

There are several photographs that were included in this 60th Anniversary Booklet:
THE PRESENT CHURCH EDIFICE, Ninth Avenue and Ann Street, Erected 1903-04
IRVIN SHORTESS YEAWORTH, Present Minister
ORIGINAL BUILDING of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(Erected in 1874 on site of present building, Homestead, Pennsylvania)
FREDERICK ARTHUR WELTY, Minister of Music

THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOMESTEAD, PA 1874 - 1934

BY JAMES M. NORRIS

NO history of the First Presbyterian Church of Homestead is complete without an account of the ministry of that consecrated and courageous pioneer, the Rev. John McMillan, D.D. While yet a very young man he journeyed westward across the Allegheny mountains, making his way through a trackless forest. He often slept out at nights with no shelter but the big pine trees above him. He blazed a trail of light in the darkness of this wilderness that never grows dim.

Dr. McMillan founded the Chartiers, Lebanon, and Bethel churches in 1776. His zeal and enthusiasm in these early Presbyterian churches still abides, and his labors have helped to make western Pennsylvania the stronghold of Presbyterianism. During the Revolutionary War members from these congregations enlisted under Col. McCoy and served their country loyally. Dr. McMillan also founded Jefferson Academy which later merged with the academy at Washington, Pennsylvania, forming Washington and Jefferson College.

The Lebanon church is the mother of many of the Presbyterian churches in the Pittsburgh area. David Ferguson, a member of Lebanon church, deeply concerned with the spiritual needs of the Fort Pitt community, persuaded his brother-in-law, the Rev. Samuel Barr, to come and preach in Pittsburgh. Out of the untiring and faithful ministry of the Rev. Samuel Barr there came into being that illustrious church, the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh.

The Homestead Presbyterian church likewise owes its early existence to the Lebanon church, for of its twelve charter members five were from the Lebanon congregation. These five, together with another charter member who came from the Birmingham church were of the McClure family, a family of great importance in the history of this church.

Abdiel McClure, the head of this noble house, was born July 18, 1816 and died Sept. 23, 1887. His parents were among the earliest settlers in this district coming here from near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He married Anne W. Risher on Sept. 5, 1837 and at the time of his death left three sons and two daughters: D.R. McClure, M.L. McClure, J. Henry McClure, Mrs. Sara McClure Taylor and Miss Mattie McClure. He was elected an elder in the Lebanon Church Sept. 18, 1868 and was highly honored and respected by his fellow citizens. Soon after the erection of a steel mill by Andrew Kloman in 1879 he laid out his farm, commonly called the "McClure homestead," in town lots from which the borough of Homestead received its name.

The name the surveyors gave the patent that was issued to the McClure estate was "Amity," for which Amity Street was named. The old McClure home is now owned and occupied [in 1934] by Miss Anzonetta Stroud, a member of this church.

Another household closely identified with this early church was the West family. Lowry Hay West was one of the twelve charter members, coming from the Concord Presbyterian Church. He was made a ruling elder at the time of his reception into this church and continued in that office until his death. In 1851 he married Eliza Jane Snyder. He died in Homestead, Nov. 14, 1901 in the seventy-sixth year of his age. His daughter, Mattie West Kennedy, in point of membership is our oldest living member having been affiliated with the church fifty-nine years of its sixty years of existence. (in 1934)

It is greatly to the credit of these two fine families that they early endeavored to furnish spiritual aid to the citizens of Homestead.

The first known record of the First Presbyterian Church of Homestead is found in the session book. It is therein called the "Mission Presbyterian Church of Homestead." --It reads: Homestead, June 19, 1872.—"A congregational meeting was held after prayer meeting and was organized by calling the Rev. F.E. Thompson to the chair, who made a statement that the object of the meeting was to take measures for the erection of a church edifice and also that a plan of a church building had been made out, the ground staked off, and the necessary excavation done which was approved by the meeting. On motion, a Building Committee was appointed by the chair, which was as follows: Abdiel McClure, Lowry H. West and Benjamin Thompson. The congregation then united in singing the 451st Hymn. Meeting adjourned.—F.E. Thompson, *Chairman.*"

The words of the 451st Hymn found in "Songs for the Sanctuary" which was probably used by the congregation at that time is as follows:

*"Ye saints, your music bring, / Attuned to the sweetest sound,
Strike every trembling string, / Till earth and heaven resound;
The triumphs of the cross we sing; / Awake, ye saints. each joyful string.
The cross, the cross alone, Subdued / the powers of hell;
Like lightning from his throne / The prince of darkness fell;
The triumphs of the cross we sing; / Awake, ye saints, each joyful string.
The cross hath power to save / From all the foes that rise;
The cross hath made the grave / A passage to the skies;
The triumphs of the cross we sing Awake, / ye saints, each joyful string."*

From the foregoing record one is justified in concluding that the first moves for a church must have been made long before June 19, 1872 for by that time Abdiel McClure had already donated the site for the church, the foundation had been dug, and the plans for the church building had been drawn. Prior to this time the church services had been held in Abdiel McClure's carpenter shop that stood near McClure and Eighth Avenue. Here also the Sunday School had been organized with Benjamin Thompson as Superintendent. Later both the church services and those of the Sunday School were held in the second story of the school house that still stands [in 1934] on the south west corner at Fifth Avenue and Amity Street.

At the time the site was donated for the church, Abdiel McClure also donated the ground for Frick Park. It was then a deep ravine, but was later filled up and through the generosity of Henry Clay Frick made into the beautiful park which now graces our city.

In the founding of the First Presbyterian Church of Homestead, the Presbytery of Pittsburgh manifested genuine interest. It cooperated definitely in assigning the Rev. Ferris from its committee on Home Missions to supervise the activities here. Mr. Ferris promised that funds would be furnished by the Home Missionary Society to aid in the building of a church, and on the strength of this promise, the plan of the building was made and the foundation dug. Then the terrible panic of 1872 suddenly enveloped the nation and the Home Missions Committee was compelled to withdraw its promise of funds. However, the suffering brought on by the panic did not quench the zeal and faith of these Christian fathers, for it is recorded that prayer meetings were held and Sunday School kept going until the church was duly organized on May 2, 1874.

