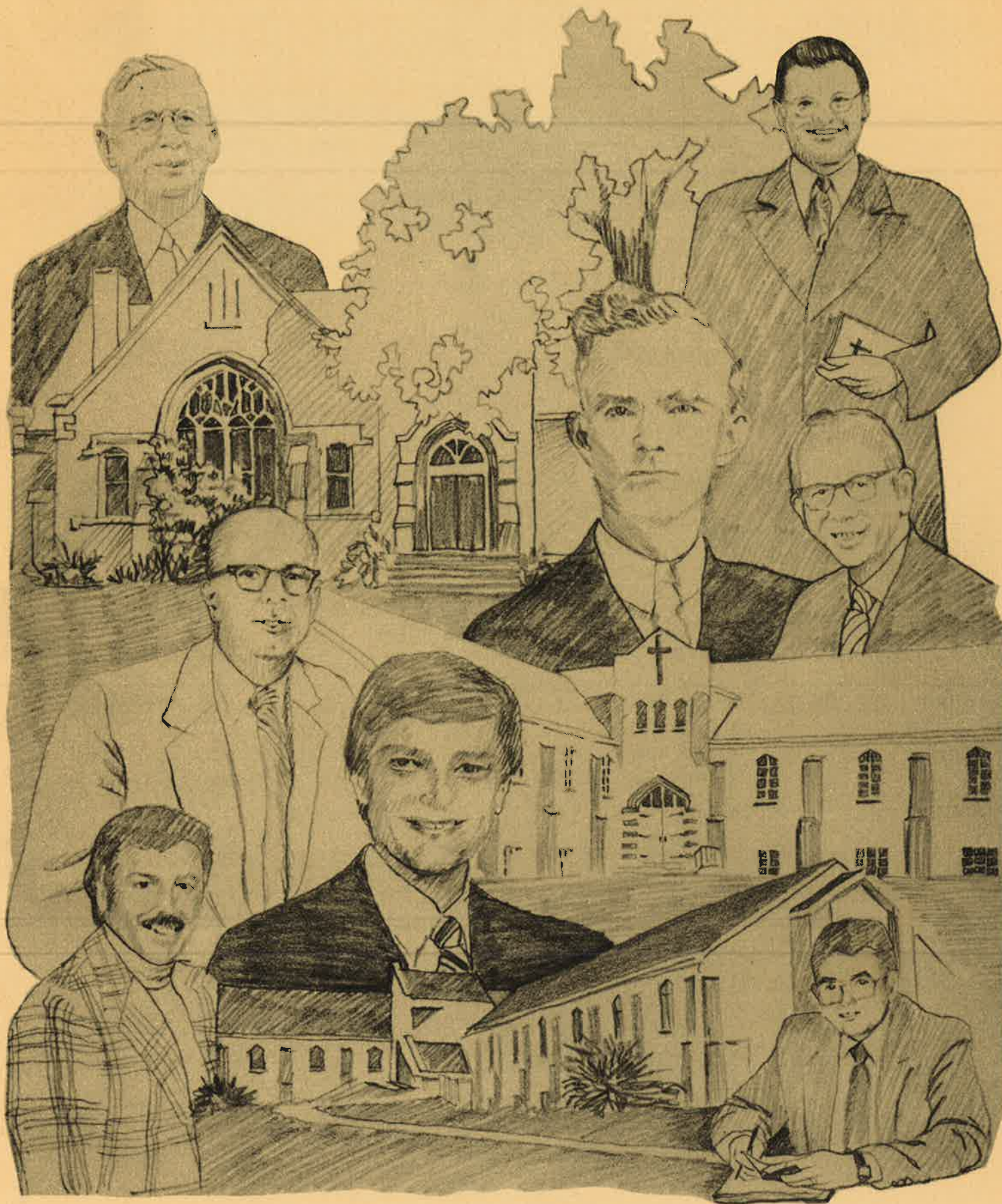


CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY

1888-1988



During this joyful celebration of our Centennial year, several things come to mind which were vital our congregations first century. First there was the message which was about biblical unity and scriptural holiness. Then came Daniel Sidney Warner, an evangelist preacher with a passion for souls. Realizing the limitations of his abilities, he began to proclaim the gospel through the printed page as he wrote and published the Gospel Trumpet, which is now Vital Christianity.

