the pews for congregational use in 1958.

THE CHURCH 1960-1988

The 1960's, years of social turmoil for the nation, saw changes in the general society reflected in the church. Under the leadership of Rev. Robert Berger, who succeeded Rev. Showalter in the pulpit, inter-church activities and community events took a prominent place in the church calendar. Cooperation among churches was evidenced by a combined Daily Vacation Bible School and united services for Thanksgiving and Good Friday. The Bellaire Council of Churches and the Ministers' Alliance presented many joint programs such as the "Week of Prayer." The congregation took part in fund raising for mission work such as that carried out by C.R.O.P., Christian Rural Overseas Program, and World Christian Service. Our church distinguished itself by its generosity in drives for these purposes. Bellaire Church Women United held Christmas musicals, World Day of Prayer programs and United Youth programs.

Membership in 1960 stood at 545 after a weeding of the rolls.

Early in 1960 the manse on Harrison Street was sold and a house located on Belleview Heights was purchased for a minister's residence. The attractive ranch-style house was the scene of many evenings of fellowship for members of the congregation, hosted by Rev. Berger and his wife, Frances.

The youth of the church were busy in the Jr-Hi and Sr-Hi Westminster Fellowship. These young people carried joy and kindness to the Belmont County Home for the Aged and to the inmates of Cambridge State Hospital. They caroled for shut-ins during the Christmas holidays, participated in Muskingum Presbytery Conferences and Camp Presmont, and, of course, enjoyed many social evenings, picnics and parties such as cook-outs at Zyg and Doreen Rataiczak's Breezy Point Farm.

Robert Johnston, as youth activities chairman, saw the Boy Scout Troop reactivated in 1960 with William Wright as Scoutmaster.

Young people participated in worship services through the Crusader Choir (for boys) and the Celestial Choir (for girls). The choirs were directed by organist Pauline Stitt and joined with the Sanctuary Choir to enrich Sunday services and Holiday programs.

Late in the decade of the 1960's the Adult Sunday School room and Choir room were renovated. In 1966 a major organ repair project began which was to continue through the next twenty years.

"Family night" dinners, held monthly during the autumn, were well attended. Rev. Berger initiated and carried on a mid-week prayer service on Thursday evenings.

As the 60's drew to a close the Bellaire Church, reflecting the community, began to decline in membership. In 1968 communicants numbered 450.

The Rev. Robert Berger retired in 1970. The pulpit left empty by his retirement was filled by Rev. Robert Collins. A young man, Bob came to Bellaire with the instructions of the congregation to place an emphasis on youth work. Youth retreats, in which nearly 200 young people took part, were held in such places as Windy Ridge, Ohio, Beaver Creek, Ohio, Eagle's Mere, Pennsylvania, and Salt Fork, Ohio. A second-hand school bus was purchased for transportation and 178 girls and boys were carried by it to work camps in South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, Texas and New York.

Bob Collins encouraged Bible Study and brought to the adults of the church the "Bethel Bible Series," a training and study program which was carried out over two years.

Many members of the congregation joined in the construction of a life-sized nativity scene. This impressive panorama was erected on scaffolding on the front of the church. Spot-lighted and accompanied by a sound-track, the scene told passersby the story of Jesus' birth. Coffee, cookies and friendship were provided for all who came to see and hear each evening in the Advent season.

Ann Collins, herself a young mother of two girls, Heather and Heidi, began a cooperative nursery school for pre-school age children. This service for and by young mothers was continued for several years.

During the 1970's the church made a significant contribution toward solving the problem of sub-standard housing in the area. The Bellaire Housing Foundation, an ecumenical venture with St. Johns' Catholic Church was formed. With \$60,000 raised in the two churches as "seed money," Federal Aid was obtained and the housing area known as Bel Capre (from Bellaire-Catholic-Presbyterian) became a reality.

As the general population continued to decrease so did the membership of the church. Maintaining active programs, community involvement and spiritual guidance, the church's membership at the end of the decade was 363 communicants.

In 1977 Bob Collins left Bellaire for a new position in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The pulpit was unfilled for a year and a half until the church called Rev. Wayne Bell in 1978.

In that year a new heating system was installed and a building restoration project begun.

Enthusiastic Sunday School teachers carried out a summer activity, the "Bible Bowl" which combined Bible Study and competitive fun for the youth. Two teams, "Bible Boys" and "Gospel Girls," vied with each other for the Bowl Championship in knowledge of the lands and people of Bible times.

Rev. Bell, a sailing enthusiast and outdoorsman, was very active in camping activities at Camp Presmont. He introduced many young campers to sailing on his boat which was moored there. Wayne's wife, Debbie, became a member of the Adult Handbell Choir. Debbie wrote and produced, with the assistance of the Sunday School teachers, a series of puppet shows for Sunday School opening exercises. The humorous shows illustrated Christian attitudes in lessons acted out by animal puppets. The Bell children, Jason and Rachel, were regularly among the children and grown-ups instructed by the puppets.

In 1981, Mrs. Pauline Stitt, who had inspired the congregation with her organ music for 42 years, retired. She was replaced, first by Mrs. Evelyn Hannan, then by Sister Mary Frances, a Catholic nun and teacher at Mt. DeChantal Academy. Sister Mary Frances served for two and one-half years until her appointment as Head of the Academy required all her time. Douglas Allen became church organist in 1987. Mrs. Rolanda Hunt was hired to direct the Children's Choir.

The Adult Bell Choir, directed at first by Evelyn Hannan, performed with special music at the United Thanksgiving service and at Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter and Mother's Day. With the resignation of Mrs. Hannan, the directorship of the Handbell Choir passed to Jim Walker.

While serving the Bellaire Church Rev. Wayne Bell completed his doctoral studies at Pittsburgh Seminary. In 1982 he accepted a position with the Slippery Rock Area Ministry in Pennsylvania.

The year 1983 saw three Presbyterian churches of the area without ministers. Meetings held by the Sessions of the three, Rock Hill, Bellaire First United and Bellaire Presbyterian Churches resulted in a combined service for a summer worship and a picnic. This pleasant cooperative effort has continued. The Choirs of the three churches have also combined in performances of Christmas Cantatas, Advent programs, and United Palm Sunday services.

The installation of Rev. David Bartley was held on June 19, 1983. Rev. Bartley, his wife Kathy, and three small sons, Michael, Scott, and Jeff, came to Bellaire from Freeport, Ohio.

A first activity for Rev. Bartley was the training of the church officers in the new rules of the United church. New by-laws were adopted at this time. There are now four basic committees of the church: Interpretation and Stewardship, Christian Education, Congregational Development, and Congregational Life (Fellowship).

With Rev. Bartley supervising, "Lock-ins" became an annual feature of the youth program. In these weekend activities children of grades one through six are locked-in the church Friday evening until Saturday morning. The time is filled with study, prayer, games and eating.

Kathy Bartley supervised, with aid from Sunday School teachers, the painting of a mural in the Sunday School room. Children of Janet Harris' class did the painting which shows Christ with the children. Kathy also has played the organ for Sunday service and is a member of the Handbell Choir.

The church staff includes a secretary, Jane Rollason Heathcote, who has held the position for over thirty years. Jane has served under Pastors McHenry, Radford, Berger, Collins, Bell and Bartley.

In 1988 the church hired a Christian Education director, Peggy Klages, to plan and direct programs aimed at encouraging more young people to join in church life.

A decade of worsening economic conditions in the area placed more demand on aid programs administered by the Board of Deacons. Many families have been helped by supplementary food items, clothing and financial assistance.