The second record contained in the session book recites the details of the organization of the church as follows: "Organization of the church of Homestead." "Homestead, May 2, 1874.—A number of persons met in the usual place of worship in accordance with notice given last Sabbath. William Munson, a ruling elder of the church of Birmingham and a member of the Presbyterial Committee on Missions, was present. The Rev. David McKinney preached a sermon after which the Homestead Presbyterian Church was organized to be in connection with the Presbytery of Pittsburgh and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The following persons united with the organization. Viz.:

Abdiel McClure from the Lebanon Church
Mrs. Anne McClure from the Lebanon Church
Daniel R. McClure from the Lebanon Church
Miss Sara McClure from the Lebanon Church
Miss Mattie McClure from the Lebanon Church
J. Henry McClure from the Birmingham Church
William H. Totten from the Sixth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh
Mrs. L.C. Totten from the Sixth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh
Lowry H. West from the Concord Church

Mrs. E.J. West from the Concord Church
John Kerr from the U.P. Church of Braddock
Mrs. John Kerr from the U.P. Church of Braddock

Abdiel McClure was certified as a ruling elder and Lowry H. West was chosen an elder; the latter was ordained and both were installed.

The session held its first meeting on Sunday morning, May 3, 1874 and Abdiel McClure was elected clerk. The first regular church service followed at which time the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed.

The second meeting of the session was held in the old school house on Fifth Avenue at Amity Street on Sept. 12, 1874 following preparatory services conducted by the Rev. David McKinney. At this meeting John Bryson, Nancy Bryson and Anna Bryson were received from the Third United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh and Mrs. J.B. Henning (Nannie V.) from the Monongahela City M.E. Church. Both the Bryson and Henning families took a conspicuous place in the activities of the church. Mr. John B. Henning united on confession of faith July 22, 1877. Vannelia Henning (Mrs. Freeborough), a daughter, united on Jan. 29, 1881. A son, Frank Hall Henning, and his wife Alice Edna came on Jan. 9, 1887. Mary E. Henning (Mrs. H.L. Baker), another daughter, united on Jan. 19, 1890.

Immediately following the preparatory service and the session meeting on Sept. 12, 1874, a congregational meeting was held with the Rev. David McKinney in the chair as moderator. At this meeting a unanimous call was made to the Rev. Joseph Grimes Lyle, then serving the upper Buffalo Church, to become the pastor of this church. Abdiel McClure was chosen to present the call to the Pittsburgh Presbytery which met on Oct. 6, 1874 at Monongahela City.

The building committee that the Moderator had previously appointed still functioned. As the panic of 1873 continued to cause widespread suffering, no funds were available from the Church Extension Board of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. With no money in the treasury, laboring under one of the worst panics in our national history, this small but brave band of worshipers built a fine church. The original edifice stood on Ann Street on the site now occupied by the Manse. It had a spacious basement divided for Sunday School purposes and the part above, capable of seating 300, was used for regular church services. This building, which cost \$6,000., was ready for occupancy on Nov. 29, 1874. On the day of dedication \$2,700. was raised and the remaining \$3,300. was carried by that grand man of precious memory, Abdiel McClure.

On Jan. 17, 1875 John Munhall and Hattie Munhall, his wife, of the Second Presbyterian Church of South Oil City, presented their certificates of membership and were duly admitted as members of our congregation. From this family, our sister borough, Munhall, received its name.

The charter for the First Presbyterian Church was secured in the June term of Court in 1875. In January 1877, the membership of the church was 75 and 100 were enrolled in the Sunday School; in 1878 the membership was only 71 and 100 in the Sunday School; and in 1879 the membership was 73 and the Sunday School totalled 120. The Rev. Joseph Grimes Lyle terminated his pastorate here in 1879 having held the organization during the dreadful panic that continued almost through his five years pastorate. "One soweth and another reapeth" and Mr. Lyle sowed faithfully.

Early in 1880 the Rev. William E. McCrea, formerly of West Elizabeth, took the pastorate of this church. It then had a membership of only 73 and 85 were enrolled in the Sunday School. When he left, the membership had risen to 130 and the number in the Sunday School was 200. Mr. McCrea made a brilliant record during his ministry here. Not only had the church increased in membership, but the heavy debt of \$3,300. was paid in full.

Between the pastorates of Joseph Grimes Lyle and William E. McCrea, and again in 1885 after Mr. McCrea had severed his pastoral relations with this congregation the Rev. Francis Ramsey moderated the session meetings. By his kindly personality, he won the hearts of the members of this congregation and was called to be its pastor in 1886. Mr. Ramsey was a most impressive preacher whose spiritual messages drew such crowded houses that the need of a larger church building was felt during his pastorate. On March 20, 1887, he died and the congregation deeply mourned its loss. The following is a quotation from the Presbyterian Banner a part of the Memorial Resolutions then published: "We, the citizens of Homestead, as well as the members of the Presbyterian Church, have sustained an inestimable loss. Not only have we lost a valuable citizen who had the welfare of the community at heart; but we, the members of the congregation, deeply mourn the loss of a pure noble man, one who left pure and lasting impressions whether seen in the pulpit or on the street. He not only preached the gospel but lived the gospel as well." Only a short time after this, the church suffered another great loss in the death of that faithful worker, Abdiel McClure, who died Sept. 23, 1887.

After the death of the Rev. Ramsey, Rufus P. Miller, a student in the Western Theological Seminary, supplied the pulpit. Subsequently, he was called to the pastorate of the church and was installed on June 8, 1888. The installation sermon was preached by the Rev. William B. McKibben of the Second Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh. At this time a fine spirit of friendly feeling among the local congregations was shown by frequent exchange of pulpits by the ministers of Homestead. On August 5th, the Sunday services in our church were cancelled to permit our people to attend the dedication of the new Methodist Church on the present site of Saint Anne's Catholic Church.

Mr. Miller was a sincere shepherd of this flock; deeply spiritual and greatly beloved by his congregation. One gets a fine impression of his true interest in his people from the following: On April 14, 1897 he urged the congregation to reduce his salary from \$1500. to \$1350. After a brief discussion, Mrs. S.M. Bowman arose and moved that the request be not considered and this motion was unanimously carried.

During his ministry the church grew rapidly in spite of the terrible strike in the Homestead Steel Mills in 1892 and the panic of 1893, that made his duties difficult. In 1895, Andrew Carnegie donated a Carl Barkoff organ to the congregation. Much appreciation is due Charles M. Schwab who personally interviewed Mr. Carnegie and secured the organ.

Mrs. Nellie Risher Roberts became the first organist and later Charles Wakefield Cadman, then quite a young man, filled this position. He has since become widely known in the musical world, not only as an organist and pianist but also as a composer.

In the summer of 1900, Mr. Miller had a serious nervous break-down and went west hoping to regain his health. Because of his physical condition, on May 21, 1901, at a congregational meeting, he requested that the congregation join with him in asking Pittsburgh Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship. In the minutes of the session there was shown a profound feeling of disappointment and regret that our church was to lose the Christian ministrations of Mr. Miller. He had served for thirteen years, the longest term of service of any minister in the history of this church.