As the word spread throughout the country, Colorado was no exception to this proclamation of truth. Some of our early leaders came in contact with an issue of the Gospel Trumpet and as a result the Church of God reformation movement became a reality in our state during the winter of 1887-1888.

The challenge of this centennial is not a return to the past but a call to the future. As we look back over our last 100 years, we see many great leaders who were committed to the truth and who inspired many persons to full time Christian service around our world.

We know that Christ still leads the church today— let us follow him into the second century!

— The Centennial Committee

Betty McBride
Sadie Luckenbaugh
Jordan Jones
Cyril Scott
Elsie M. Payne

HISTORY OF THE NORTH DENVER CHURCH OF GOD 1888-1988

In the winter of 1887-1888, James Pollock (father of Wheeler Pollock, and employee of the Gospel Trumpet Company) learned of this movement through a copy of the Gospel Trumpet, and he sent \$100 to Grand Junction, Michigan, to bring someone here to preach the full gospel. (In 1962 the Gospel Trumpet was re-named "Vital Christianity" and the Gospel Trumpet Company is "Warner Press".)

Brother D.S. Warner and a company composed of B.E. Warren, "Mother" Sarah Smith, Frankie Miller, and Nannie Kiger, responded, and they held about a six-weeks meeting in the little United Brethren Church in 27th Street, between Welton and Glenarm Streets, with a small attendance. In January, 1888 they held services in the old People's Tabernacle at 20th and Blake streets. In February of that year, they held meetings in the old Lawrence Street Methodist Church at 14th and Lawrence streets, upstairs, which had been rented by Bro. Pollock for \$75 per month, which he paid out of his own pocket. Their last service in this church was held February 14, 1888.



D. S. Warner's evangelistic company: (left to right) Barney Warren, D. S. Warner, Nannie Kiger, Sara Smith, and Frankie Miller.

The following persons accepted the truth of this reformation during these meetings, and remained faithful, namely:

William and Sophie Speckels
James Pollock
Sophie Fischer
John E. and Eva C. Roberts

This small congregation continued to held meetings in the upstairs room, and shortly Bros. Kilpatrick and Speck came to Denver. Cottage meetings were then held in the home of Wm. Speckels in Barnum, a suburb of Denver about five miles southwest of the City, and it was necessary for these brethren and Bros. Pollock, Roberts and Embury to walk the five miles each way, as there was no street car or bus line at that time.

Then came Bro. G.R. Achor and his niece, and a church building was rented in 25th Street near Welton, for a short time. There was little interest and they soon gave up the church building and continued to hold cottage meetings. At this time the group consisted of the following: Ralph W. and Katherine Swinburn, Bro. Embury, William and Sophie Speckels, Sophie Fischer, John E. and Eva C. Roberts and a few others.

Bro. and Sis. Wm. N. Smith came and held meetings for a while and Bro. D.S. Warner returned twice, holding tent meetings.



Our first "camp meeting" was held in the early '90s at W. 30th Avenue and Irving Streets, where a small chapel had been built on some lots belonging to a man named Miller, who promised to donate the lots, but who afterwards got both the building and the lots. Bro. J. W. Byers, E.G.Masters and T.A.Phillips, with their families, were in attendance at this meeting. After the camp meeting, cottage meetings were continued and later a hall was rented on 18th Street, near Curtis Street, where services were held nightly. Street meetings were also held before the services in the hall. About this time Bro. E.E.Byrum visited the Denver church and they were encouraged.

Following this a mission was opened on Lawrence Street, near 20th, and John E. Roberts, the pastor, also operated the "Open Door" Mission for men in the lower part of the downtown district. About this time, Bro. A.D.Khan of India, visited the church for a short time.