1988 is the 60th Anniversary of the Bellaire Presbyterian Church on its present site. As in all years past the church family looks forward to worship, to faith allied with concern for others of the community. The work of the church goes on.

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH

In the life of the church many organizations formed, carried on worthwhile activities, became obsolete or were superseded by others. Some of the most prominent of these were Sunday School classes which, in addition to Scriptural Studies, held fund-raising activities for the church or provided wholesome recreation.

Church school is the training ground for Christians and the Bellaire Presbyterian Sunday School has been busy at this work since its beginning. Many officers and teachers have given uncounted hours to it. Some classes have long histories. One, The Willard Philathea Class, began in 1921. It held fund-raising dinners, the first of the annual Christmas Bazaars, sponsored the Boys' Choir and made its vestments, sewed for City Hospital and purchased or made many items for the church.

The Semper Paratus Class in thirty-two years had three dedicated teachers: Norma Boyce, Florence Cooper, and Anna Carroll, who served until the class ceased reporting in 1960.

The Plus Ultra Class's first teacher was Gertrude Heinlein. This class was renamed the "Brannen Class" in 1958 in honor of Aimee Brannen, who taught the class for twenty-seven years. Martha Jackson was teacher of the class at its last reporting in 1976.

Other classes were the Protheon Class, which began in 1909 and LeBon Mot class of the 1930's.

Sunday School attendance remained high until the 1970's.

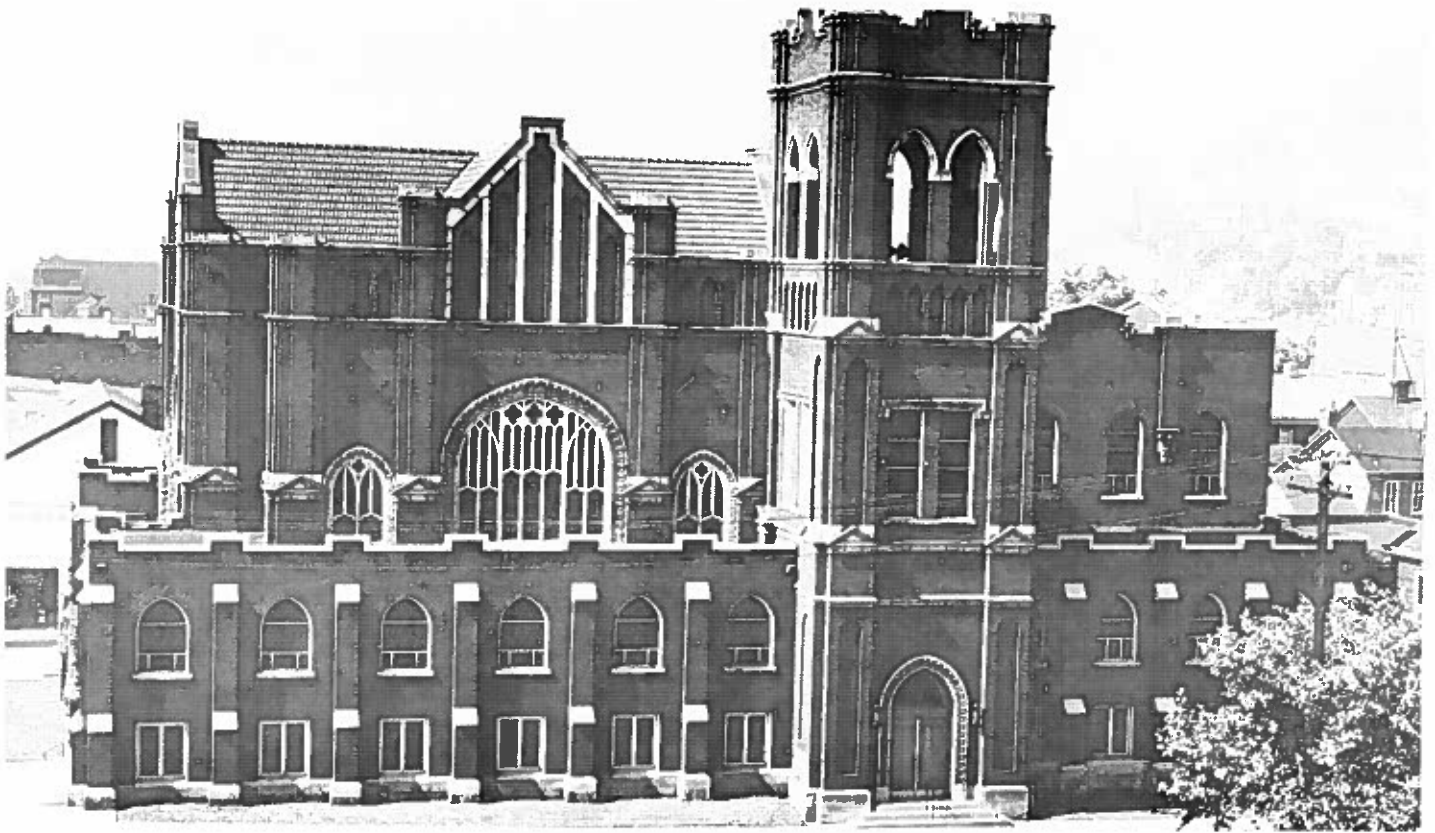
Average attendance in 1988 was 35.

Sunday School Superintendents

Walter Kinsey	1925-30
K. G. Cooper	1930-43
W. S. Brannen	1943-57
J. Prentice Bell	1957-59
Kenneth Wood	1959-63
Glenn Allen	1963-65
David Cooper	1965-67
Carl Ruthem	1967-68
Glenn Allen	1968-69
James Cochram	1969-77
Richard Dyer	1977-83
Mary Ann Castricone	1983-88

Sunday School Teachers

Alexander, Charles
 Andrews, Arthur
 Arno, Sue
 Ashbaugh, Jane
 Aukerman, June
 Ault, H. H.
 Ault, Jean
 Ault, Katherine
 Ball, Charlotte
 Ballog, Doris
 Bank, Ella Sivens
 Banker, Alan
 Banker, Dorothy
 Banker, Floyd
 Barrichar, Betty Lou
 Bartley, Rev. David
 Bauknecht, Janet
 Bebee, Allice
 Bell, Agnes
 Bell, Helen
 Bell, Prentice
 Bell, Rev. Wayne
 Bell, Yvonne Sue
 Berger, Frances
 Berger, Rev. Robert
 Bonar, Judy
 Bowers, Charles
 Bowers, Elsie May
 Boyce, Norma
 Brannen, Aimee
 Branstroop, Eleanor
 Brown, Judy
 Burdett, A. Ray
 Burdett, Wilma
 Burson, Mildred
 Buchse, L. H.
 Buchse, Mrs. M. V.
 Buzzard, Mrs. Rudolph
 Canning, Mrs. Arthur
 Carnes, Gene
 Carnes, Mrs. Ross
 Carroll, Anna
 Case, Nellie
 Castricone, Debbie
 Castricone, Mary Ann
 Christakis, Gloria Hannan
 Cinque, Marcia
 Clark, Mrs. Fred
 Cochran, Ann
 Eolard, Elizabeth
 Cook, Nora
 Cooper, David
 Cooper, Mrs. James
 Cooper, K. G.
 Cooper, Florence
 Cooper, Nancy
 Cooper, Mrs. Norman
 Cope, Margaretta
 Cowen, Jack
 Cox, Edith
 Cox, Fern
 Craig, Wanda
 Creamer, Virginia
 Creamer, John
 Cross, Alberta



The Presbyterian Church of Bellaire. Photo was taken by Robert McDonald from the roof of St. John High School across 36th Street.



