

1886 - 1961

calvary baptist church

evanston, illinois

75 years • *june, 1961*

history

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1, 2.

1882

The origin of this church dates back to May, 1882 when some members of the First Swedish Baptist Church of Chicago, living in Evanston, met to discuss the possibility of starting a mission in Evanston. A decision was reached to commence holding gospel services in homes and in a North Evanston school building and to especially seek the spiritual welfare of Swedish people living in the city. How Evanston looked 75 years ago must be described by those who lived here then. Northwestern University was here and so was the aristocracy. Cow pastures, trails, mud roads and unpaved streets were quite common. A noted educator reported that when he visited this community in the last quarter of the 1800's, "A person had to be either one of three things in order to feel at home here—either a tree, a squirrel or a Methodist." Nevertheless, the small group of Swedish Baptists continued with their mission.

The next important recorded event is a meeting held Sept. 30, 1885 in North Evanston when the pastor and other leaders in the Chicago First Church were present to counsel with the local group concerning the future of the mission. The result of this meeting was a reorganization of the project with G. R. Nyden serving as chairman, August Rosain, secretary and August Ahlberg, treasurer. The group now numbered 18, and these agreed together to contribute the sum of \$12 per month for the support of the work.

On Oct. 5, 1885, the Chicago First

Church voted to grant the members working in the Evanston mission the privilege of observing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper as well as receiving new members into the church.

Rev. N. E. Nelson, a young man who had been serving as a missionary for the Illinois Swedish Baptist Conference, was called to take up the work as preacher and leader of this reorganized group. Union Hall on Davis St. was rented for the public services. The audiences increased steadily.

Pastor Nelson remained with the Evanston group only about six months, he then moved to Rock Island. Seventeen new members had been added to the group during his brief ministry. Rev. John Olander of Providence, R. I. accepted the call to come and take up the work with the Evanston mission. He began his ministry here May 23, 1886, and just a week later a decision was reached to call a council for the purpose of discussing the advisability of organizing the mission into a regular Swedish Baptist Church. This council met on June 9,

1886 and after due deliberations voted to recommend that the group be organized into a church. The Evanston members were asked to form a circle with hands clasped one with another, and with the circle as a symbol, Rev. Ongman urged each member to remain loyal and true to Christ and the Church. Prayer was offered by Rev. Eric Wingren.

Charter members of the church were the following: Rev. John Olander, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Nyden, Mr. and Mrs. August Ahlberg, Mr. and Mrs. Olof Almstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Olof Oslund, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Oslund, Mr. and Mrs.

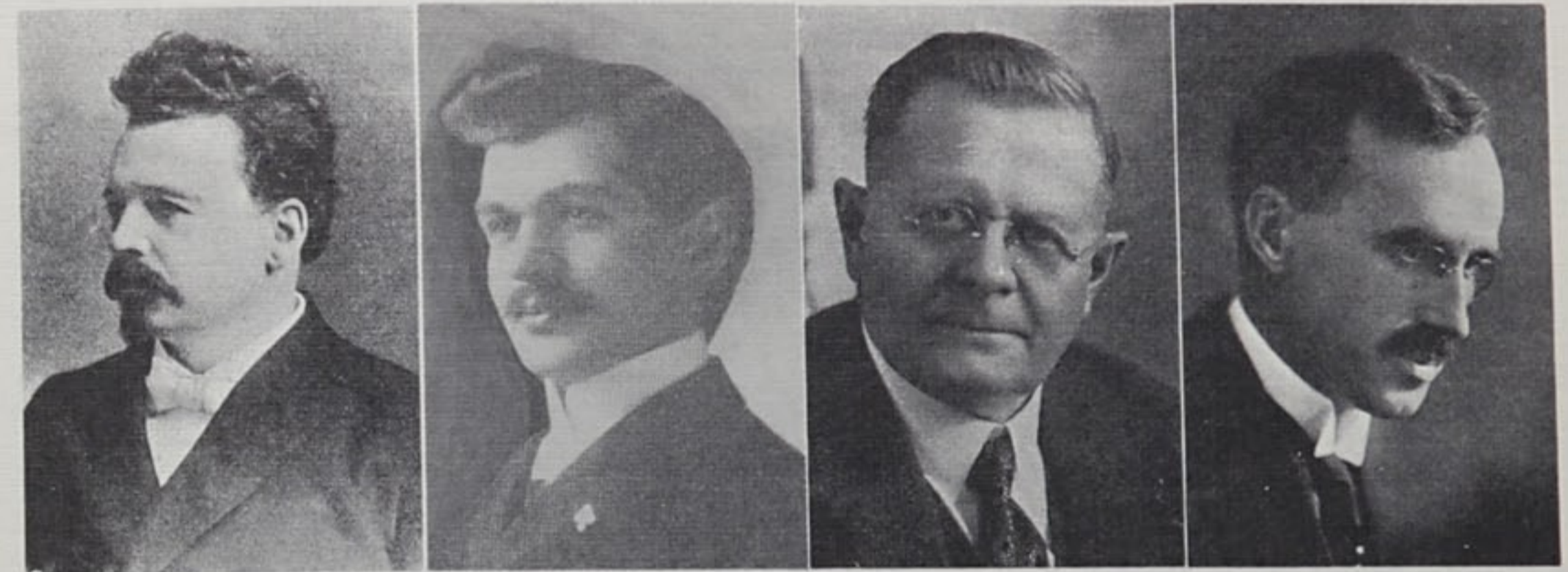


N. E. Nelson
Oct. 1855-April 1886

John Olander
May 1886-Mar. 1887

Carl A. Johnson
Nov. 1887-Sept. 1889

Charles Palm
Sept. 1889-Nov. 1896



A. G. Hall
Feb. 1897-Oct. 1900

F. V. Hedeem
Jan. 1901-April 1905

Ragnar Arlander
Sept. 1905-Nov. 1909

John A. Swanson
Dec. 1909-Jan. 1913



J. Alfred Erikson
Oct. 1913-April 1917

G. E. Wallendorf
Sept. 1917-June 1919

Eric Scherstrom
June 1919-April 1928

Emil T. Carlson
April 1928-Oct. 1930

1885 - 1931

August Rosain, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Anderson, Margreta Torgeson, Anna Engberg, Sofie Gustafson, Charlotte Erickson, Lina Norr, Anna Hanson, Elisabeth Klingberg, Selma Johnson, Hedvig Johanson, Loviso Erickson, Hanna Hoglander, Mary Johanson, Emma Jasperson, Alma Falk, Hanna Strandberg, and Mary Nelson.