Following his pastorate here, Mr. Miller went to the mountains at Phillipsburg, Pennsylvania, to recuperate and was soon called to the service of the Presbyterian Church of that town. He is still active in church work in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, [in 1934] where he now makes his home. His two daughters, Mrs. Alice Everett and Mrs. Mary E. Hartley, have been towers of strength in this church which their father served so long and so well.

During the Rev. Rufus P. Miller's long and successful pastorate, and also preceding that time, many people of prominence and active helpfulness joined our church. Some of these are as follows:

Dr. W. A. McCaslin and his wife, Eva, came into our church by letter from the Middlesex Presbyterian Church on Nov. 5, 1880. Dr. McCaslin was soon installed as an elder and held that honorable place until his death, Aug. 15, 1915. Lucy McCaslin and Olive McCaslin joined in 1897 and Ethel in 1900.

On Nov. 19, 1882, James Slocum and his wife came from the Methodist Church. His character and kindly personality made him popular in both church and community.

At the session meeting of Oct. 7, 1883, Samuel McCune and his wife were received into this church on confession of faith. Many will remember the large department store of McCune and Swartz which Samuel McCune established.

On Oct. 4, 1884, Dr. George Gladden and his wife, Frances, joined our membership. The name of Dr. Gladden still recalls pleasant memories to many of our people.

On Oct. 9, 1885, the session met in the home of M.C. Address and admitted him to our church membership. Mrs. Anna M. Address had come in 1881. Ella M. and Harry M. joined in 1892 and 1919.

Robert C. McCaslin and his wife came by letter from the Lebanon Church in 1886 and Robert C. McCaslin, Jr. on confession of faith in 1903.

During this same year came John H. Gillen and Sara Gillen, his wife; John A. Wolff and his wife, Jennie. Both of these families are still active in our church membership [in 1934]. Joseph M. McCreery and Elizabeth McCreery also became members at this time.

On April 8, 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Kennedy brought their letters from the Seventh U.P. Church of Pittsburgh. At that time he was one of the foremost steel men in the world.

On Oct. 8, 1886 Elizabeth Luella Stroud and Sarah Emma Stroud were admitted into the church on profession of faith and Edwin F. Stroud came from the Lebanon Church by letter. On Jan. 9, 1887 Anzetta Gertrude Stroud brought her letter from the Lebanon Church.

The Burns family came from the Sharpsburg Presbyterian Church on Jan. 9, 1887. There were William Burns, Mrs. Anna Burns, James Alexander Burns, William Charles Burns and Mattie

Burns. William Burns was a charter member of the Sharpsburg Church and a ruling elder there. He was soon made a ruling elder in our church and served until his death in 1908.

James K. Young and his wife, Sara Jane Young, added their names to the church roll on Apr. 15, 1888; their daughter Agnes joined later. Mr. Young was a very active and useful member of this church. He was a trustee, a ruling elder, the founder of the Christian Endeavor Society, and also its first president. For three years he was Superintendent of the Sunday School.

C.W. Taylor, who married Sara R. McClure, a charter member, joined our church Jan. 18, 1891. Miss Mary J. Taylor enrolled July 6, 1888 and De Witt M. Taylor, a son of C.W. Taylor in 1895. He is now living in Wollaston, Mass. [in 1934].

James B. Neel and Mrs. S.C. Neel, his wife, came from the McKeesport Presbyterian Church on Oct. 12, 1888.

Dr. Matthew H. West joined this church on Jan. 11, 1889, and Olive West, his wife, in 1903. He was a very prominent member of the church and a useful man in the community. Dr. West donated one of the windows in our church as a memorial to his sister, Sarah Risher West, who was born in 1848 and died in 1902. His wife, Olive, left a bequest of \$5,000. to the church at her death in 1931.

The names of S.A. Espy and his wife, W.W. Espy, Mary Espy and George Espy were added to the membership on Apr. 12, 1889. Mr. Espy was a member of the board of trustees.

George P. Weaverling joined on confession of faith on Jan. 11, 1889. He was chairman of the board of trustees at the time of the erection of our present church edifice. Mrs. Minnie P. Weaverling brought her letter from the Bentleyville Methodist Episcopal Church two years later.

On July 5, 1889, from the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church came the family of Menks: Jacob, Robert, Sophia, Emma, and William. William served as a trustee for many years. Four years later, Charles A. Menk and his wife, Nellie, joined on profession of faith. From that time until his death, Mr. Menk served this church as a trustee, as a ruling elder, as secretary of the building committee for the new church, as superintendent of the Sunday School and in many other capacities.

July 5, 1889, Charles Goeddel added his name to the list of members and a year later his wife, Katharina E. Goeddel, joined.

Edward B. Lyon also came to our church at this time and Mrs. Lyon in 1890. Both are still active members. Mrs. Lyon was a member of the Finance Committee for the erection of the present church building.

In the fall, Oct. 11, 1889, B.F. Stark presented his letter and was a very active and useful member; a trustee, and a faithful attendant at prayer meeting. Jennie May Stark, his daughter, who joined in 1894, was a most earnest worker in the Sunday School.

On April 11th, Mrs. Mary R. Jones came from the Rehoboth Church and at the same time W.P. Patten and Mary Patten, his wife, joined by letter from the Osage Mission M.E. Church of South Kansas. Belle P. and Sarah E. joined in 1895 on confession of faith.

On July 11, 1890, John A. Van Horn and Mrs. Van Horn were received from the Presbyterian Church of Neshannock, Pennsylvania. Mr. Van Horn has been a power of righteousness in this church and community. He served as a trustee soon after becoming a member of the church, has been a ruling elder for forty years. He made and presented to the church the beautiful hymn boards now at the front of the auditorium. Mary E. Van Horn joined the church in 1897, Agnes LaVida in 1899 and Charles H. in 1903.

Dr. W.C. Miller came to this church on Jan. 16, 1891 and was one of the first teachers of the Men's Bible Class and also was a trustee. Mrs. Miller, nee Clara Means, united April 17, 1892 coming from the Lebanon Church with her mother and sister Mrs. Eliza Means and Miss Sadie Means.

Thomas J. Jamison was received on Apr. 10, 1891 with Lyda Jamison, his wife, on confession of faith. Mr. Jamison immediately took an outstanding place in the church and community. For twenty-two years he has been president of the Men's Bible Class. Mrs. Jamison was a member of the Finance Committee for the erection of our present church building.