Church site as it was when purchased in 1922 for \$36, 500.



THE CHURCH STAFF IN 1960 - Pauline Stitt, organist; Roland Showalter, pastor; Maureen Bell, secretary; Richard Dyer, sexton.

"COFFEE HOURS," hosted by the Deacons, provided social occasions after Sunday services. Held monthly or for special events, this scene shows Dan Drummond, Homer Ullom, Helen Bell (hat only), Pauline Stitt (as she was usually seen, back to congregation), Howard Rodefer, Bob Collins (top of head), Dorothy Rodefer.





The Rev. Robert Collins with daughter, Heather, and wife, Ann. Pastor from 1970-1977.



The Rev. Robert Birdsey Berger, Pastor from 1961-1969.

The Rev. David Bartley, who has served the church from 1983 to the present, is shown with his wife, Kathy, sons Michael, Scott, and Jeff, and family dog.



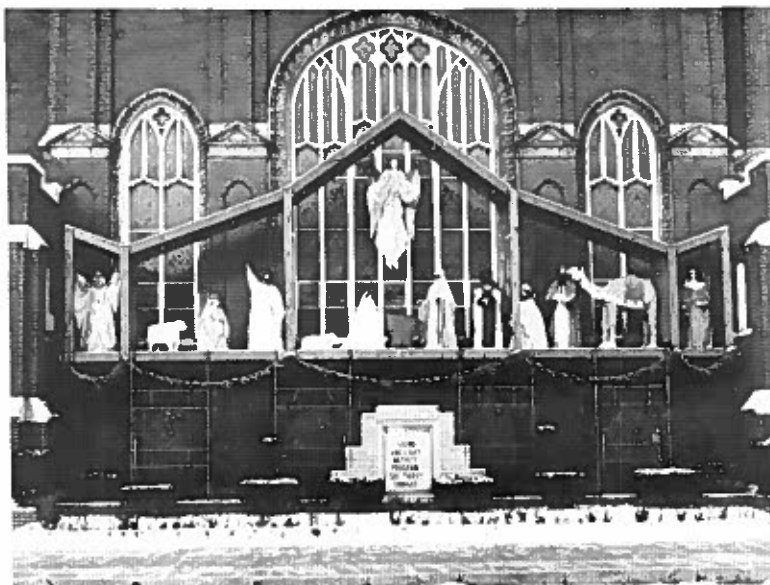
The Rev. Wayne M. Bell, pastor from 1978-1982, relaxes on his sailboat.



APRONS FOR SALE (1955) - Ella Evans, Dorothy Rodefer, Bess Kemper, Kitty Sedgwick. Perennial best-sellers, aprons made by the women of the church brighten the bazaar tables.



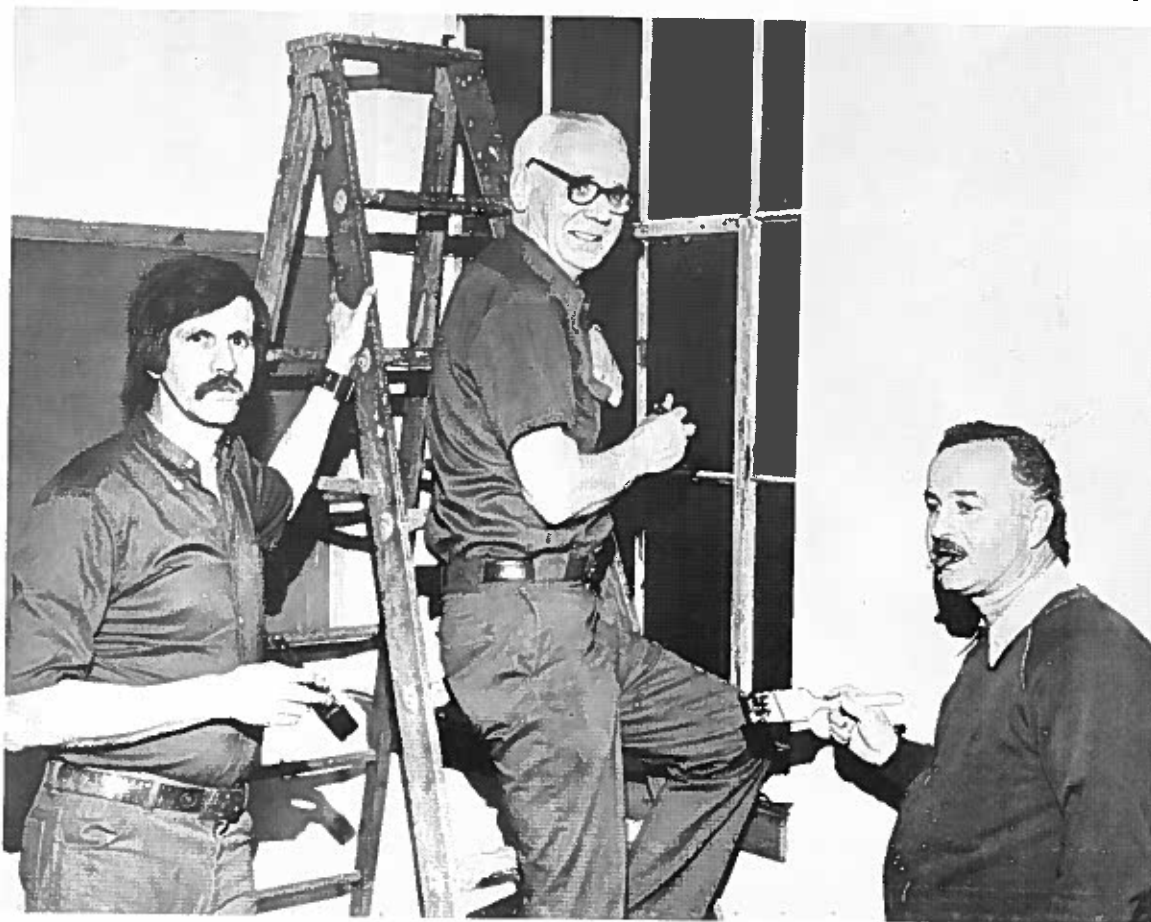
WOODWORK FOR BAZAAR - Terry Rataiczak shows one of the wooden items made for sale at the Women's Association annual bazaar. Terry's helper is grandfather, Zyg.