The following were elected to serve as officers of the newly organized church: Rev. John Olander, pastor; G. R. Nyden and Olof Almstrom, deacons; August Ahlberg, treasurer; Adolph Anderson, song leader; and Mrs. Adolph Anderson, organist. It was decided that pastor Olander's salary was to be \$30 per month, making a total sum of \$360 per year. The American Baptist Home Mission Society graciously offered to pay \$200 per year towards the minister's salary.

Encouraged by a steady growth the church appointed a committee to seek a suitable location for a church building. Lots were later purchased on the corner of Lake St. and Elmwood Ave. for \$2,250.

Rev. Olander remained only about ten months with the church and was succeeded by Rev. Carl A. Johnson whose ministry here likewise was short, lasting about 22 months. However, the church continued to grow, and when Pastor Johnson left to enter the seminary at Morgan Park the membership was recorded at 50. A Sunday School and Young People's Society were started during this time.

The next pastor was Rev. Charles Palm from Lindsborg, Kan., who arrived in Sept., 1889. A welcome reception was held for the new pastor in a grove of trees in North Evanston. The first few years of Pastor Palm's ministry were discouraging since many of the members moved out of the city. After this discouraging time the tide turned

and the church made enough progress to erect a building at what is now 820 Lake St. The first story was used as a church, and the upper story was used as a parsonage. This building was erected by the Anderson Brothers Contracting Company at a cost of \$1,540. This building was dedicated Jan. 2, 1892, but from the very beginning it proved to be inadequate for the now rapidly growing congregation. On June 2, **1894** a contract was let to the Anderson Brothers for the erection of a brick church edifice on the corner of Lake St. and Elmwood Ave. at a cost of \$4,370. This building was completed by June 7, 1895 and has been the congregation's house of worship ever since.

Rev. Palm resigned on Nov. 16, 1896 and moved to San Francisco. The next pastor was Rev. A. G. Hall who came from Tacoma, Wash., arriving here Feb. 1, 1897. Rev. Hall wrote and published a book entitled "History of Swedish Baptists" during his Evanston ministry. He was here four years, resigning Oct. 27, 1900, and moving to Cleveland, Ohio.

F. V. Hedeem, a student at Morgan Park, was engaged as temporary pastor, and he began his work here in Jan., 1901. The following July he was called to serve as regular pastor. During Rev. Hedeem's first year here there were 23 baptisms.

In Jan., 1903 the church began to publish a monthly paper called *For-samlings Klockan*, later called *The Church Bell*, which was continued until 1932 when the weekly mimeographed bulletin replaced it. Rev. Hedeem resigned Apr. 30, 1905. He was succeeded by Rev. Ragnar A. Arlander who commenced his work here Sept. 15, 1905, coming from Valley, Nebr. The house at 1431 Elmwood Ave. was purchased in



William Turnwall
May 1931-Aug. 1939



Lester E. Thompson
Nov. 1939-Sept. 1942



C. B. Sanders
Feb. 1943-Mar. 1945



Cecil Wagstaff
May 1945-Feb. 1947



Walter E. Julien
June 1947-June 1954



E. James Schubring
Feb. 1955-Oct. 1959

1931-1959

1907 for the sum of \$3,000. The Illinois Swedish Baptist Conference was entertained by the church in 1908, and the church was richly rewarded by the spiritual inspiration received.

After a pastorate of four years Rev. Arlander resigned and moved to Big Springs, S. D. He left the church in a

very favorable condition according to the testimony of his successor, Rev. John A. Swanson, who came to take the work the following month—Dec., 1909. Pastor Swanson had previously served the Chicago Fourth Church as minister. An eloquent speaker and wise leader, Rev. Swanson continued to lead

the work on in progress. In **1911** the 25th anniversary of the church was celebrated. Rev. Swanson resigned after a ministry here of over three years and moved to Minneapolis where he became pastor of the Bethel Swedish Baptist Church. Rev. J. Alfred Erikson of Rockford, Ill. became the next pastor beginning his ministry here Oct. 3, 1913. Rev. Erikson's messages were warm and evangelistic, and souls were added to the church. Rev. Erikson's labor with the church here lasted nearly three and a half years. Then he moved to Duluth to become pastor of the Swedish Baptist Temple. Rev. Elam Anderson, a student at the Chicago University, served very successfully as interim pastor for several months. It was during this time that the English language was given a regular place in the services, of the church, alternating every other Sunday forenoon with the Swedish.

Rev. G. E. Wallendorf was the next pastor, coming here from Concordia, Kan., and beginning his work Sept. 1, 1917. Again the guiding hand of God was seen in sending the church the right man for the hour. The world war was on and a spirit of unrest prevailed everywhere. Most of the young men of the church were called into service for the country. The use of foreign languages in services was greatly curtailed. Living conditions became more and more abnormal. Then arrived the epidemic of influenza. Imbued with the spirit of Jesus, who came not to be ministered unto but to minister, Pastor Wallendorf gave himself to the task of preaching, comforting, helping and encouraging. Though his ministry here was brief, lasting less than two years, it was of enduring worth to the church. The call to become Sunday School worker in the Minnesota Conference meant losing him from the Evanston church.

Rev. Eric Scherstrom, formerly of the Chicago Second Church, accepted the Evanston call and began his ministry here in June, 1919. The church was facing serious problems. The reaction from the war fever was felt by the churches of the land, and readjustments had to be made. The language question, the use of individual communion cups, and the need of remodeling the church building were matters of no small importance. Having delayed this project for several years the need of remodeling the church edifice came to a climax in

1920 when it was agreed that the work of reconstruction should be done under the supervision of Mr. N.P. Severin for \$18,450.