Hubert P. Wiggins came by letter from the Blairsville Presbyterian Church, Jan. 21, 1894 and has served in the following important offices: ruling elder, clerk of the session and secretary of the congregational meetings. Miriam Wiggins, his wife, had joined on confession of faith Jan. 19, 1890.

On July 7, 1893, H.F. Power and Marjory Power, his wife, came into this fold from Pigeon Creek and those that have been spared of this family are still faithful members of our church.

Dr. C.C. Huff joined on Jan. 21, 1894 and still abides, with him came Mrs. Huff, now deceased.

David R. Thompson and Maud Thompson, his wife, came on Jan. 18, 1895 and are still members of this church [in 1934].

On April 7, 1895, John G. Silveus was received into the church and was made a trustee on Apr. 17, 1895. He died in March, 1933.

Clarence S. Gilmore, Susanna May Gilmore, Sallie B. Gilmore Walker, Margaret J. Gilmore Parker and Laura Bell Gilmore all came into this church on Oct. 13, 1895. Ella Jacobs Gilmore had joined the preceding year.

Samuel S. Power came to us from Center Church, Pennsylvania on Feb. 14, 1896. He has been one of the most useful and active members our church has ever had.

On Jan. 14, 1898, Alice Irene Hirth was admitted and also Hattie E. and Roy Slocum and Edward Samuel Rowse. April 8, 1898, Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Hootman were received. Mr. Hootman died in 1933.

On Oct. 7, 1898, Prof. Charles Elrick and Mrs. Elrick came by letter from the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Conemaugh, Pa. Prof. Elrick was very active until his death July 5, 1920. His son, Carl Elrick was received Jan. 15, 1899. Dr. Henry La Cossett and Mrs. La Cossett and also Mrs. Ella R. Crouch enrolled on Jan. 13, 1899. The following October, O.J. Hoover was admitted.

On Jan. 19, 1900, from the Bethany Presbyterian Church, came William F. Nebo and Burkhart C. Nebo. Mrs. William F. Nebo came from the Montour Presbyterian Church by letter.

All living members who joined this church either prior to or during the pastorate of Rev. R.P. Miller, and are still holding their membership in this church are of historic interest to us all, and are here listed. Most of those named have held their membership for over forty years.

They have been enrolled in their chronological order.

1. MRS. MATTIE WEST KENNEDY July 25, 1875
2. MRS. ANNA M. ANDRESS January 29, 1881
3. MRS. MARY FISHER May 6, 1881
4. MARY HIRTH January 12, 1883
5. MRS. MARGARET DUNBAR April 11, 1884
6. JOHN H. GILLEN April 11, 1886
7. MRS. SARAH GILLEN April 11, 1886
8. MRS. NELLIE N. BAKER WILLIAMS July 11, 1886
9. JOHN A. WOLFF July 11, 1886
10. MRS. JENNIE E. WOLFF July 11, 1886
11. MRS. ELIZABETH McCASLIN October 10, 1886
12. MRS. EDITH F. DAVIES January 9, 1887
13. ANZONETTA G. STROUD January 9, 1887
14. MRS. MARTHA RILEY January 12, 1889
15. MRS. ELIZA SMITH January 12, 1889
16. CHARLES GOEDDEL July 7, 1889
17. WILLIAM M. MENK July 7, 1889
18. EDWIN B. LYON July 28, 1889
19. THOMAS R. DAVIES January 19, 1890
20. MRS. IDA B. LYON January 19, 1890
21. MRS. SARAH PARRY TAYLOR January 19, 1890
22. MRS. MIRIAM E. WIGGINS January 19, 1890
23. JOHN A. VAN HORN July 13, 1890
24. MRS. LAURA VAN HORN July 13, 1890
25. THOMAS J. JAMISON April 12, 1891
26. MRS. LYDA JAMISON April 12, 1891
27. MATTIE M. KENDALL October 11, 1891
28. ELLA M. ANDRESS January 17, 1892
29. MRS. ELMA CRIDER January 17, 1892
30. MRS. FANNIE IRWIN January 17, 1892
31. MRS. NELLIE MENK January 15, 1893
32. SADIE G. FISHER January 21, 1894
33. ALBERTA MORTON January 21, 1894
34. CLARA MCDONALD January 21, 1894
35. HUBERT P. WIGGINS January 21, 1894
36. MRS. SARAH MENK July 8, 1894
37. BELLE P. PATTEN January 20, 1895
38. DAVID R. THOMPSON January 20, 1895
39. MRS. MAUD A. THOMPSON January 20, 1895
40. JOHN C. RHODES March 24, 1895
41. ALBERT RILEY March 24, 1895

42. MRS. MARGARET G. PARKER	October 13, 1895
43. MRS. FRANCES MASSY	December 15, 1895
44. JAMES M. EAKMAN	February 16, 1896
45. MRS. MARGARET E. EAKMAN	February 16, 1896
46. SAMUEL S. POWER	February 16, 1896
47. MRS. MARGERY RILEY	February 16, 1896
48. JOHN FORBES	April 12, 1896
49. LeMIRA McCLEERY	October 11, 1896
50. MRS. MARGARET A. TODD	January 17, 1897
51. ALICE I. HIRTH	January 16, 1898
52. MRS. MARTHA J. HOOTMAN	April 8, 1898

Following the Rev. Miller's pastorate, the Rev. Nathan Dushane Hynson served this congregation from 1902 until 1910. His term of service was vibrant with activity, as is shown by his report called "The Church at Work." At this time the congregation realized the need of a new church and all energy was directed toward that goal. Accordingly, J. Charles Fulton was chosen architect and authorized to draw a plan for a church building the cost of which was not to exceed \$50,000., exclusive of windows, doors, and furnishings. Mr. Fulton's plan was accepted and submitted to contractors for bids. On Dec. 7, 1902, all bids were opened and the contract was awarded to P.W. Finn of Altoona, the lowest bidder, for \$53,997.00. The original limit of \$50,000. was set aside at the congregational meeting held Dec. 26, 1902. The Brown Hummelstone Sandstone, the handsomest building stone found in Pennsylvania, was selected by the committee. Ground was broken on Feb. 9, 1903 and the cornerstone was laid June 6th of the same year. One year later, June 19, 1904, this beautiful church was dedicated. The church and parsonage, complete with all its furnishings, cost nearly \$70,000.