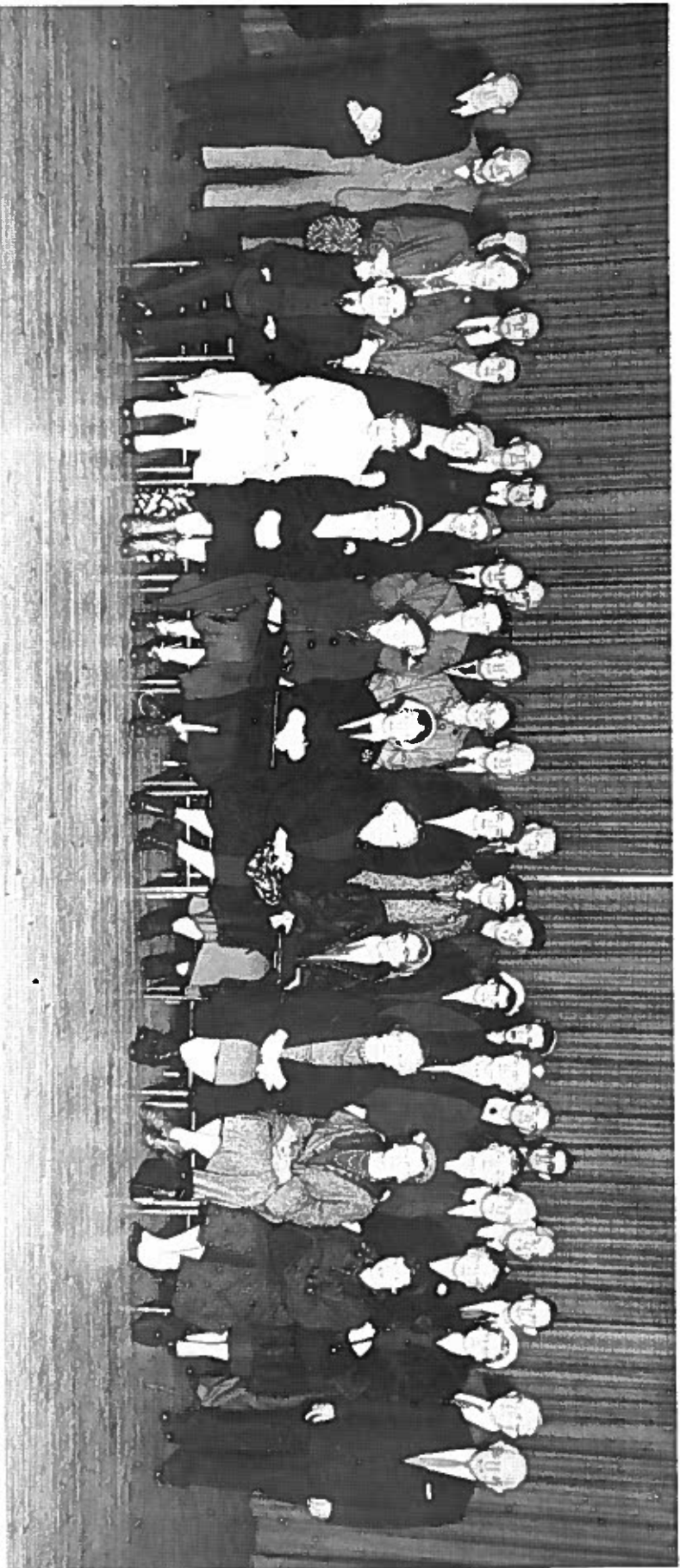
NATIVITY SCENE - Life-size figures and a suspended angel plus a realistic looking camel and wooly sheep form the Nativity Scene made by members of the church. The scene was illuminated and provided with a sound track on tape.



PREPARING FOR A BAZAAR (Above) - Standing: Nell Dixon, Stella Meder, Olive Thomas, Ella Evans, Maisie Schick, Dorothy Rodefer, Helen Bell, Josephine DeBlasis, Bess Kemper; Seated: Grace Wood, Marguerite Purtimean, Marjorie Strahl, Vera McGraw. A LENTEN LABOR PROJECT (Below) - Volunteer labor provided by Gerald Thomas, Zyg Rataiczak, and Richard Dyer. Many men of the church gave time and energy toward cleaning and improving the church building. Lenten Labor projects were held annually through the 1960's and early 1970's.



30TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE FEBRUARY 16, 1958



Forty-five persons who attended the first service on February 19, 1928, attended the 30th Anniversary Service. Messrs. & Mmes.: C.C. Sedgwick, J. Ward Stewart, T.P. Zimmerman, Joseph McClain, Walter McCroba, Carl Cochran, Carl Koch, W. Guy Garrison, J. Ernest Giffin; Mmes. John Schott, Hilda Ward, Minnie Ault, Mary Snider, John Feller, Henry Schaefer, E.O. Meder, Grace Kane, Lin Pickett, J.V. Nelson, C.C. Potts, John Schick; Misses Ivy Myers, Carrie Keller, Emma Louise Robinson, Laura Ruth Kane; Messrs. K.B. Schramm, E.L. Hoskinson, Harry A. Neff, William Green, J.E. Green, Howard Morgan, Henry F. Schommer, J. Prentice Bell, Harold Hochstrasser, William Meder, Robert McDonald.



EASTER CHOIR - Front Row: Betsy Magellan, Martha Wise ??, Pauline Stitt, Susan Waser, ??; Second Row: Martha Deafenbaugh, Maureen Closser, Sharon Gray, Mary Lou Major, Billie Jo Magellan, Sandra Prosser, Mary Jane Rataiczak, Dorothy Drummond, Betty Lou Barichar; Third Row: Richard Bell, Homer Ullom, Julia Schramm, Judy Rataiczak, Hattie Rataiczak, Carol Ballog, Betty Johnston, Penny Lancione, Charlotte Matthews, Amanda Criss, Agnes Bell, Linda Henthorn; Fourth Row: George Redpath, Bob Bomer, Isobel Rataiczak, Carla Smith, Shirley Galloway, Philip Johnston, Wally Major, Herman Glatzer, Tom Glatzer, Bill Stewart, Don Schlemitzauer, Dan Simpson, Don Fugate, Dr. Conwell; Back Row: Mike Kennedy, Eddie Matthews, LeRoy Nelson, David Creamer, Clark Nelson, David Marling, Corky Schramm, Tom Rataiczak.

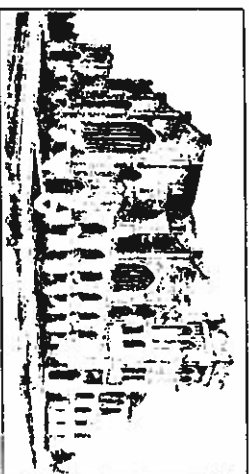
Church bulletin for the first service held in the church on February 19 1928.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Deum Laudamus—We Praise Thee, O God—should be the song on our lips today as we worship for the first time in this new and beautiful structure. Though so long expected and hoped for, it becomes a reality with a suddenness that is quite surprising after all. May the Lord grant that thru the years, it shall remain an inspiration and joy, a house of God and a gateway to heaven to many.
2. Monday afternoon and evening the recreation room will be at the disposal of the boys' group from 4:30 to 6 p. M. Monday evening the men have the room from 7 o'clock.
3. Tuesday, on account of the last lecture by Prof. Shutz, the room will be closed for recreational purposes. Remember the last of the series of lectures by Prof. Shutz comes Tuesday evening. Supper at 6:30.
3. Wednesday afternoon Intermediate girls in the recreational room.
4. Wednesday evening, prayermeeting in the main Sunday School room of the new church.
5. Thursday afternoon, 4:30-6p, Junior boys with Mr. Waldorf in the recreation room.
6. Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Women's Missionary Society serves a Colonial Tea in the Ladies' Parlor. An interesting program will be presented. All are invited.
7. Friday evening, young men's group, in the recreation room, under Harry Bell.
8. Remember the Hemmrich Recital on March 6th, Tuesday evening.
9. Our Hymn books are new and a generous gift of a loyal member of this church. Might we ask that you be considerate in first using them to open carefully, so as not to break the back. A new book can be easily kept new a long time if carefully opened.
10. We want to congratulate the young women of the church on their performance Friday evening. Also Mrs. Sherlock, their coach, deserves great credit. We also congratulate them on their splendid ankorette which came out in such unfavorable weather.
11. We would express appreciation of the efforts of a large group of men who aided in moving last Wednesday evening. A rather large task was made smaller by the splendid response of the men.
12. The following Elders and young men of the church are responsible for the ushering today and next Sunday: Mr. Greenlee, Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Sehnamm, Mr. Koehnig, Mr. Persell, Mr. Stewart. The trustees of the church will receive the offering at morning and evening services.