Non-Swedish members were coming into the church, and it became more and more imperative to use the English language. The transition was made without any serious disturbance due to the spirit of Christian charity shown by the older members and the able leadership of the pastor. The question of changing the name of the church and dropping the word "Swedish" took more time, but that too, when the time came was done peaceably.

After almost nine years as pastor of this church Rev. Scherstrom could not be persuaded to continue any longer. Rev. Emil T. Carlson from Brantford, Kan., accepted the call to take up the work here and was welcomed on Apr. 14, 1928. His ministry here, like that of several others, was comparatively brief lasting for about two and one half years. The value, however, of one's service cannot always be judged by length of time; neither are all values now discernable to man's eyes.

Rev. William Turnwall began his ministry here on May 10, 1931, coming from Denver, Colo. Under Pastor Turnwall's leadership the church continued to grow at a healthy rate. There were

152 members in the church when Pastor Turnwall came, and the Lord continued to bless the church so that when he finished his ministry here in 1939 the church had 256 recorded members.

1936 The 50th anniversary of the church was celebrated in the form of a Jubilee week. Some of the speakers and former pastors that attended were: Rev. Charles Palm, Rev. Eric Scherstrom, Rev. G. E. Wallendorf, Rev. John A. Swanson, Rev. R. A. Arlander, and Rev. Arthur Erickson. Several out-of-town friends also attended. These included Mrs. Oscar Erickson and Mrs. Charles Erickson, a charter member; Mrs. Victor Lundberg and Dr. G. A. Hagstrom. A 50th anniversary booklet was prepared by Rev. William Turnwall, and that booklet has served as a basis for this present publication.



William C. Tapper

Also during 1936 Mr. Carl Seaberg made and donated the pulpit that is used in our church, and Mrs. Peter Hanson donated the pulpit light. Mr. N. P. Severin presented the communion table made of wood taken from the White House.

Calvary Baptist Church was host to the Illinois General Conference in 1937. Also during this year a new boiler was installed in the church, and the passageway between the church and parsonage was constructed.

Pastor Turnwall was very active in conference work during his ministry at Calvary. For example, in 1939 he was chairman of the Illinois Conference board and secretary of the General Conference Mission Board. The church was sad when Pastor Turnwall ended his ministry here in Aug., 1939 and went

to Temple Baptist Church in Duluth, Minn.

Rev. Lester E. Thompson was the next pastor, coming in Nov., 1939 from Waukegan. The church continued to grow during Pastor Thompson's three year ministry. In 1941 the only survivor-member went home to be with the Lord. This was Mrs. Caroline Erickson, mother of Mrs. Ruth Knapp and Mrs. Laura Lundberg. Pastor Thompson resigned in Sept. of 1942.

Rev. C. B. Sanders of Joliet, Ill. accepted the call as pastor, beginning his ministry on Feb. 1,

1943 It was during this time that the membership role reached a record number of 271. The church had the privilege of participating in two joyous events in 1944, as Mr. and Mrs. Joel Erickson celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, and Mr. Richard C. Warner was ordained for the gospel ministry. Pastor Sanders resigned in March, 1945 after two years of service.

Rev. Cecil Wagstaff became student pastor in May, 1945 and continued in this position until Apr., 1946 when he was extended the invitation to become the permanent pastor.

As world war II drew to a close, it was reported that Calvary had 49 young people in the armed forces, and we are very thankful that there were no gold stars. During Pastor Wagstaff's ministry, Merritt Kline was ordained to the ministry of Jesus Christ. Pastor Wagstaff resigned on Feb. 28, 1947 concluding a ministry of almost two years.

While the church was without a pastor our own Rev. William Tapper undertook direction for the few months until we could secure an undershepherd.

Rev. Walter E. Julien of St. Cloud, Minn., accepted the pastorate and took up the work here on June 1,

1947 During this same month a Hammond electric organ was installed in

the sanctuary. Rich Bible exposition with a warm evangelistic undertone characterized Pastor Julien's messages, and his enthusiastic zeal was passed on to the congregation. During his ministry the upper apartment at 820 Lake St. was remodeled and used as a Sunday School annex, the Sunday School contributing \$500 to this project. In 1953 the memorial fund in memory of Doris Gillen was used to install a public address system in our church.

Rev. Julien felt his ministry was complete after seven years and resigned on June 20, 1954. Since this time he has been the pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Wilmington, Del.



Samuel Schultz

Dr. Samuel Schultz of Wheaton College was called as interim pastor, and he served until Feb. 1955. We thank God for these Spirit-filled men who are willing to come and direct the church when we are without a minister.

Rev. E. James Schubring accepted the call and started his ministry in Feb., 1955 coming from Green Bay, Wisc. During pastor Schubring's dedicated ministry we have seen many changes take place in the physical structure of our church. The inside of the building was painted, the woodwork blonded and the kitchen modernized. The exterior of the building was sandblasted and re-roofed.

Pastor Schubring resigned after four and one half years of faithful labor in Oct., 1959, and was led to his present pastorate at the Lake Sarah Baptist Church in Slayton, Minn.

Rev. Richard Rud of the Moody Bible Institute did an excellent job of supply-

ing the pulpit until Rev. Alfred Glenn, our present minister, came to Calvary in June of 1960.

We are thankful for Pastor Glenn's leadership and devotion to God, which encourages and challenges each one of us. As we look at the past and evaluate the ministry that God has committed unto us, we are conscious of what our task must be for the future. We have a rich heritage to follow, but even more important is our responsibility unto our Lord who has challenged us to be faithful even as He is faithful.