Then a store room was rented at 24th and Curtis Streets and an "assembly meeting" was held, with George Cole, John G. Neff, T.A.Phillips, R.W. Swinburn, J.M. Harrington and others in attendance. This was the year 1905.

At this time, John E. Roberts gave up the work and moved to Delta, Colorado, and T.A. Phillips was appointed pastor.



Group of children at Campmeeting, Rocky Mtn. Lake Park, 1913

The "Church of God" was incorporated on May 23, 1908 under the laws of the State of Colorado, the incorporators being: R.H. Craig, T.A. Philips and R.W. Swinburn. The first seven Trustees elected that year were: H.B. Hicks, Loveland, Colorado; Adams Sowers, Ordway, Colorado; T.A. Philips; Sophie J. Fischer; R.W. Swinburn; Grace E. Severance; Newman Guilford (father of L.W. Guilford).

The "Missionary Home" at West 38th & Alcott Streets was then constructed, Bro. T.A. Phillips being in charge. Some time later Bro. Phillips and family moved away from Denver and Bro. H.C. Hawkins came to relieve him until H.A. and Clara Brooks took charge of the work in 1911. Bros. L.W. Guilford and J.C. Youngblood became active in the work at this time. In an effort to dispose of the "home", it was traded for some acreage outside of Denver, and this land was later sold and the proceeds used to help pay for a chapel. A very considerable financial loss was sustained in these transactions, as it was very difficult to sell the building for cash; however, those in charge did a commendable job under the circumstances.



The Woodman Hall at Clay Street and Dunkeld Place was rented at this time and a sizable congregation was gathered there, the work prospered under Bro. Brooks' ministry, several new families being added. In the year 1913, Bro. Brooks found a small cement block chapel for sale on Vallejo Street between 31st and 32nd Avenues. This building was then purchased for \$2250.00 and Bro. Theodore Larsen donated the first \$100 in the purchase.

C.H. Tubbs succeeded Bro. Brooks in the year 1917 and remained as pastor until 1922, when Bro. Marshall Mercer became pastor. The church building at 34th and Vallejo Sts. was purchased in 1922, the cement block chapel being traded in as part of the purchase price. Bro. Mercer resigned in 1925 and was succeeded by H. A. Delay, who remained in charge until 1926.

(The above information was supplied by the late John E. Roberts Jr.)



31st & Vallejo St. H.A. Brooks, Pastor

With the arrival of W.A. Reardon in 1926, the church experienced new life and growth. Located at 34th and Vallejo Street, the church building will long be remembered for the two stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Beautifully crafted, one depicted Jesus with the little children gathered around Him, the other was a portrait of Mary and the Risen Saviour at the open tomb. E.A.Reardon was know for his formal attire of long coat and tails while in the pulpit. It was during his ministry that the church began the tradition of an annual Memorial Day picnic in one of the Denver parks. These would continue for many years.



E.A. Reardon



Rev. & Mrs. A.C. Harrison

In 1933 A.C. Harrison became pastor and led the church successfully through the remaining depression years. It was during his ministry that a new baptistry was added to the sanctuary. Before this time, baptismal services were held at Rocky Mountain Lake. The Sunday School had a class for German speaking members of the church. Around 1936 the state camp meeting was held at the North Denver Church for a year or two. An unusual incident took place around this time when someone discovered that man had been living in the attic of the church for some time. Charges were not brought against him and he was sent on his way.



Women Missionary Society, 1938

Elmer Rich came as pastor in 1941 and with his ministry came a strong emphasis on the Sunday School and youth work. He also had real foresight to purchase lots at 28th and Utica. The church ministered to many military families and became a church home for many who were stationed in Denver during World War II.

1946 ushered in many changes in our country and our church as well. Clarence Thomas started his ministry with us and it was a time of families being reunited and relocated following the war. The church continued to grow and prosper during the two years of Brother Thomas' ministry.