The beautiful stained glass memorial window on the east side of the church was placed there to the memory of Abdiel and Anne McClure. The one on the south side of the auditorium was given by Dr. Matthew West as a memorial to Sarah R. West. The one on the north side, which was presented by the Rev. N.D. Hynson, contains the seals of the Waldensian, the Huguenot, the Puritan and the Scotch churches. Mr. Hynson was a descendant of the Huguenots.

On the Dedicatory Committee were;

THE REV. NATHAN DUSHANE HYNSON, *Chairman*

HUBERT P. WIGGINS, *Secretary*

JOHN FORBES	D.F. BAIR	MRS. E.B. LYON	A.H. HIGHT
DR. M.H. WEST	W.F. NEBO	S.W.B. HAYS	T.R. DAVIES
JOHN H. GILLEN	G.P. WEAVERLING	MISS M. McCLURE	DAVID FISHER

The dedicatory hymn used at these services was written by Mr. Hynson. Later this hymn was used in dedicating the new Presbyterian Church at Redlands, California, where Mr. Hynson went following his ministry in Homestead. Three stanzas of the hymn follow:

"THE DEDICATORY HYMN"

*"With songs and hallelujahs, / O Lord of hosts we come,
We bless Thee and adore Thee, / O make this house Thy home.
To Father, Son, and Spirit / The highest praises be:
One God in love and mercy, / In truth and equity.*

*For Thy great church eternal / We bless Thee evermore.
It is a fountain glorious / Thou on the earth dolt pour;
It is a Light in darkness, / A Haven and a Rest,
A Rock, a Staff, a Refuge, / Where all who dwell are blest.*

*This house to Thy great glory / Our hands have built with love.
'Twas love that thought and planned it, / Lord own it from above.
With Thy great love adorn it, / Thy Spirit on us pour,
Come Lord and own our labors / And leave us never more."*

The exercises closed with an organ recital by Walter E. Hall, after which there was a reception for the congregation and friends.

During the Rev. N.D. Hynson's pastorate, under the direction of Prof. J.C. Speicher, the Sunday School was reorganized with the following divisions: The Home Department, The Cradle Roll and Infant Department, Primary, Intermediate and Adult Departments, The Heisel Street Mission, The Lincoln Place Mission, A Circle of Prayer, and an active Men's Association.

On Jan. 10, 1904, Mr. Hynson recommended the use of the individual communion service. On April 1, 1904, the session ordered this new service, but the old silver service is still preserved.

In 1905, the great work of making a complete directory of the church was accomplished by Frank B. Shaeffer and George P. Weaverling. This directory gave not only the residence, but also the year of joining the church, and whether by letter or by confession of faith.

On Sept. 11, 1905, the session passed a vote of thanks to Mrs. F.A. Ramsey for the gift of the Rev. Ramsey's study table and chair, which he used during his entire ministry.

In regard to the Rev. N.D. Hynson's pastorate here, we quote the following paragraph from the Presbyterian Banner: "Among the things done might be mentioned the beautiful new church; the establishing of a Slavish Mission; one of the largest Men's Associations in the Pittsburgh Presbytery; an increase in the membership to almost double during his eight years pastorate. We honor him, for he was highly esteemed for his faithful and aggressive work; for his progressive ideas; for his uplifting sermons; for his tender sympathy; for his thoughtfulness and solicitation for the welfare of his people."

After Mr. Hynson's term of service, the Rev. George M. Hickman, D.D., of Baltimore, Maryland was called to the pastorate of this church. He served from May 11, 1910 until Sept. 1, 1918. Dr. Hickman found the congregation laboring under a heavy debt and set himself to the heroic task of having it paid. Under professional supervision a financial campaign was launched, and with the able efforts of Dr. Hickman and our own George F. Lloyd, the debt was lifted. For this and many other contributions, Dr. Hickman deserves the thanks of the congregation. It was at this time that the Men's Bible Class was organized to supplant the Men's Association. It became one of the most progressive, most aggressive, and most successful Bible classes in Pennsylvania. The membership of the church also had a very substantial increase during Dr. Hickman's pastorate.

In 1919, the Rev. William M. Woodfin, D.D. was called to be our pastor. At this time the congregation was divided into two sharply drawn factions but, under his masterful leadership, the wounds were soon healed and this people was again a harmonious unit. Dr. Woodfin's eloquence as a preacher in addition to his powerful personality drew crowded houses. He was an enthusiastic champion of the cause of prohibition and was persistent in prosecuting those he found guilty of law violations.

During Dr. Woodfin's ministry, Dr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt were adopted by this congregation as Missionaries at Barranquilla, South America and are still partially maintained as our representatives on the foreign field. At this time our finances flourished. There were master hands at the helm, Mr. Louis J. Hollman, Frank B. Sheaffer and Charles A. Menk, to whom a vote of thanks and appreciation was given at the meeting of Apr. 12, 1922.

On Dec. 10, 1922, at a congregational meeting, Mr. George F. Lloyd outlined to the congregation a series of improvements to be made in the basement as recommended by Mr. George H. Hand, engineer. Dr. Dittman moved that the suggested changes be carried out and a committee empowered to proceed with the work. Our present efficient basement arrangements are the result of these alterations.

On Apr. 11, 1923, a vote of thanks was given by the congregation to Dr. C.W. Dittman for his faithful service in the Sunday School. Dr. Dittman served the Sunday School as superintendent for five periods always rendering faithful service.

On Apr. 2, 1924, at a congregational meeting Dr. Woodfin arose and said, "It is with a sad heart that I ask this congregation to join with me in a request to the Pittsburgh Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relations now existing between me and the First Presbyterian Church of Homestead."

Elder John F. Milliken arose and offered a resolution, one paragraph of which is as follows: "Whereas Dr. Woodfin's five years of efficient service as pastor and leader of this congregation, his many excellencies as a Christian gentlemen and as a minister in the Master's vineyard, the great success that has attended his ministry, his consecration to its many trying duties and his able, just, and conscientious pastorate have so endeared him to the members of this church, it is with profound sorrow and deep regret at his request that we join with him in asking that the Pittsburgh Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relations that have existed so happily for five years, and we pray that the

blessings of God may rest upon him and his ministry in the church that has called him to its pastorate.”

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of this church was celebrated June 8, 1924. Dr. R.P. Miller preached the sermon on the text—“One soweth and another reapeth.” He had, as our minister, preached the twenty-fifth anniversary sermon in 1889. He stated that at that time there were 140 members and \$3,000. had been raised for church activities. In 1924, there were almost 1,300 members and \$19,000. had been raised for church activities.