THE Parish Visitor

Vol. III, No. 14, Feb. 19, '28. Published by Presbyterian Church, Bellaire, O.



Morning Worship 11 O'clock

Prelude
 "Hosannah" Wachs
 "Serenade" Kachmannoff
 Doxology
 Invocation
 Gloria
 Hymn No. 82
 Responsive Reading No. 37
 Anthem, "Festival Te Deum," Back
 Scripture Lesson, 1 Kings 8
 Prayer
 Announcements
 Offering
 Solo, "Gloria," Pecca
 Mrs. Dill
 Sermon, "The Beginning of Wisdom"
 Hymn No. 365
 Benediction
 Postlude

Evening Worship 7:30 O'clock

Prelude
 "The Bells of Mercy," Stewart
 "La Cinqutaine," Gabriel-Marie
 "By Moonlight" Kinder
 Hymn No. 100
 Responsive Reading No. 36
 Anthem, "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes" Rogers
 Scripture Lesson John 1
 Hymn No. 363
 Prayer
 Offering
 Anthem, "Lord Thou Hast Been Our Dwelling Place" Rogers
 Sermon, "Where Jesus Lived"
 Hymn No. 176
 Benediction
 Meditation
 Postlude

Sunday School Teachers

Cross, Eugene
 Cunningham, Alice
 Curtis, Helen
 Curtis, Lou
 Curtis, Martha
 DeBlasis, James
 DeBlasis, Josephine
 Dixon, James
 Duvall, Mrs. Ralph
 Duvall, Robert
 Evans, Ella
 Feller, Dorothy
 Fisher, Jo
 Fitch, Shirley
 Flowers, Mrs. Charles
 Frankie, Mrs. Charles
 Giffin, Mrs. H.
 Giffin, Mrs. J. E.
 Giffin, Nellie
 Gladden, Mrs. C.S.
 Gladden, Laura
 Green, Helen
 Green, William
 Greenlee, J. R.
 Greenlee, Mrs. J.R.
 Gross, Dan
 Hahn, Doris
 Hahn, Jane
 Hall, Mary Lou
 Hannan, Barbara
 Harmon, Lucy
 Harris, Janet
 Heath, Mrs. Richard
 Heinlein, Mrs. G.A.
 Helms, Joan
 Henthorn, Margaret
 Hodges, Ann
 Ingram, Pat
 Jackson, Martha
 Johnston, Bob
 Jones, Betty
 Kemper, Helen
 Kemper, Jane
 Kennedy, (?)
 Kern, Mrs. Herbert
 Kern, Margaret
 Kern, Rose
 Keyser, Charles "Bud"
 Kinsey, Fern
 Kinsey, Walter
 Klages, Peggy
 Kleiner, Mrs. E.J.
 Kreiter, Evelyn
 Leach, Mrs. Roger
 Linard, Mrs. C.C.
 Long, Bonnie
 Long, Grace
 Lovejoy, Loretta
 McCarley, Irwin
 McCarley, Lora
 McClain, Mrs. W.J.
 McCleary, Mrs. Boyd
 McCleary, Mabel
 McCroba, Elizabeth
 McDonald, G. H.
 McDonald, Helen
 McDonald, Mrs. J.M.
 McElroy, Mrs.
 McGraw, Emma

McGraw, Mrs. W.J.
 McHendry, Mrs.
 McHendry, Rev. Franklin
 McKelvey, Mrs. J.C.
 McKibben, Frances
 McKibben, Julia
 Major, Donald
 Makofsky, Helen
 Makofsky, Katherine
 Marling, Maxine
 Matheny, G.L.
 Matz, Ella
 Maurer, Olive
 Mazure, Mary
 Meder, Lillian
 Meder, Poochie
 Mosser, Ruth Ann
 Neff, Ralph
 Neff, William
 Nelson, Esther
 Nelson, J.V.
 Nelson, Mrs. J.V.
 Palicka, Lois
 Petros, John
 Phillips, Crawford
 Potts, Florence Ring
 Puttman, Dixon
 Radford, Mary M.
 Ramsay, Nancy
 Ramsay, Tom
 Rataiczak, Doreen
 Rataiczak, Gertrude
 Rataiczak, Tom
 Rataiczak, Zygmunt
 Reed, David
 Reed, Helen
 Reenie, Wanda
 Reinbolt, F. N.
 Ring, Doris
 Robinson, Blanche
 Robinson, Emma Louise
 Robinson, Mrs. J. H.
 Robinson, Josephine
 Robinson, Mayme
 Rodefer, Dorothy
 Rodewig, Mrs. Carl
 Rollason, Hortense
 Roman, Eleanor
 Ross, Norman
 Rowe, Nelson
 Rowley, Violet
 Ruthem., Carl
 Ruthem., Shirley
 St. John, Evelyn
 Schaefer, Henry
 Schick, Maisie
 Schick, Mary Augusta
 Schramm, Kenneth "Pete"
 Schramm, Thelma
 Schrier, Dorothy
 Scott, Ida
 Sedgwick, C.C.
 Sedgwick, Kitty
 Seig, Mrs.
 Sechrest, Nancy
 Sherlock, Mrs. M.F.
 Smith, Margaret
 Smith, Mary
 Snedeker, Dorothy

Snyder, Virginia
 Stewart, Ella
 Stewart, J.W.
 Stewart, Mildred Hoskinson
 Storch, Fay
 Swaboda, Rose
 Swift, Edwin
 Swift, Joan
 Thomas, Pat
 Romlinson, Judy
 Romlinson, Rick
 Trigg, Joan
 Tyler, H.T.
 Ullom, Kelly
 Ullom, Homer
 Upperman, Janice
 Vaglianti, Tess
 VanCamp, Charles
 VanCamp, Rose Marie Ault
 Voight, Eleanor
 Walker, James
 Walker, Lois
 Wallace, Ivy
 Waser, Anna
 Waser, Mary E.
 Wayman, Fred
 Wernet, Carrie
 Whitten, Suzanne
 Wright, Mrs. G.A.
 Yost, (?)
 Young, Mary H.

Organizations other than Sunday School Classes formed for various purposes. The Budget Club was the forerunner of the Men's Club. This group met on the second Wednesday of each month. Attendance varied from a low of 10 at planning meetings to more than 100 at the annual Strawberry and Ice Cream evening at the Rataiczak farm. The Men's Club was discontinued in the 1960's.

Two organizations were begun as social groups for young married couples. The Schooner's Club and Mariner's Club were active in the 1940's and '50's. The Schooner's began the nursery and financed it for several years until becoming inactive in 1951.

Some organizations had specific purposes which were assumed by another group. The McCleary Missionary Society, The Light Bearer's Missionary Society, the Women's Missionary Society and the Pioneer Missionary Society were active until the 1940's. After that time their functions passed to the Women's Association and to the Session and Board of Deacons.

Youth groups began with 17 members in the Christian Endeavor Society in 1908. This became the Westminster Fellowship which was divided into Jr-Hi and Sr-Hi sections. These groups allowed young people opportunities to practice Christian charity, study Christian principles, and practice healthy social recreation. The Fellowships met each Sunday evening from September to June. The two sections combined in the 1960's and ceased reporting in the 1970's.