The ministry of our church has changed in many ways through the years. Our congregation has expanded and receded periodically, with our present membership averaging over 200. We are not a community church but draw our members from all of Evanston and the surrounding suburbs. Although many of our people are of Swedish extraction, the concern of our outreach is by no means limited to this national group. Calvary church has known many personalities, some for a short time and others for many years. By God's grace many have grown close to the one whom we all seek to exalt, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

II Peter 3-18, Colossians 3-16



Richard Rud

1960-present

Our present minister, Rev. Alfred A. Glenn, is a young man of Scotch descent. Born in 1932 in Philadelphia, Pa., he moved at an early age to the south side of Chicago where he lived for 18 years until 1951. During a two year term of duty in France with the U.S. Air Force, the claims of Christ reached into his life. New joy and purpose drew him toward the goal of "full time service."

God's Invasion Army for the year of 1953 was the first step in that direction. Then came Bethel College. During this time of undergraduate study Pastor Glenn had the honor of being elected president of the student government. Later he became student assistant to the dean of students. At this time under stipend, he wrote two research papers for the school "Leadership Development at Bethel College," and "The Religious Life of the Bethel College Student." Seminary training was completed at Princeton Theological Seminary and Bethel Seminary. Pastor Glenn received his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1960, was ordained and responded to the call to Calvary Church, coming here June 15, 1960.

Previous places of service had been: assistant pastor, Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Ludington, Mich., and Bethel Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minn.; pastor, Lake Reno Reformed Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Minn., and Upper Freehold Baptist Church, Imlaystown, N.J. Calvary is his first full time pastorate.

Pastor Glenn is presently working toward his doctorate at Northwestern University in addition to the responsibilities of the church.

Barbara Glenn, the wife of our pas-

tor, graduated from Bethel College in 1957. She then became a part-time art instructor at the college. In addition to being our pastor's wife and a busy mother, Mrs. Glenn is also the Art Editor of the publication *Foreign News* for the Baptist General Conference's foreign mission department. She had formerly been secretary to Franklin Nelson, Secretary of the Foreign Missions Board.

In their short time at Calvary the Glenns have endeared themselves to everyone through their enthusiastic Christ-like leadership.

Their two daughters, Kimberly, age 4½ and Kristin, age 2, complete a family circle in which is exemplified the real dedication to practical Christian living which makes a Christian home the stronghold that God desires it to be.



Alfred A. Glenn
June 1960-Present



After church April 23, 1961

organization and departments

church officers

The church officers are elected laymen who are responsible to see that the ministry of the church is carried on in an efficient way. The pastor is the chairman of the church, and he is assisted by the first and second vice chairmen. During the times that we have been without a pastor, our vice chairmen have kept the church program operating very effectively. Mr. John Blasius is our present first vice chairman and Mr. Sigfried Pearson is second vice chairman.

The recording secretary or church clerk is responsible for recording the church business meetings, correspondence, and preparing an annual written report. Much time is involved in these tasks, and we are grateful for those who have served. The following have held this responsibility: August Rosain, Adolph Anderson, Oscar Erickson, Carrie Nelson, August Erickson, Joel Erickson, Oscar Forsburg, Carl Lundeen, Carl Bredenberg, Eric Johnson, Fred Jacobson, Mrs. L. R. Wernecke, Miss Ann Wernecke, and Mrs. Sigfried Pearson. Mrs. George Gillen is our present clerk, and she is as-

sisted by Miss Olive Sunstrom.

The financial secretary has a great amount of detailed work to do in keeping the records of incoming money. At the 25th anniversary, the office was referred to as "collector." Some of those who have filled this office during the years are August Dahlgren, Axel Ahlberg, Leslie Roys, Helmer Gillen, C. W. Werner, Fred Jacobson, Mrs. Helmer Gillen, William Lehman, George Gillen, Robert Ricks, and Hilding Carlson. Willard Nelson is our present financial secretary, and he is assisted by Richard Pearson.

Every organization has a treasurer who must pay the bills and keep a record of all money spent. Past treasurers have been August Ahlberg, Olof Almstrom, Adolph Anderson, Emil Nord, Victor Lundberg, Eugene Anderson, William Dahlgren, Carl Lundeen, Mrs. Helmer Gillen, Martin Bell, Earl Borgeson, Arthur Lundeen, and Lindsey Bennett. The present treasurer is Mrs. Wilbert Johnson.



(Left to Right) FIRST ROW: Sigfried Pearson, Rev. Alfred A. Glenn, John Blasius, SECOND ROW: Richard Pearson, Mrs. Wilbert Johnson, Mrs. George Gillen, Miss Olive Sunstrom, Willard Nelson.

deacons and trustees



FIRST ROW: Wilbert Johnson, L. Seymour Bennett, Carl Ekstrand, Helmer Gillen, SECOND ROW: Kenneth Tribbey, John Gault, William Hesketh Sr., John Blasius, Dr. Oscar Dahlgren, THIRD ROW: Richard Pearson, Alf Swartnes, Dr. Sol Flores, Pastor Glenn. Not pictured: Hilding Carlson, Frank Rylander.

Deacons and trustees, upon whose shoulders so much responsibility for the welfare of the church rests, must be given due recognition. The deacon board meets once a month and on special occasions with the pastor for prayer and to discuss business pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the church. It is the duty of the deacon board to interview candidates for church membership which may be by baptism, transfer of letter or by experience. The deacons help the pastor by making calls on members who are ill or who are in need of spiritual help. They also prepare and help serve communion on the first Sunday of every month.

The following brethren have served as deacons: August Ahlberg, Axel Ahlberg, Olof Almstrom, Eugene Anderson, Roy Anderson, Lindsey Bennett, L. S. Bennett, Martin Bell, Ernest Borgeson, Victor Carlson, August Dahlgren, John Dahlgren, Dr. Oscar Dahlgren, William Dahlgren, Carl Ekstrand, C. G. Erickson, Oscar Erickson, Dr. Sol Flores, John Gault, Helmer Gillen, Wilbert Johnson, Fred Jacobson, Aubrey Lackman, Thure Larson, Carl Lundeen, Ted Miller, Magnus Nepstad, David Nord, G. R. Nyden, Sig Pearson, Robert Ricks,

Theodore Swartnes, Alf Swartnes, Kenneth Tribbey, Dr. N. P. Walters, and Carl Werner. The records show that John Dahlgren served continually on the deacon board for 52 years.