In 1948 when James B. Diggins became pastor, it was necessary to find larger quarters. Soon preparations were being made to build on the lots that had been purchased some years back. The building at 34th and Vallejo was sold in 1951. Meetings were held in the Knights of Pythias Hall at 32nd and Federal while the new church was being completed. Much of the labor on the new building was donated by laypersons of the church. Dedication ceremonies were held on June 8, 1952 with Dr. John Morrison as the speaker. J. B. Diggins had a strong evangelistic approach to this ministry and it was a time of spiritual renewal with many new families being added to the church.



Ground Breaking 1951



When Gerald R. Weaver came as Pastor in 1955, the church was making full use of the new enlarged quarters. During his three year ministry, Bro. Weaver emphasized a strong sense of missions outreach.

C. Lowrey Quinn arrived as pastor in 1958. Additional lots south of the church were purchased in 1959 for future expansion. In 1966 it became necessary to remodel the sanctuary which included enlarging the pulpit area, relocating the choir loft, installing a new baptistry, and carpeting the sanctuary. Youth pastor D.C. Holloway was added to the staff and the youth group grew to 65 members. Prior to becoming our pastor, Bro. Quinn served as Secretary of the National Missionary Board.

1967 brought us Alfred E. Brown as pastor. Under his leadership and guidance, we were able to restructure the business of the church with the formation of a Church Council and related committees. Robert Mathis was added to the staff as Associate pastor. Bro. Brown was also instrumental in our beautifying the grounds around the church building with trees, shrubs and plants.