In 1953, under the guidance of Rev. Radford, the Women's Association was formed. The Constitution and By-laws of the group were formulated by Mrs. Stewart Radford and Mrs. R.R. Jewell. Three "circles" were provided for: Mary Circle, Martha Circle, both of which met in daytime, and Lydia Circle which met in the evening for the convenience of working women. Later Mrs. Roland Showalter began a circle for young mothers which was named the Dorcas Circle. The Mary and Martha Circles combined into one after several years. All circles meet monthly and follow an agenda of Spiritual Life, Mission and Bible Study, and a business meeting. Each circle has its own officers and is accountable to the Executive Committee of the whole Women's Association.

The Women's Association encouraged a wider knowledge of Presbyterian and Josephine DeBlasis became the first president of the Muskingum Presbyterian.

A popular feature, "Family Night," occurred quarterly when the program committee presented speakers, plays, music and book reviews in order to bring families together in study, recreation and for the ever-popular "pot-luck" suppers. One prominent speaker was Mrs. Verne Buchanan, a member of the Board of National Missions.

Women joined in services with local churches for World Day of Prayer, May Fellowships and other self-service groups. The Association sent children to Camp Presmont and women to attend Ecumenical Regional Conferences at Wooster, Muskingum and

Presmont. It sent Helen Bell to Purdue in 1964 and will send Kathy Bartley in 1988.

A celebration of Pauline Stitts' 30th year as beloved organist in 1972 with a reception and gift was a happy occasion.

On the work side, women of the Association served hundreds of people at dinners held in the church dining hall and for several years served the Kiwanis Club Christmas lunches for underprivileged children. The Association presented magnificent wedding receptions and, until the B.H.S. Alumni outgrew the hall, served their dinner each year. Families in distress are helped wherever possible. At one time the Association did the sewing for Bellaire City Hospital.

The annual Bazaar is a unique feature of the Association's service. For eleven months of the year a small group of the women meet weekly to fashion beautiful hand crafted items. These are sold, along with baked and canned goods, to the public at the Bazaar. The money so earned is contributed to the church, to community projects, and missions, both local and world-wide.

In 1975, with a gift from the John Galloway Family in memory of Virginia Galloway, the pulpit chairs were recovered with exquisite needlepoint. The design was adapted from the stained-glass windows behind the chancel by Mary Johnston. The needlework was a labor of love by Helen Dull, Nell Dixon, Dorothy Feller, Anna Allen, Mary Augusta Workman and Virginia Mahan.

Shut-ins are remembered each Thanksgiving with gifts of cookies and books and by a cheery card mailed to each shut-in each month.

Truly, it has been said, that one of the richest resources of the church is its women - Presbyterian women.

Presidents of the Womens Association

Mrs. James A. Dixon (Nell)	1954-56
Mrs. James DeBlasis (Josephine)	1957-58
Mrs. Clarence Potts (Florence)	1959-60
Mrs. J.E. Giffin (Lela)	1961-62
Mrs. D.M. Creamer (Virginia)	1963-64
Mrs. J. Prentice Bell (Helen)	1965-66
Mrs. G.H. McDonald (Helen)	1967-68
Mrs. Z.E. Rataiczak (Doreen)	1969-70
Mrs. H.H. Ault (Mary)	1971-72
Mrs. William McClain (Sue)	1973-74
Mrs. Robert Collins (Ann)	1975-76
Mrs. John Galloway (Ruth)	1977-78
Mrs. Charles Heathcote (Jane)	1979-80
Miss Emma Louise Robinson	1981-82
Mrs. James E. Griffin (Lillian)	1983-84
Mrs. John Ray (Beverly)	1985
Mrs. Bertram Snedeker (Dorothy)	1986-87
Mrs. D.M. Creamer (Virginia)	1988-89

PASTORAL ROLL

First Presbyterian Church

R. H. Holliday	
John Moffatt	1861-1863
James Fitzgerald	1863-1866
William Galston	1866-1880
Thomas Gordon (Supply)	1881
J. K. McKallick	1882-1886
Newton S. Hoey	1887-1889
L. W. Barr	1889-1893
H. A. L. king	1895-1897
R. S. Coffey	1898-1902
John Cooper	1902-1904
Calvin Hazlett	1905-1912
James H. Lawther	1912-1920

Second Presbyterian Church

R. M. Brown	1881-1887
W. M. Eaton	1887-1892
John McCracken	1893-1896
Joseph Donahey	1896
J. E. Fulton	1897-1898
W. V. TeWinkel	1899-1904
Charles Halliwell	1906-1909
Basil R. King	1910-1916
Frank L. Freet	1917-1920

Bellaire Presbyterian Church

Boyd McCleary	1921-1934
J. Earl Jackman	1935-1939
Frank O. Storch	1939-1945
J. Franklin McHendry	1945-1950
Stewart W. Radford	1950-1956
Roland Showalter	1957-1960
Robert B. Berger	1961-1970
Robert J. Collins	1970-1977
Wayne M. Bell	1978-1982
David Bartley	1983-present

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Elders of the Church 1927-1988

E. G. Adams
W. C. Camahan
D. W. Cooper
K. G. Cooper
D. W. Darrah
J. R. Greenlee
W.H. Kinsey
C.D. Lamb
G.L. Matheny
J.M. McDonald
G.H. McDonald
J.V. Nelson
J.W. Stewart
H.T. Tyler
D.A. Ward
C.M. Wyrick
H.A. Neff
C.C. Sedgwick
J.E. Green
James Cooper
J.A. Dixon
F.N. Reinbolt
W.A. Galloway
W.S. Brannen
George Branstroop
A. Ray Burdett
W. Guy Garrison
J.E. Rosser
John Rataiczak
J.E. Giffin
W.K. Neff
J.P. Bell
E.F. Maurer
William Green
Crawford Phillips
H.H. Rodefer
Z.E. Rataiczak
Arthur Andrews
Ella Evans
Robert Johnston
Henry Schommer
Robert Ballog
William Meder
Gertrude Rataiczak
D.M. Creamer
Kenneth Wood
Charles VanCamp
Glenn Allen
John Galloway
Florence Potts
Harold Hochstrasser
Carl Cochran
L.L. Cunningham, Jr.
Homer Ring
R.A. Neff
Floyd Closser
Effie Brown
Eleanor Cutshaver
James F. Walker
Alan Banker
Ruth Case Galloway
Virginia Creamer
Ralph Andrews
Henry Schaefer
H.H. Ault

Robert McDonald
Dorothy Snedeker
Doreen Rataiczak
Willard Workman
Virda Neff
Richard Gerald Thomas
Emma Louise Robinson
J.E. Griffin
William Kroiter
Homer Ullom
Janet Bauknecht
James Cochran
Richard Dyer
William Wright
Walter Bauknecht III
Janet Harris
Richard Aukerman
Lillian Griffin
Gertrude Klee
John Ray
Judy Bonar
Jack Beveridge

Trustees of the Church

J.E. Rosser
C.S. Gladden
H.A. Neff
E.M. Pomeroy
J.H. Robinson
C.H. Koch
J.H. McGraw
L.H. Buchse
George Robinson
E.L. Hoskinson
S.N. McKelvey
T.P. Zimmerman
I.R. McCarley
J.E. Green
J.E. McClain
M.F. Sherlock
W.J. McGraw
Crawford Phillips
James Cooper
W.G. Garrison
H.W. Hochstrasser
R.T. Cames
G.H. Dankworth
D.H. McGhee
W.S. Brannen
J.G. Johnston
C.E. Thomas
K.G. Schramm
J.E. Giffin
H.H. Rodefer
C.J. Uhrmann
W.T. Greenlee
E.F. Maurer
L.T. Jackson
Wallace Kirkland
David Reed
C.C. Sedgwick
D.A. Ward
C.D. Keyser
A.R. Burdett