At the fiftieth anniversary we received many letters of congratulations. One fine spirited letter from the Rev. John Meickle Brockie of Long Island, N. Y., the only minister that ever came from this congregation: “You have greatly prospered since I left you. You have done wonderful things for the kingdom of Christ; but the most wonderful thing you ever did or ever will do so far as I am concerned was when, through your gentle and loving ministrations, you led me all unconsciously into the ministry of the kingdom of Christ.”

Mr. Brockie has written a beautiful book of religious and other ballads titled, “Wayside Waifs.”

On July 10, 1924 a special meeting of the congregation was called by Mr. Louis J. Hollman, who stated that the property next to our church could be bought for \$3,000. Mr. Frank B. Sheaffer moved and Mr. George E. Gerhold seconded a motion that the indebtedness of the church be increased \$3,000. and that the Board of Trustees be authorized to purchase the property. Motion carried.

On Nov. 5, 1924, at a congregational meeting moderated by Dr. Selby Vance, Mr. Edward B. Lyon moved that the session and the congregational officers be authorized to issue a call to the Rev. O. Scott McFarland. The motion prevailed. Mr. W.F. Nebo advised that, as Mr. McFarland did not desire to live in the church manse permanently, a committee be appointed to see what changes could be made to make it suitable for temporary quarters for the pastor. However, before Mr. McFarland came, the congregation on Dec. 29, 1924, authorized the Board of Trustees to purchase as a parsonage the property of D.R. Edwards and Rachel Edwards at 2004 West St., Munhall. Mr. J. B. McAdoo made the motion which was seconded by Mr. T.J. Jamison. This home was occupied by the Rev. McFarland when he came to Homestead, Jan. 1, 1925. At the congregational meeting of April 15, 1925, Mr. Louis J. Hollman reported pledges given amounting to \$21,000. for church maintenance. At the same meeting action was taken to increase the Board of Deacons from six to eighteen members and the session from twelve to fifteen. It was also regularly moved by J.M. Norris, seconded by John Forbes, Sr., that the session be instructed to install a tablet suitable to the memory of the Rev. N.D. Hynson. This motion prevailed. Following this action a bronze tablet was placed on the south side of the auditorium. The inscription: “For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified,” was one of Mr. Hynson's favorite Bible verses. He used it not only as the text of the first sermon he preached in Homestead, but also of the last one. It is likewise of interest to note that it was the text of the first sermon he preached in Redlands, California.

The Rev. McFarland's pastorate, covering a period of only two years, was so brief that he was hardly given time to make many innovations or changes. Nevertheless, his administration was eminently successful and satisfactory. He was a very able preacher and a good executive. It was during his pastorate on Jan. 13, 1926 that the New Service Pension Plan, recommended by the General Assembly, for the aid of ministers was adopted. Owing to a serious illness of his son, John, Mr. McFarland was constrained to seek a more healthful climate. It seemed a strange coincidence that at this time, he should receive a call from the Presbyterian Church of Santa Ana, California. After prayerful consideration, he accepted the call and requested that his resignation take effect on Jan. 24, 1927. J.B. McAdoo from the session, George F. Lloyd from the trustees, and W.C. McClure from the congregation were instructed by the congregation to join with the pastor in requesting that the Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relations then existing.

On June 27, 1927, John Forbes, chairman of the pulpit committee, presented the name of the Rev. Edward A. Krapp, D.D. of Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Forbes stated that the committee had only the most favorable reports, and believed we would be fortunate if Dr. Krapp could be secured. The salary was set at \$4,000. and the manse with a month's vacation. Dr. Krapp accepted the call and came to Homestead the following October. At the congregational meeting, Apr. 11, 1928, Mr. W.C. McClure stated that the old organ should be replaced in order to improve the music of the church services. A committee was accordingly appointed, consisting of W.C. McClure and C.R. Stone together with a member from the session, one from the trustees, and one from the congregation. L.J. Hollman, Frank B. Sheaffer and John C. Forbes, respectively, were chosen. This committee was instructed to investigate the various makes of organs and the approximate cost. In the report submitted at a later date, the committee recommended the purchase of a Moeller organ at the approximate cost of \$15,000. The congregation authorized the trustees to purchase the organ recommended. After the

installation of the organ and upon dissolution of the committee, W.C. McClure, chairman, made the following report:

"The organ in the Homestead Presbyterian Church was installed during the summer of 1929, and was dedicated, the opening recital being played by John A. Bell, organist of the First Church, Pittsburgh, Pa."

"The organ was built by M.R. Moeller, Inc. and occupies a position together with the choir behind the pulpit, the console being of the detached type and movable to any point in the choir space."

"The instrument proper is concealed by an elaborately carved grille. The Echo division is located behind a wall at the rear of the auditorium and is protected by a display similar to that enclosing the main organ. The whole treatment of the choir and the organ enclosures results in an impressive picture."

"The instrument itself is of three manuals and pedals, completely equipped with mechanical accessories required to operate its composition of sixty-four registers, not only in a devotional way but as may be demanded by the most technical concert performance."

"Tonally, the organ is fundamentally churchly but is provided with a number of orchestral features in the way of reeds and percussions which removes any suspicion of monotony."

"As an example of applied mechanics, the instrument is the result of more than sixty years of continuous endeavor on the part of the builder. The so called electric action is incorporated in this structure in the most approved and efficient way."

"This organ has proven to be a notable addition to the devotional life of this community as well as an always available medium of the most artistic form of entertainment."

(Signed) W.C. McClure, *Chairman*

JOHN FORBES

F.B. SHEAFFER

C.R. STONE

L.J. HOLLMAN

On June 4, 1928, a move was made to unite the Presbyterian and the United Presbyterian Churches of Homestead into one church, but unfortunately the effort failed. At the same meeting, Mr. Forbes made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Norris, that a committee be appointed to consider the advisability of organizing a chorus choir. On Oct. 20, 1928, this committee, composed of H.P. Wiggins, W.F. Nebo, John Felker, and George H. Hand was instructed to visit some church in Columbus, Springfield or Dayton to investigate the Westminster type of choir. Dr. Krapp was requested to accompany the committee and to interview Dr. John Finley Williamson of the internationally famous Westminster Choir in regard to a leader of a chorus choir for our church. Following these investigations, the committee secured the services of Mr. Frederick A. Welty. With the well trained chorus, which Mr. Welty has developed and aided by Dr. C.R. Stone at the organ, the fine quality of the music produced has attracted favorable comment over a large part of western Pennsylvania.