The trustees have full charge of the church property, and they are responsible for its care and maintenance. The appearance of our church gives ample evidence of their faithfulness in carrying out these responsibilities.

Some of the major accomplishments in recent years are: 1956—sandblasted exterior walls of church, blonded the inside woodwork and pews, and redecorated the interior; 1958—remodeled kitchen and ladies room; 1959—initiated the present building program; 1961—painted the lower auditorium.

During the past 25 years the following men have served as trustees: Oscar Cedarquist, Oscar Dahlgren, Helmer Gillen, Albert Jones, Harry Larson, Thure Larson, Arthur Lundeen, Carl Lundeen, William Martin, Willard Nelson, William Newton, Sig Pearson, Stuart Pearson, Carl Seaberg, N. P. Severin. The present trustee board is composed of Wilbert Johnson, Richard Pearson, John Blasius, Hilding Carlson, Frank Rylander, and William Hesketh.

christian education

The Board of Christian Education with its present constituency and constitution was activated in 1957 with Mrs. James Schubring as its chairman. Previous to this board, a Christian Education Committee of three, with duties less defined, had been elected at each annual meeting. The present board consists of seven members: three elected from the church at large, one representative from the deacon board, one from the trustee board, the Bible school superintendent and a representative from the youth organizations. Ex officio members are the pastor and chairman of the church board.

The Board of Christian Education is responsible for the promotion and coordination of the total educational program of the church. These areas include the youth program, vacation Bible School, Sunday School, junior church, pastor's instruction class and the church library.

The present officers and members are Miss Hilda Hanson, chairman; Mrs. Carl Ekstrand, vice chairman; Miss Evelyn Marden, secretary; Wilbert Johnson, Kenneth Tribbey, John Blasius, John Tapper, John Gault, and Rev. Alfred Glenn.

christian service

Calvary Baptist Church has been privileged over the years to help many find Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. The Lord has directed several of our members into Christian service. Among those who got their start in our Bible School and Church are Mr. and Mrs. Viking, who went out as missionaries to China in 1892; Agnes Brodd Ohstrom, missionary in Africa; Miss Wallin, home missionary; William Tapper, pastor; Eva Nelson Tapper, pastor's wife; Arthur Erickson, pastor; Russell Daken, pastor; Anna Dahlgren Hopkins, missionary; Merrit

Kline, pastor; Eva Harwood Kline, pastor's wife; Donald Nepstad, pastor; Virginia Nepstad, pastor's wife; Richard Turnwall, pastor; Doris Turnwall Rehnberg, pastor's wife; Richard Werner, pastor; Gladys Anders Werner, pastor's wife; Phillip Carlson, teacher, Bethel College; Margene Anderson Wagstaff, pastor's wife; Lois Anderson, American Baptist Convention; Harriet Norr, church worker; Helen Johnson Kantner, pastor's wife; Anne Wernecke, church worker; Richard Clay, Navigators.



Artist's drawing showing the future education building

choir

The choir has a history dating back to very early days in the history of the church, the first choir being organized in 1888. Mr. Adolph Anderson was the first director of the choir, and he held this position for 37 years. Choir directors since Mr. Anderson have been Waldemar Marker, Oscar Cedarquist, Mrs. Eric Scherstrom, P. L. Peterson, Freeman Burkhalter, Gordon Peterson, Alfred Smith, George Neff, Chester Carlson, Dr. Austin Abernathy, Mrs. C. B. Sanders, Cecil Wagstaff, Sanford Brandon, Mrs. Walter Julien, C. Norman Nelson, and Dorothy Clark. Our present director, Wesley L. Hanson, is a master musician, outstanding in music teaching ability and generous in giving constructive help to the choir singers. His devotion to Christ and abundance of energy has been stimulating to the choir.

For seven years the church has been

blessed by the faithful services of our accomplished organist, Mrs. Willard Nelson. We thank God for every one who has had a part in the ministry of music.

It has been the chief responsibility of the church choir to support and promote the spiritual message of the church and to provide an additional way through which the Holy Spirit can bless and inspire the congregation. Other opportunities for the choir to praise the Lord in song have been at Fridhem Home for the Aged, Sunny Ridge Childrens Home, Christmas Carolling at Old Orchard and other special musical programs.

The present music committee consists of Mrs. Carl Ekstrand, Mrs. John Gault, Robert Bennett, Wesley Hanson, and Mrs. Willard Nelson.



FIRST ROW: Miss Mary Bunting, Miss Alice Maki, Mrs. Alfred Glenn, Mrs. William Hesketh, Mrs. John Tapper, SECOND ROW: David Kramer, Miss Evelyn Marden, Miss Hilda Hanson, Mrs. Carl Ekstrand, Mrs. John Gault, Miss Patricia Jaynes, Mrs. Willard Nelson, THIRD ROW: Clifford Nelson, Donald Dawley, Dr. Paul Jacobs, John Tapper, Kenneth Tribbey, Robert Bennett, Wesley Hanson.

women's missionary society

The "Ladies Aid Society" was organized Aug. 6, 1883 by four ladies who were members of the Chicago First Church. The aim of the society was to aid ministerial

eral Conference work.

The following women have served as presidents: Mrs. G. R. Nyden, Mrs. August



Deaconess's and Women's Missionary Officers

FIRST ROW: Miss Hilda Hanson, Mrs. Alf. Swartnes, Mrs. Oscar Dahlgren, Mrs. Erwin Tribbey, Miss Helen Dahlgren, SECOND ROW: Miss Arlene Krans, Mrs. Sigfried Pearson, Mrs. Wilbert Johnson, Miss Laura Krans, Miss Olga Anderson.

students in our seminary then located at Stromsberg, Neb. Records show that the ladies were very active in supporting the church and service projects. One project that they supported was the Bethany Home located at 1226 Elmwood Ave. Its purpose was to provide accommodations for young women who came to Evanston to seek work and working girls who had no local home, surrounding them with good physical as well as spiritual care.