H.F. Schommer
E.B. Waser
Floyd Closser
C.C. Linard
Carl Cochran
Carlos Smith, Jr.
Robert Johnston
Joseph McClain
J.W. Stewart
Kenneth Wood
Frank Curtis
Glenn Allen
L.L. Cunningham, Jr.
Florence Potts
D.M. Creamer
W.S. McCroba
Maisie Schick
Charles VanCamp
Minnie Ault
Albert Dix
Homer Ring
Franklin "Bud" Stewart
Effie Brown
James Cochran
Joseph McGraw
Alan Banker
Walter Bauknecht, Jr.
William Meder
Mary Snider
Ralph Neff
Richard Hess
Robert McDonald
Henry Schaefer
Ruth Case Galloway
Antonio Castricone
J.P. Bell
Thomas Ring
Mary Ault
Charles Keyser
Helen McDonald
Don Wright
Homer Ullom
Bertram Snedeker
Laverne Ramsay
William McClain
John Galloway
Helen Gatto
Thomas Rataiczak
Richard Dyer
Christine Taggart
J.E. Griffin
Robert Hodges
George Heil
Ralph Andrews
Jack Beveridge
Charles Heathcote
William Vaglianti
William Wright
William Green
Walter Bauknecht III
Leland Jones
Mary Augusta Workman

NOTE: In 1986 changes in the By-Laws abolished the Board of Trustees by incorporating it into a committee of the Session.

Board of Deacons 1927-1952

R.D. Reeder
J.R. Anderson
Fred Wayman
Frank King

1952-1988

Floyd Closser
Martha Jackson
Robert Johnston
Maisie Schick
Kenneth Schramm
Richard Aukerman
Prentice Bell
James Cochran
Lorraine Smith
Laura Stewart
Arthur Andrews
Wilma Burdett
Guy Garrison
Crawford Phillips
Florence Potts
Robert Ballog
Margaret Henthorn
Leroy Nelson
Katie Zimmerman
Evelyn Kreiter
Willard Neff
Zygmunt Rataiczak
Wilbur Shackleford
Edna Wright
Eleanor Branstroop
William Green
Thelma Schramm
Howard Simpson
Hershall Thomas
Minnie Ault
James Bissett
James DeBlasis
Lela Giffin
Lloyd Cunningham, Jr.
Dana Archer
William Magellan
Olive Thomas
Charles VanCamp
Grace Wood
Ruth Case Galloway
William Kennedy
Faye Krebs
William Meder
Mrs. William Prosser
Mary Snider
Robert McDonald
Bernard Nelson
Harold Hochstrasser
Walter Bauknecht
Eleanor Roman
Nell Dixon
Leland Jones
Bertram Snedeker
Laura R. Kane
Robert Marling
John Petros
Emma Louise Robinson
Emil Suchy
Effie Brown
Joseph McGraw

Doreen Rataiczak
Helen Bell
Henry Criss
William McClain
Glenn Allen
John Galloway
Charles VanCamp
Laverne Ramsay
Henry Schaefer
Dan Gross
James Walker
Georgia Suchy
Donald Ault
Charles Keyser
Carl Ruthem
William Wright
Marguerite Purtiman
George Johnson, Jr.
Edwin Swift
Sue McClain
Mrs. E.L. Dudley
Helen Gatto
Martha McClain
Homer Ullom
John Galloway
Robert Bomer
Thomas Rataiczak
Michael Kennedy
Isabelle McClain
Hattie Rataiczak Luikart
Reba Banker
Anna Allen
Mildred Cunningham
Yvonne Sue Bell
Mary Johnston
Everett Criss
Kathi McClain
Richard Gerald Thomas
Thomas Ramsay
Jack Beveridge
John Ray
Betty Cunningham
Rick Tomlinson
Patricia Bauknecht
J. Douglas Walker
Loretta Dyer
Mary Augusta Workman
Ruth Ann Mosser
LuGail Major
William Kreiter
Alan Banker, Jr.
Ruth Closser
Judy Arno
Helen Driscoll
Gertrude Klee
Martha Balsei
Peter Roman
Jim Craig, Jr.
Mary Burnett
Ken Myers
Gloria Christakis
Doris White
Thelma Beatty
Wanda Craig
Tom Luikart
Judy Brown
Nancy Delman
Michelle Dyer
Janet Robinson
Joanne Vingia
Douglas Allen
Lois Palicka

AFTERWORD

The Preface and the section Our Church from 1920-1960 were written by Rev. Roland Showalter. The history of the old First and Second Churches and the section entitled The Presbyterian Church of Bellaire were written by Dr. Boyd McCleary. The section on the years from 1960 to 1988 was jointly produced by Lois Walker and Doreen Rataiczak. Small changes in the earlier sections were made to preserve narrative unity. Many hands wrote the Minutes and compiled the Reports from which these few facts were taken.

STUDY SIDE-LINES

Twenty-five members of Senior High W. F. met Sunday evening at the home of their advisor, Mrs. Gertrude Katalczak for program and fun . . . Girl Scout Troop 6 and Brownie Troop 17 will meet jointly Tuesday, March 5th, for instruction in folk dances and songs at 3:30 sharp . . . Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 6th and Christendom turns again to rethink the great events of our Lord's life . . . Palm Sunday is April 14, Easter is April 21 . . . Miss Mary Jane Hahn, church secretary here 1946-50, was in church Sunday, the guest of the Burdett's. She now holds a responsible administrative position in the Visual Aids Division of the National Council of Churches in New York. Her address is 119 E. 29th St., New York 16 . . . Mrs. Ray Burdett reports that all classes of the Junior-Intermediate Department (grades four through eight) will attend church and be seated together Sunday . . . This issue of Presbyterian Post, being Vol. I, Number 1, not only has some historical value, but the two inside pages contain the 1957 church directory. We suggest you save it as a reference source . . . Our Junior High W. F. will be host Sunday evening to the youth of five Bellaire Churches. Mr. James Dixon, as both churchman and high school principal, will speak on the subject, "After Grade School, What?" Our friend and neighbor, Rev. W. R. Walker will lead some fun singing and our officers are planning devotions. Afterwards a snack and some informal fun will be the order . . .

The Annual Board of Trade Banquet will be served in our church dining room, March 8, at 6:30 by the "B" Committees of our Women's Association. Governor C. William O'Neil is the speaker . . . World Day of Prayer services will be held March 8, at 1:30 in the E. & R. Church. Mrs. John Gray, wife of the United Presbyterian Minister at Roncy's Point, will be the speaker . . . The regular monthly meeting of the Semper Paratus Class will be held, March 7th at 8:00 in the ladies parlor. Junior High Fellowship will be in charge of devotions and Mrs. Roland L. Showalter will give a brief talk. Hostesses for the evening are: Mmes. Bode, Marling, Branstroop, Bissett and Taylor. . . . The regular monthly meeting of the Philathea Class will be held March 4th at 7:30. Mrs. Hilda Ward will lead devotions. Hostesses are: Mmes. Taggart, Brown, and Ward. Sewing for the Hospital will occupy the evening . . . Friday, March 8th at 7:30 the Plus Ultra Class will hold their regular monthly meeting

Devotions will be in charge of Mrs. Wm. Kreiter. Hostesses for the evening are: Mmes. Neff, Duwall and Cox . . . The Board of Trustees will meet in the parlor, Monday evening, March 4th, for their regular monthly meeting . . . Tuesday, March 5th, the Session will meet in the parlor for their regular monthly meeting.



WORLD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Clarence Potts, Chairman
Remember this is World Service Year. All members of our Church - Men, Women, Youth, are asked to help with our three projects for the year 1957.