On Feb. 17, 1932, the Rev. Edward A. Krapp requested the congregation to join with him in his request to the Pittsburgh Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relations existing between him and the First Presbyterian Church of Homestead. Mr. Robert L. Finlayson moved that the congregation comply with Dr. Krapp's request, which motion carried. Mr. J.B. McAdoo from the session and Mr. R.L. Finlayson from the congregation were appointed to represent the church at the meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, Feb. 29, 1932, at which time the pastoral relations were dissolved.

On March 21, 1932, the session, by a unanimous vote, adopted the following minutes on the resignation of Dr. Krapp.

"The relations between our pastor and the session during four and a half years have been most pleasant and harmonious. The meetings of the session have been as the conference of one large family of which Dr. Krapp has been the calm, wise head. Frank discussions of important questions have always resulted in sound, conservative conclusions. Never has there been a dissenting voice in final settlement of any question."

"At the pastor's suggestion, the chorus choir was organized and has become a very important feature of the worship and in other activities of the church. The work of the pastor in ministering to the congregation in his pastoral calls, and his constant attendance upon the sick has endeared him to the membership."

"The session commends him to his new congregation in Wellsburg and prays God's blessings upon him in his new field."

Jan. 1, 1933, the Rev. Irvin S. Yeaworth, formerly of Aurora, Illinois, came as our pastor. He fills the position completely and has by his kindly, gentle manner endeared himself to all.

That our Heavenly Father who has helped and guided our former ministers will continue to direct Mr. Yeaworth during his entire ministry is our prayer.

ROLL OF MINISTERS

JOSEPH GRIMES LYLE	1874-1879
WILLIAM E. McCREA	1880-1885
FRANCIS A. RAMSEY	1886-1887
RUFUS P. MILLER	1888-1901
NATHAN DUSHANE HYNSON	1902-1910
GEORGE M. HICKMAN, D.D.	1911-1918
WILLIAM M. WOODFIN, D.D.	1919-1924
O. SCOTT McFARLAND	1925-1927
EDWARD A. KRAPP, D.D.	1927-1932
IRVIN S. YEAWORTH	1933-

A brief resume of the various official bodies and organizations of the church is given on the pages following.

THE SESSION

THIS body is chiefly concerned with the spiritual well-being of the church. At the present time [in 1934] it is composed of fifteen members. As the term of service for a ruling elder is usually very long, and as a number of our members have served in this capacity, we can not do more than publish the names of each. However, those whose terms of service extend over a period of more than thirty years are now of historic interest and they are mentioned below. John A. Van Horn, who has been a member of this church for forty-three years, has been for forty years a faithful ruling elder. He has had charge of the communion elements for several years. In 1912 he was a commissioner to the General Assembly at Louisville, Kentucky. In 1929 he was a delegate to the meeting of the Synod of Pennsylvania, at Chambersburg, Pa.

John Forbes has the same record of service. He has been delegate to the meetings of Presbytery much more frequently than any other elder. He was commissioner to the General Assembly of Des Moines, Iowa, in 1922. His name is found somewhere in the settlement of every important problem that has come up for discussion in the last thirty years. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes donated the baptismal font to the church. Their grandson, John William Forbes was the first child baptized after its presentation.

William F. Nebo is deserving of heartfelt praise for his unswerving loyalty during his long term of office.

The present board is composed of the following:

JOHN FORBES	CHARLES W. DITTMAN	JAMES M. EAKMAN
JOHN VAN HORN	SAMUEL S. POWER	HERMAN G. FREEHLING
H.P. WIGGINS	GEORGE H. HAND	ROBERT E. SCOTT
WILLIAM F. NEBO	JOHN B. McADOO	FRANK B. BOLTON
JOHN A. FELKER	JAMES M. NORRIS	L.J. HOLLMAN

THE TRUSTEES

IT IS the duty of the trustees to supervise the financial matters of the church. From 1875 to 1934, a long list of splendid, honorable men and women have served in this very important work. A few that stand out prominently and merit special commendation are: George F. Lloyd, who achieved splendid success in conducting several financial campaigns; Frank B. Sheaffer, chairman of the Every Member Canvass, who secured the maximum sum pledged for the support of the church; L.J. Hollman, who for a number of times headed the committee on campaigning; and E.S. Wright, who is the president of the board at this time.

We present herewith the personnel of the board on three significant occasions:

The First Board elected 1875:

JOHN MUNHALL	JAMES McDONALD	JOHN McROBERTS
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Board of Trustees at the time of the erection of the present church building:
 JOHN H. GILLEN I.L. IRWIN D.W. MCKENNY
 JOSEPH A. McMATH GEORGE P. WEAVERLING

The Present Board of Trustees:

HARRY M. ANDRESS	G.F. LLOYD	C.R. STONE
LOUISE BROOKS	JAMES E. LOSE	W.N. TOWNSEND
DWIGHT H. CONNER	T.E. MORGAN	E.S. WRIGHT
W.B. HARTLEY	W.C. McCLURE	M.F. McCONNELL
T.J. JAMISON	E.T. WARREN	

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

PERHAPS the finest, tenderest service in the church is done by the deacons. It is their duty to minister personally to the poor and needy. There is always much for this body to do, for “the poor are always with us.” Especially faithful have they been in these recent years of depression and suffering in caring for the distressed and needy. Two of the leading figures on the board in former days were J.M. Hootman and A.N. Franklin both of whom died in the spring of 1933.

The present board of deacons:

ELLA M. ANDRESS	MRS. HARRY GAUT	J.W. POOL
WALTER A. BELL	GEORGE H. HORNE	MRS. S.S. POWER
CLARA BRIERLY	MRS. WM. HOWAT	OWEN T. ROGERS
LOUISE BROOKS	H.J. MATTHEWS	MRS. R.E. SCOTT
MRS. JOHN BROWNLEE	H.R. MCDONALD	MRS. J.W. SNODGRASS
W.J. DAMM	F.R. PEASE	WILLIAM ZACHARIAS, JR.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

IT IS very probable that the First Presbyterian Church had its birth in a Sunday School that was organized during the winter of 1871 with Benjamin Thompson as the first superintendent. Since that time, the following persons have placed their names in the Hall of Fame of Sunday School superintendents:

BENJAMIN THOMPSON	JAMES K. YOUNG	A.N. FRANKLIN
JAMES McDONALD	ROY F. McCLURE	JAMES M. NORRIS
REV. JOSEPH GRIMES LYLE	C.W. DITTMAN	CHARLES A. MENK
WILLIAM S. BULLOCK	J.C. SPEICHER	WM. R. ZACHARIAS, JR.
M.L. McCLURE	ROBERT L. FINLAYSON	

All these noble men, as well as their fine teachers, have done a wonderful work. In the early days, a library of over 500 well selected books circulated through the Sunday School. In discussing this part of the church work, one is deeply impressed by the long and successful periods of responsibility of Dr. C.W. Dittman. At the present time, Mr. Robert L. Finlayson, who is superintendent, is quite successful in the management of the Sunday School.