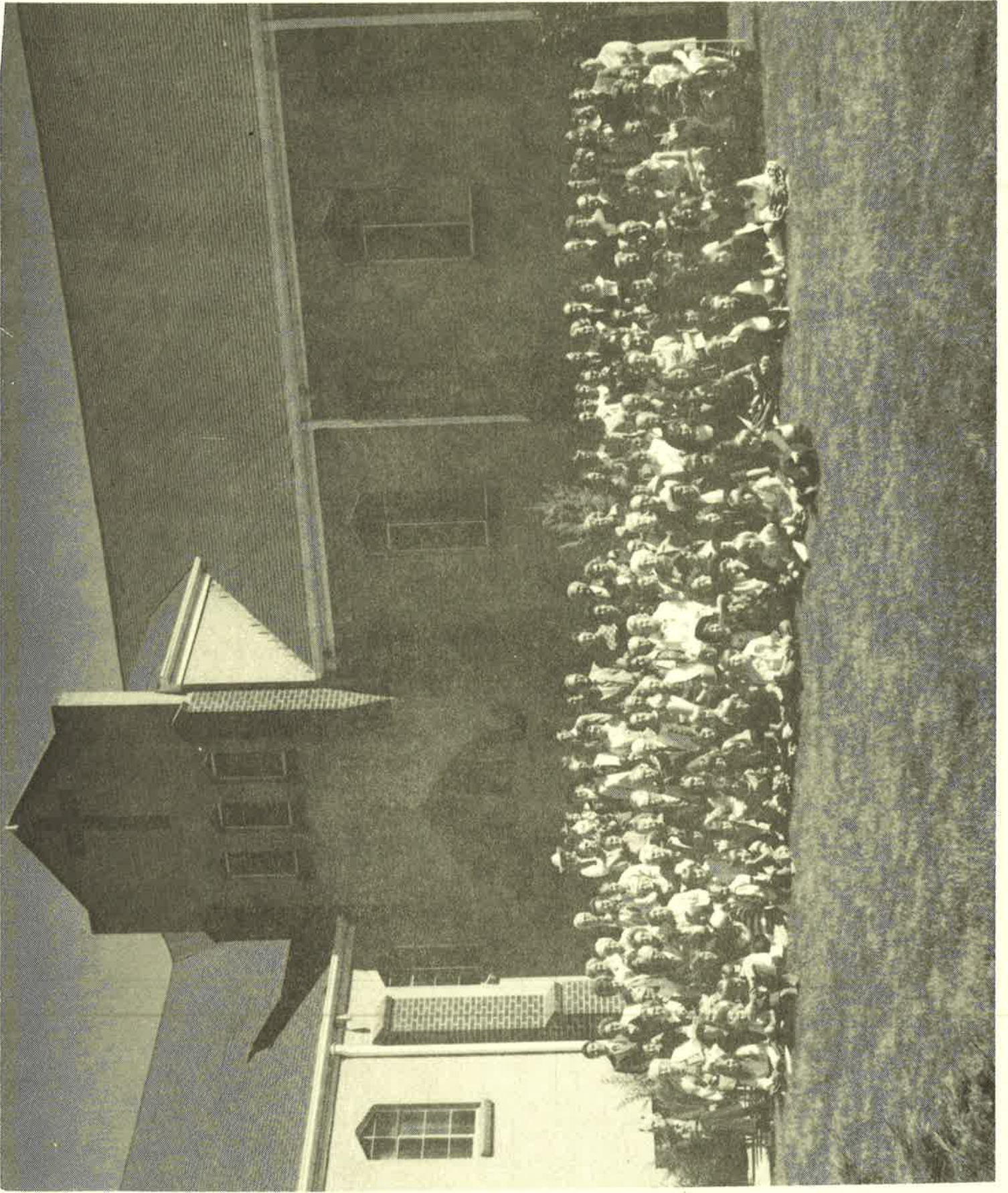


Rev. & Mrs. Alfred E. Brown



Rev. Joseph Blair & Family

Joseph L. Blair became pastor in 1972 and it was during his ministry that the church underwent another major expansion. A new educational wing was added to the east end of the building, the narthex was enlarged, and existing classrooms redecorated and carpeted. In addition, the lots south of the church were made into a large attractive parking lot. Additional staff members were added during Bro. Blair's ministry including James Dearing as Minister of Music and Roy Ferguson as Associate pastor. Many new families were added to the church through a successful bus ministry. In 1979 the first of ten beautiful stained glass windows was installed in the sanctuary. These windows were designed, fabricated and installed by Jack Chelius, a layman of the church who also supplied all materials. The project spanned three and one half years.



Rodney Bargerstock came as pastor in 1981. He was joined a short time later by associate pastor Robert Confer. through Pastor Bargerstock's leadership we were able to reorganize the office and record systems of the church, as well as update the bylaws of our corporation.

In January of 1986 Dr. Robert Reardon, President Emeritus of Anderson College, served for three months as interim pastor. Dr. George Ramsey followed as interim pastor for the next three months while we searched for a full time pastor.

Our present pastor, Gordon Garrett, arrived in July 1986 and we are being challenged and inspired to move forward as God's people in our community and our world.

The North Denver Church of God today stands as a witness to the many laypersons and leaders who have sacrificed and worked faithfully over the last one hundred years.

One hundred years
How brief a time!
It is as the breeze passing over a meadow
It comes like a great shout upon the hills
And leaves but the whisper of an echo

Little children are caught up in its embrace
And then dropped as time rushes on to
To cradle and to bury
Other generations yet unborn

-W. A. Donaldson

* This book was made possible by a memorial gift in honor of Luella Hernblom

* Cover Design by Joyce Deck

PASTORS OF THE NORTH DENVER CHURCH OF GOD

John E. Roberts	- 1905
T.S. Phillips	1905 -
H.C. Hawkins	- 1911
W.A. Brooks	1911 - 1917
W.H. Tubbs	1917 - 1922
Marshall Mercer	1922 - 1925
A. Delay	1925 - 1926
A. Reardon	1926 - 1933
J. Harrison	1933 - 1941
er Rich	1941 - 1946
ence A. Thomas	1946 - 1948
s B. Diggins	1948 - 1955
d R. Weaver	1955 - 1967
E. Brown	1967 - 1972
Blair	1972 - 1981
Bargerstock	1981 - 1985
Garrett	1986 -

CORRECTION:

C. Lowrey Quinn
Gerald R. Weaver

1955-1958
1958-1967