1. A request for used Christmas cards comes from Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Provost, Presbyterian Mission, 1 Nam Sun Dong, Taegu, Korea. These cards are used in unlimited quantities in Korea as Bible verse tracts. Mrs. Walter McCroba, our Foreign Mission Secretary has charge of this project.
2. House-cleaning time is here again, so let each and every one of us take out all of our old discarded nylon hose. These are to be sent to Newton Community Center, Chattanooga, Tenn. Mrs. H. E. King, our National Mission Secretary has charge of this project.
3. Save all cancelled postage stamps. These are to be mailed to Augustdorf, West Germany. They are used by the hand-capped refugees to be sold to stamp collectors. Mrs. C. M. Evans, our Christian Education Secretary is in charge of this project.

Please bring all the above items to our Church. Boxes will be placed there for collection of Christmas cards, hose and stamps. Please bring your donations to Association meetings. If brought on Sunday, Dick will accept your donation.

The Presbyterian Church, Bellaire, Ohio
Rev. Roland L. Showalter, Minister
Mrs. J. Herbert Stitt, Minister of Music
Miss Maureen Closser, Church Secretary
J. Frank Dyer, Sexton
J. Prontice Bell, S. S. Supp.
Office: 1000 E. 12th St., Bellaire, Ohio 44601
Office Hours: 9-12, 1-4,
except Saturday



Presbyterian Post

Published every Thursday, September through June, and monthly in July and August, by The Presbyterian Church, Bellaire, Ohio. Application for second class mail privileges is pending at Bellaire, Ohio. Rev. Roland L. Showalter, Editor. Subscription price is 25c per year.

Vol. I

February 28, 1957

No. 1

HOMILY FOR A NEW ADVENTURE!

Text: "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." — Psalm 118:23.

Six exciting weeks have passed since the seven Showalters moved into the manse. So many new names, faces and friendships. So much to be done, so many kindnesses extended, so many new experiences. We have loved it all and the seasons ahead seemed laden with challenge, and we hope, with occasional fulfillment.

Already one dream has come true. You hold it in your hands. Presbyterian Post is the youngest and most promising member of our church team. You may expect it each Friday except in July and August when it will arrive monthly. We expect by week it will tell of our common life together, listing the many activities that engage our interests and discussing matters of common concern. We think it will at once become an indispensable part of our witness and work.

For we are by no means a respectable people. Looking in the records of the church and the minutes of our boards one senses the deep debt we owe the past. Especially effective as a reminder is the historical booklet, "Our Home," published in the spring of 1928 by the Rev. Boyd McCleary as our church was being dedicated. Great names are spread in every line. Names you hear mentioned today with reverence. "Saints who from their labors rest," while we enjoy the many fruits of their sacrifices. A century of Presbyterian witness in Bellaire! "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

So the past inspires the present. We can but pray that we in our day may be found faithful. That those who here serve in generations yet to come may consider our deeds and study our records and also be turned in thought to the lines of the ancient Psalmist.

PRAYER

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally by Thy mercy, attain unto everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. — Amen.

Sunday Morning

11 o'clock

March 3rd
Sermon: "Enjoy Him Forever!"
The Minister

9:45 Classes for all the family
11-12 Activity period for little tots
6:30 Westminster Fellowship

ALWAYS: A cordial welcome and reverent worship!

1957 CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH SECRETARY
Miss Maureen Closser
Phone: OR 6-1875

MINISTER
Rev. Roland L. Showalter
Phone: OR 6-1976

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR
Mrs. J. Herbert Stahl
Phone: NE 5-0615

CUSTODIAN
Mr. Richard Dyer
Phone: OR 6-5487

Church Phone: OR 6-0872
Office Hours: 9-12, 1-4, Monday - Friday

THE SESSION

George E. Branstroop, Clerk
Arthur S. Andrews
J. Prentice Bell
W. Scott Brannen
A. R. Burdett
James A. Dixon
Mrs. C. M. Evans
Guy W. Garrison
William Green
Robert Johnston
Zygmunt E. Rataiczak
Floyd N. Reinbolt
James E. Rosser
Harry Neff
Ward Stewart

THE TRUSTEES

Lloyd L. Cunningham, Jr., Chairman
Glenn Allen, Asst. Chairman
Floyd L. Closser, House Chairman
Mrs. C. C. Potts
Dr. D. M. Creamer, Secretary
Henry F. Schommer
Kenneth Wood
Walter McCroba
Mrs. John Schuck

THE DEACONS
James DeBlasis, Chairman
Mrs. Lester Ault
James A. Bassett
Lloyd L. Cunningham, Jr.
Mrs. J. E. Giffin
Jack Archer
William Magellan
Mrs. Marshall Thomas
Charles VanCamp
Mrs. Kenneth Wood
Richard Aukerman
Miss Ruth Case
William Meder
Mrs. John Krebs
Robert Kennedy

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Treasurer Carl H. Koch
Financial Secretary Mrs. C. C. Potts

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Assistant Sup. A. R. Burdett
Assistants Gordon Stewart, Carl Criss

J. Prentice Bell
Leslie Jackson
W. Scott Brannen

DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENTS

Beginners Mrs. Robert Balloug
..... Mrs. James DeBlasis
Primary Mrs. A. R. Burdett
Junior-Intermediate James A. Dixon
Senior Mrs. C. M. Evans
Adult

TEACHERS

Mrs. Joseph Eaman
Mrs. Walter Bauknecht, Jr.
Mrs. Kenneth Wood
Mrs. Geo. H. McDonald
Mrs. J. P. Bell
Miss Carol Phillips
Mrs. Marshall Thomas
Mrs. Wm. Kreiter

GROUP WORK LEADERS

Junior H. W. F. Advisors Mr. and Mrs. Zygmunt E. Rataiczak
Senior H. W. F. Advisor Mrs. John Rataiczak
Brownie Troop No. 17 Leader Mrs. Walter Wise
Girl Scout Troop No. 6 Leader Mrs. Robert Balloug
Celestial Choir — Choir Mothers Mrs. Peter Lancione
Junior Boys Choir — Choir Mother Mrs. Walter Wise
Senior Choir — Choir Mother Miss Margaret Henthorn
..... Mrs. Agnes Bell

THE CIRCLES

MARTHA
Mrs. John Schick
Mrs. J. E. Giffin
Mrs. James Dixon
Mrs. Kenneth Wood

DOORCAS
Mrs. Agnes Bell
Mrs. K. B. Schramm
Mrs. Wm. McGraw
Mrs. H. C. Deutenbaugh

MARY
Mrs. D. M. Creamer
Mrs. J. Purdum
Mrs. Geo. Brown
Mrs. E. St. John

LYDIA

Mrs. Mary Snider
Miss Gloria Hannen
Mrs. Walton Gillespie

SUNDAY IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BELLAIRE

Worship 11:00 a. m.

Westminster Fellowship 6:30 p. m.

STATED MEETING

The Session
First Tuesday, 7:30
Women's Association & The Circles
Girl Scout Troop No. 6
Every Tuesday, 4:00
Senior Choir
Junior Boys Choir
Every Wednesday, 7:15

Senior Parasus Class
First Thursday, 8:00
Board of Trustees
First Monday, 7:30
Church School Staff
Fourth Thursday, 8:00

Plus Ultra Class
Second Friday, 7:30
Board of Christian Education
Third Thursday, 7:30
Brownie Troop No. 17
Every Monday, 3:30

Celestial Choir
Every Wednesday, 6:15
Philathea Class
First Monday, 7:30