For many years the Women's Missionary Society has assumed responsibility for a large share of the regular church budget for home and foreign missions. Three of these projects have been Fridhem, Sunny Ridge, and Bethel College. This past year the society met their budget and also raised over \$300 for new dishes for the church. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month, and the purpose of the society is to unite women in their devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ thru a program that will cultivate a missionary spirit and a definite commitment to active participation in our Gen-

Ahlberg, Mrs. C. G. Erickson, Mrs. Elsie Walters, Mrs. Margreta Heerens, Mrs. C. W. Werner, Mrs. John Anderson, Mrs. Eric Scherstrom, Mrs. William Turnwall, Mrs. Myrtle Bell, Mrs. Eva Tapper, Mrs. Walter Julien, Mrs. Thure Larson, Mrs. Jack Bell, Mrs. George Gillen, Mrs. Alf Swartnes, Mrs. Clair Carter.

The present president is Mrs. Erwin Tribbey and she is assisted by the following officers: Mrs. Sig Pearson, Miss Arlene Krans, Mrs. Oscar Dahlgren, and Miss Laura Krans.

The deaconesses have been faithful in carrying out the tasks assigned to them. Their main duties are to assist in preparing the Lord's Supper, to visit the sick and shut-in members, to organize a cheer committee, and to help at baptismal services. The following ladies are now serving as deaconesses: Mrs. Erwin Tribbey, Mrs. Oscar Dahlgren, Miss Helen Dahlgren, Mrs. Alf Swartnes, Mrs. Wilbert Johnson and Miss Hilda Hanson.

men's brotherhood

The Mens Brotherhood was organized in 1917 and has continued in service ever since, although for some periods it appears to have sunk into a lull. At the present time it is centered around the men's Bible class. The purpose of the Brotherhood is to promote fellowship and service among the men of the church. During the past these service projects have taken the form of res-

cue mission work, jail services, missionary projects, sponsoring films, special speakers, outings and banquets. Some of the presidents over the past 25 years have included Alf Swartnes, Oscar Dahlgren, John Blasius, Sig Pearson, Carl Ekstrand, Norman Nelson, Erwin Tribbey and Willard Nelson.

youth organizations

The Young Peoples Society was organized Jan. 27, 1888. Very few young peoples societies existed among the Swedish Baptist Churches of America at that time. Services were held on Friday nights at which time doctrinal as well as other topics were discussed. The Young Peoples Society made a valuable contribution to the work of Calvary.

Youth organizations of more recent times have been planned to meet the needs of particular groups of young people.

Recently a Junior Climbers group met on several Sunday evenings with Pastor Glenn. These meetings were conducted as a pastor's catechism class and resulted in several of these young people being baptised and joining the church.

There have been various kinds of club activities sponsored by our church in the past. These have included Scouts, Pioneer Girls, and Hobby Clubs. The present club program was started in 1956 and is called Awana. The name Awana is taken from II Timothy 2:15, and the letters stand for, "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed." Both the boys and girls clubs meet on Friday night, and they are open to all young people between ages 8 and 13.

Once each year the Awana Clubs have charge of the Sunday evening service, in-

viting their parents and friends to come and see the progress being made and encouraging other young people to participate in the club activities. The main objective of the club program is to win boys and girls to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to encourage them in their spiritual life. The Lord has used the Awana ministry to reach boys and girls who would otherwise not have come to our church.

The Christian Youth Fellowship is for high school age young people, and it meets every other Saturday night. Through alternate social and devotional programs the young people have developed in all phases of their Christian life. For several years the young people sponsored a church newspaper called the *C. Y. News*. Other activities have included bowling, skating, hay rides, banquets, and service projects.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Frye are the present sponsors, and the officers are Patricia Jaynes, President; Cliff Nelson, Social Chairman; Marcia Carlson, Secretary.

The CoUniBus program was started by Dick Clay in 1958 and is for all college, university and business young people. This group meets every Sunday afternoon for a

time of discussion, Bible study and fellowship. Special guests that have spoken to the group include Rev. Hubert Mitchell, Rev. Robert Nordstrom, and Miss Rosalind Rinker.

Mr. John Horton is the current sponsor of CoUniBus, and the officers are Chet Sakura, President; Tracy Schultis, Secretary, Sheri Ourada, Food Chairman.

One of the traditions of the youth group is a "singspiration" every Sunday evening

after the church service. These are held either in the lower auditorium, a home, or occasionally with some other churches. These occasions present a time of informal singing and testimonies and are quite meaningful to the young people.

Some of the Youth Directors that have worked with the young people during the past several years are: Lee Giddings, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Baptist, Millard Erickson, Lloyd Welton, John Gault, and Joe Zacharius.



Boys and Girls Awana

Leaders standing back row: Miss Marcia Carlson, John Powers, Robert Bennett, Mrs. Wesley Hanson, Miss Tracy Schultis, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ekstrand (Directors), Joe Pollani, Joe Zacharias, William Hesketh Jr. Leaders not pictured: Roy Bolhuis, Miss Mary Bunting, Mrs. Fred Jarka.

sunday bible school

The Sunday School dates back to Aug. 5, 1888 when nine people met and organized the first school. Rev. Carl Johnson was elected superintendent; Adolph Anderson, assistant; John Dahlgren, secretary; Oscar Erickson, treasurer; and G. R. Nyden, teacher. When the first church building was erected at 820 Lake St., the Sunday School mov-

Benson, Lindsey Bennett, Ted Miller, Aubrey Lackman, Carl Ekstrand, Hilding Carlson, and John Tapper.