No work done in the church deserves more commendation than that of training the little folks. It is very trying and most unselfish; much blame, and little praise goes with the work. Kipling expresses the status of the Sunday School worker quite well in his poem “L’envoi” as follows:

“L’ENVOI”

*“When earth’s last picture is painted / And the tubes are twisted and dried,
 When the oldest colors have faded / And the youngest critic has died,
 We shall rest, and faith we shall need it, / Lie down for an aeon or two
 Till the master of all good workmen / Shall set us to work anew.
 And only the master shall praise us / And only the master shall blame;
 And no one shall work for money / And no one shall work for fame—
 But each for the joy of the working / And each in his separate star
 Shall paint the thing as he sees it / For the God of things as they are.”*

MEN’S BIBLE CLASS

AN OUTSTANDING organization in this church is the Men's Bible Class. The phenomenal success of this class, known all over the state of Pennsylvania, is due to the untiring energy and industry of Mr. T.J. Jamison, who has been its president for twenty-two years. In earlier days this organization was called the Men's Association. Mr. Jamison secured the foremost men in the country to address it. Ladies' night found the church crowded to hear the speakers that had been secured. In more recent years, on different occasions, breakfasts were served to over two hundred men on Sunday mornings. For fourteen months, the average attendance was two hundred and seventeen. Mr. Frank B. Sheaffer was chairman of the membership committee and the official hand shaker of the organization. In about one year, Mr. Sheaffer shook hands with over 14,000 men.

In a campaign of Evangelization, under Dr. William M. Woodfin, 137 men joined the church from his famous Bible class. Perhaps no other organization in our church has been more active than the Men's Bible Class.

Teachers of the Men's Bible Class:

DAVID KENNEDY	LOUIS J. HOLLMAN	PROF. D.H. CONNER
DR. W.C. MILLER	SAMUEL ALLARD	JAMES M. NORRIS
DR. LANDIS TANGER	PROF. MAX M. WHERRY	J.B. McADOO
DR. W.F. STEVENS	PAUL J. BARTHOL	

THE WESTMINSTER BIBLE CLASS

THIS class is another most active and useful adjunct to the church. For many years, John F. Milliken of precious memory was the teacher. Mr. John A. Felker now ably fills the place left vacant by Mr. Milliken. Mrs. W.A. Jones, Mrs. Alice Snodgrass, Prof. W.F. Stevens and Miss Louise Brooks are the teachers. Mrs. Ada Booser has resided over its activities with rare tact and judgment. The "thimble parties" proved very successful and were eagerly looked forward to on account of the fine social spirit that prevailed. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1934, Mrs. John Forbes, a member of this class, died. Her kindly heart, her generous hand, and her fine mind endeared her to all.

THE FRIENDSHIP BIBLE CLASS

THIS class was organized during the pastorate of Dr. William Woodfin and is a valuable aid to the church. For a number of years, Mrs. E.D. Omans and Mrs. Myra Simpson have been very efficient teachers. Mrs. W.J. Quigley, Mrs. John Foxhall and Mrs. D.J. McGarey have given loyal service. Mrs. Lillian MacKenzie is now its efficient president. At all times this class is ready and willing to render helpful service.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CLASS

THIS class, originally known as "the DeMolay Class," attained great distinction under Mr. Frank B. Sheaffer. At one time, 125 were on the class register and the attendance was good. The interest in the moral and spiritual welfare of each other was strong. This same class under Mr. George Hand is now a very active organization and Mr. Hand is to be congratulated.

THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

FROM the time of the early church until the present, the women have done a noble work in aiding the financial conditions of the church. When the entire membership in 1874 was less than fifty, the women raised upwards of \$1,000. with which the church was furnished and equipped.

In 1874, a mammoth fair was staged that ran three nights in succession. The country for four miles around was carefully canvassed for eatables of every kind and these were sold. The railroad helped by sending special trains out each evening to this fair which netted the church over \$600. The fair was followed by festivals, suppers and lectures and in this way, among other improvements, the ladies had the auditorium frescoed. Through their efforts the basement was plastered and suitably decorated.

In 1880, the little heroic congregation carried a debt of \$3,300. and to meet this emergency, the Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church came into being and was duly organized:

MRS. J.B. HENNING, President	MRS. M.L. McCLURE, Vice President
MRS. NORTH WEST, Secretary	MRS. JOHN MUNHALL, Treasurer

Not only in the olden days, but all through the history of the church this organization has given to the trustees annually amounts of money varying from \$600. to \$1,300. The officers of the present organization [in 1934] are:

MRS. HARRY GAUT, *President*

MRS. THOMAS MORGAN, *Vice President*

MRS. T.O. FEIGHTNER, *Secretary*

MRS. FRANK R. PEASE, *Treasurer*

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

THE Foreign Missionary Society was organized on Nov. 27, 1877 and Mrs. Joseph Grimes Lyle was its president for nearly ten years. The other officers were:

MRS. NORTH WEST, *Vice President*

MATTIE D. McCLURE, *Secretary*

MRS. LOWRY WEST, *Treasurer*

The Home Missionary Society was organized a few years later. After a time the two societies were merged into the Woman's Missionary Society of the First Presbyterian Church of Homestead. The society under the leadership of its president, Mrs. Alice Snodgrass, has a membership of eighty-five women and is in a very flourishing condition [in 1934]. The fine unselfish work of this band of women is worthy of great praise.

THE MOTHER'S CLUB

THE Mother's Club was organized during the pastorate of Dr. Woodfin for the purpose of creating a closer contact between the Sunday School teachers and the mothers of the pupils. Since its organization it has given sympathetic and substantial cooperation.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

James K. Young organized the first C. E. Society in this church in 1889. The Christian Endeavor movement swept over our nation in 1890 and their conventions were the largest of any kind known. Even the great city of New York was overwhelmed by the Christian Endeavor Convention of 1892. Mr. W.F. Stevens, who was in New York doing Y. M. C. A. work, was a member of the committee on arrangements for this historic convention. Since its organization, the society has been divided into three branches, the Senior, High School and junior and all are doing an active work.

BOY SCOUTS

FOR many years the Boy Scout movement has flourished in our church. Great credit is due Scoutmaster Frank Pease, who has made great sacrifices to give our church one of the best managed troops in Allegheny County [in 1934].