The Sunday School has always been self-supporting and concerned about missionary work at home and in foreign fields. It has, for many years, been a most fruitful field



Bible School Teachers, Officers and Board of Christian Education

FIRST ROW: Wilbert Johnson, David Kramer, Miss Evelyn Marden, Mrs. Carl Ekstrand, Mrs. Alfred Glenn, Pastor Glenn, SECOND ROW: Mrs. John Tapper, Miss Hettie Wiebe, Miss Arlene Krans, Miss Betty Dahlgren, Miss Olive Sunstrom, Mrs. Erwin Tribbey, THIRD ROW: Robert Bennett, John Tapper, Carl Ekstrand, Mrs. William Hesketh, Miss Hilda Hanson, Fred Tooze, John Powers, John Blasius, John Gault, Not pictured: Mrs. Hilding Carlson, Mrs. W. C. Tapper, Mrs. Carrie Norr, Mrs. Laura Lehman, Mrs. George Gillen, Miss Wilberta Johnson, Mrs. Frank Rylander, Ed Frye, Dr. Sol Flores, Mrs. Fred Tooze, Mrs. Richard Pearson.

ed there and continued, as had been the custom, to meet at four o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Nyden was elected superintendent after Rev. Johnson left, and he served in this capacity for about eight years. Mr. Adolph Anderson was elected superintendent in 1899, and he served for about 13 years. During this period the meeting time was changed to 9:45 in the forenoon, which, after a period of adjustment, proved to be better.

Mr. David Nord served as superintendent for over 32 years, and it was under his leadership that many of the traditions and functions of our Sunday School were established. Mr. Alf Swartnes also gave many years of faithful service to our church school. Besides these two men, several others have served as superintendent since the inception of our church school. These include Magnus Nepstad, James Magnuson, Harold

for soul-winning and adding members to the church. To get a comprehensive picture of our church school, we can look at some of the highlights of the past 25 years.

The Sunday School has undertaken many projects that have helped not only to add to the physical structure of our church but have been for the glory of God. In 1937 the young men of Magnus Nepstad's class together with some of the men of the Sunday School completed a project of making a classroom in the attic of the church. The material was donated by Mr. Severin, and the men donated their services.

During the year of 1939 Miss Ruth Johnson's class of girls sent \$18.00 to Eric Frykenberg's field in South India to be us-

ed to keep one native girl in school for a year.

A Home and Extension Department was started with Mrs. Magnus Nepstad as superintendent in 1940. Also, this same year a beautiful picture was presented to the Sunday School by Bobby Wood's mother in memory of Bobby who went to be with the Lord. This picture still hangs in the lower auditorium.

A Sunday School night was held in 1941, featuring Vaughn Shoemaker, *Chicago Daily News* cartoonist and his evangelistic chalk talk. By 1943 the Thanksgiving food shower for Klingberg's childrens home had become a traditional event. The Sunday School still sponsors this annual activity. For a time the project was called "White Christmas" and held during the Christmas season. At the present time it is held in the spring and called "April Showers."

Since the Second World War the Sunday School has participated in many attendance contests. One popular series of contests was conducted with the Winnetka Bible Church and other local churches. No matter which church won the plaque, each Sunday School was actually a winner in these contests because the Lord always blessed with new members and encouraged Christians.

In the early 1950's, while Alf Swartnes was superintendent, a 100 per cent attendance award system was started.

The church school made it an annual policy, in 1954, to present Bibles to each of the children in the Primary Department being promoted to the Junior Department; this policy has been continued and is eagerly anticipated by the youngsters. A special treat, in 1954, was the visit of "Aunt Theresa" Worman and the KYB Club of Radio

Station WMBI one Sunday evening in October.

For many years the Sunday School has sponsored a camp contest. This provides boys and girls with the opportunity to go to Camp Hickory at one half the cost. Each year several young people go to camp by means of this program.

In the fall of 1957 we had a "Come Along" contest, after which the winning Red team was given a fellowship dinner by the Blues, with the added feature of Rev. Swanson of the Bible School Department of our Conference as the speaker.

We praise the Lord for the opportunity of having members of God's Invasion Army conduct Vacation Bible School in 1958.

Through the years there have been many training opportunities for our church school teachers. For example, in 1959 the book, "Building an Approved Sunday School," was purchased for each member of the staff. Also, there have been many lab classes and teachers' institutes in which our teachers and workers have participated.

Recently a class for young-married couples was added to our curriculum. Also, an absentee board was made which has cards for the teachers to pick up each Sunday and follow up on his absentees.

John Tapper is the present superintendent assisted by the following officers: David Kramer, Mrs. Richard Pearson, Robert Bennett, Arlene Krans, and Mrs. Erwin Tribbey.

fifty year members

Looking through the records we see the testimony of those who have so faithfully served and supported our church for many years. We love and respect them for their Christian character and faithfulness to Christ. The following have been members of Calvary for over 50 years: Miss Anna Nelson, Mrs. Charles Knapp, Miss Lillian

Heerens, Mr. Helmer Gillen, Miss Ruth Johnson, Mrs. David Tapper, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Cedarquist, Mrs. Elizabeth Borgeson, Miss Helen Dahlgren, Mr. David Nord, Mrs. Edwin Borgeson, Miss Hanna Erickson, Mrs. Amy Fisher, Miss Ebba Landin, and Mr. Carl Seaberg.

photos from the past

What does a glance into the years gone by bring? Faces no longer seen, brows wrinkled with years, "styles" strange to behold, youngsters now grown, the labors of yesterday gone as a cloud or remaining

as steps forward. . . . We find all this and much more as we view photographs of what has been. Looking back our lives seem "but as grass," and yet Christ has made them eternal.



Calvary Baptist Church, 1936



After church May 24, 1936



deacons and trustees

FIRST ROW: John Dahlgren, Nels Severin, Rev. William Turnwall, David Nord, Carl Werner, SECOND ROW: Alf Swartnes, Fred Jacobson, Eugene Anderson, William Dahlgren, Magnus Nepstad, THIRD ROW: Helmer Gillen, Carl Lundeen, Victor Carlson, Martin Bell.



choir



bible school teachers and officers

1936, above right, 1911

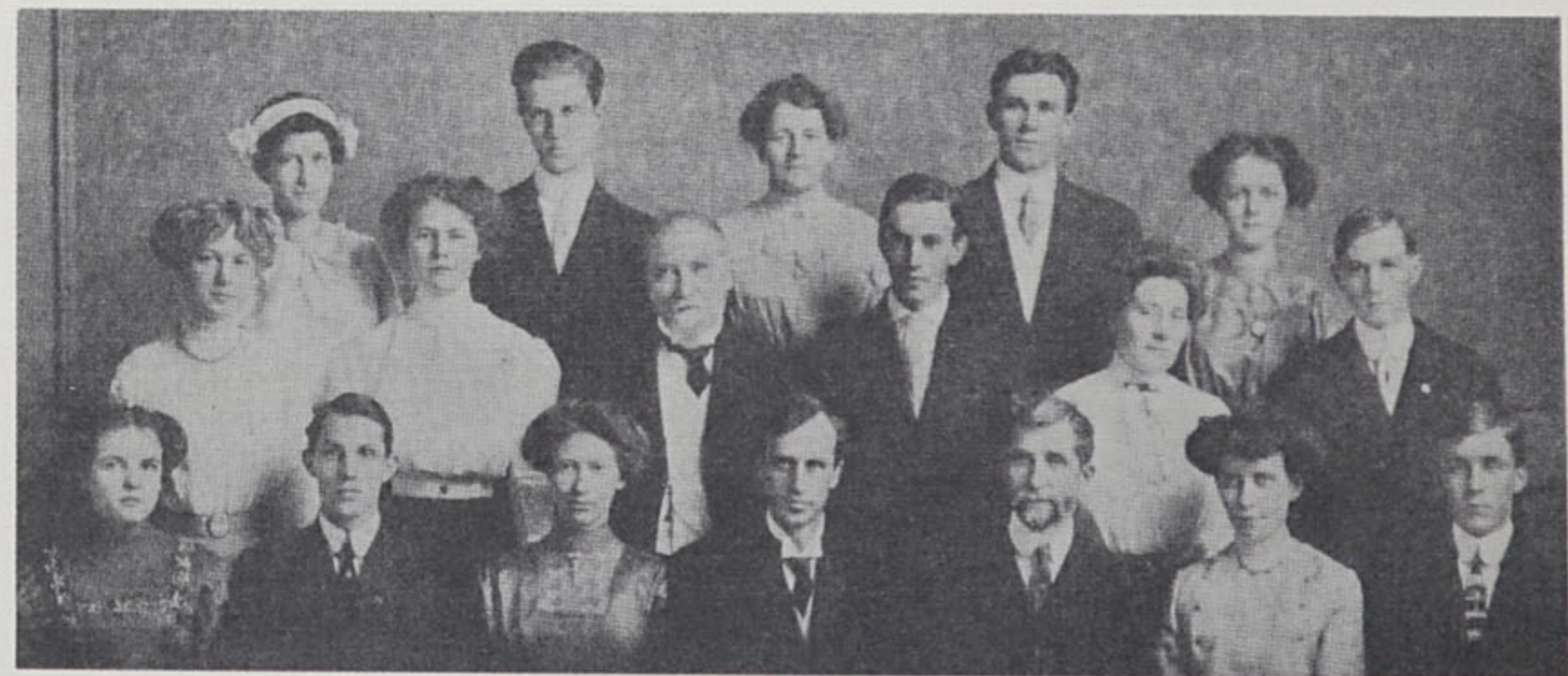


deacons and trustees

FIRST ROW: Victor Carlson, Adolph Anderson, Rev. John Swanson, August Ahlberg, G. R. Nyden, SECOND ROW: Joel Erickson, John Dahlgren, Emil Nord, C. F. Johnson, Carl Werner.



choir



bible school teachers and officers

A Word from the Pastor

It is a high privilege to be pastor when a church has such a rich historic tradition. While I have been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church for not quite one full year now, stepping into the stream of 75 years of faithful evangelical witness quickens my personal sense of responsibility to carrying on the heralding of the good news in Christ.

Some of the great men of our Baptist General Conference have ministered here through the years, including the late General Secretary of our Conference, Rev. William Tapper, and the present Home Missions Secretary, Rev. William Turnwall. These and many other men have labored as God's Undershepherds here at Calvary.

It is my resolution in prayerful commitment to our Great Shepherd that together with the present congregation Calvary may advance this faithful evangelical witness for many years to come -- God willing -- till He come.

True, the scenery and face of Calvary, both people and building, have changed. In a day when most churches are relocating in areas of growth, the suburbs, it is my conviction that the inner-city church has an even greater ministry. Therefore, we remain in Evanston. Through the vicissitudes of the years, both past and future, Calvary proclaims the message of the cross to a crucial cross-section of residents, both permanent and transient, students, nurses, and all who may come within hearing of the blessed name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, great things He hath done. --*In Christ, Rev. Alfred A. Glenn, Pastor.*

program of celebration

Friday June 9, 1961 6:30 P.M. 75th Anniversary Banquet—Pastor Glenn will preside as master of ceremonies with Mr. Wesley Hanson bringing special music. Three former leaders of the church will speak: Rev. William Turnwall, Home Missions Secretary of our conference, Rev. Cecil Wagstaff, pastor of the Crescent Avenue Baptist Church, and Rev. Richard Rud of Moody Bible Institute. Recognition will be given to the oldest living members of the church.

Saturday June 10, 1961 8:00 P.M. Choir Concert—Dr. Samuel Schultz of Wheaton College will bring a brief message and the Calvary Choir directed by Mr. Wesley Hanson and accompanied by Mrs. Willard Nelson will add the joyous note of music to our 75th year.

*Sunday June 11, 1961 11:00 A.M. Morning Worship—Rev. Lloyd Dahlquist, General Secretary of the Baptist General Conference.
7:00 P.M. Evening Worship—Rev. Martin Erikson, Editor of "The Standard."*

This 75th anniversary booklet has been prepared by the following: Editors, John W. Gault, and David E. Kramer; Proofreaders, Mrs. John Gault and Mrs. David Kramer; Photographer, (1961) Mrs. Dorothy Bell Booty; Printer, Advance Reproductions, Inc. June 1, 1961.