



THE NEW CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF ST. LOUIS

The New Central Presbyterian Church has been formed by a merger of the Old Central Presbyterian Church and the Clayton Presbyterian Church

Central Church History—87 Years



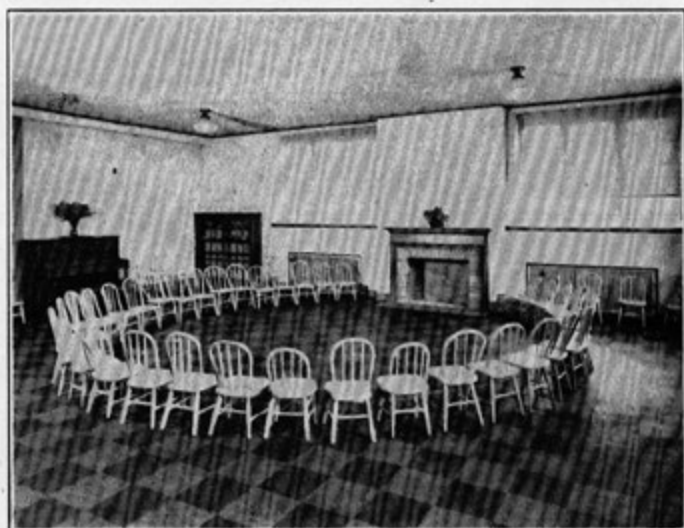
CENTRAL CHURCH is nearly one hundred years old, eighty-seven, to be exact. As a daughter of the Second Presbyterian Church, it was organized April 19, 1844. Its "given" name was "The Fourth Presbyterian Church." This was later changed to its present title.

These eighty-seven years have seen many remarkable things. Few developments have been more surprising than the necessity of constructing a new building about every twenty-five years. For a few years the Church worshipped in a frame building on the corner of Sixth and St. Charles Streets. During the winter of 1848 it moved into the basement of its first permanent home, at Eighth and Locust Streets, the northwest corner. Then only twenty-five years later, in 1873, we find the congregation moving away out into a chapel at Garrison and Lucas Avenues. The Church in this new location was completed in 1876, at a cost of \$145,000.00. No doubt the people prided themselves that this was the final move, but thirty years later, in 1906, this Church was sold and in 1908 the building at Clara and Delmar was occupied for the first time. Scores now living happily thought that Old Central had finally reached its last stand. But lo and behold!—twenty-three years later this building has been sold and the congregation is occupying another. This new home is located on Hanley Road at Davis Drive, and we are certain this is the final move. So may it be!

The change in membership during all these years has been most interesting. Organized with thirty-two members, the Church, even while using temporary quarters, had grown to 157 by the year 1847. At Eighth and Locust Streets, the Church reached its highest membership of 423 in 1859. The largest membership reported at Garrison and Lucas was 565 in 1900. At Clara and Delmar the Church reported 1,106 in 1922. During the past few years the Church has lost heavily, but, with the addition of the Clayton congregation, will enter its new building with a membership of 770.

These many years have brought to Central men of distinction, who have given their best to its ministry. Of these, three have gone to their reward: Rev. Alexander Van Court, Rev. S. J. P. Anderson, D.D., and Rev. Robert G. Brank, D.D. Of the living former ministers, Rev. Edward Mack is professor of Hebrew in Union Theological Seminary.

Richmond, Virginia; Rev. Archibald F. Carr, D.D., is pastor at Unatilla, Florida; Rev. J. Layton Mauze, D.D., is pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Missouri; Rev. Donald C. MacLeod, D.D., is Executive Secretary of the Presbytery of St. Louis, Missouri, and Rev. James L. Fowle, D.D., is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Rev. Theodore S. Smylie, D.D., is the present minister. Time would fail to even list, much less express an appreciation of, the many God-fearing men who have nobly served the Church as Elders and Deacons.



Beginners' Department

Reports for twelve of the eighty-seven years are missing. Wars and religious dissensions and perhaps other things have taken toll of reports. But the seventy-five years for which we do have the data show that during this time the Church received 1,645 on profession of faith, 2,543 by certificate, and contributed \$298,299.00 to benevolences. This last is a very remarkable record. For the past thirteen years the Church has given to benevolences a total of \$193,294.00—nearly \$15,000.00 per year. Even counting the years when the Church was a struggling weakling, even in spite of paying for three handsome Church homes, the Church has given an average of just less than \$4,000.00 per year to benevolences. The local mission undertakings have been many and varied, but perhaps the most significant token of the spiritual health

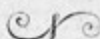


enjoyed by the congregation during the years has been the stream of young men who have gone, from its influence, into the Gospel ministry. It is barely possible that we do not have a complete record, but our record lists: Rev. David Owen Davies, Rev. Phil Stephenson, Dr. Oscar W. Gauss, Dr. Joseph W. Gauss, president Brooke's Bible Institute; Rev. George Buckles, Dr. Rockwell S. Brank, Rev. C. E. Hickok, Rev. William Koelling, Dr. Grayson Tucker, Rev. C. Randall Garrison, Rev. Fred W. Haverkamp, Dr. W. W. Harrison, Rev. Milton Daugherty. Mr. Louis Phile is now in Westminster College, studying for the ministry; Miss Mary L. Gauss went to Brazil, and Miss Marietta Parks to Africa, as missionaries. This is a noble band for eighty-seven years. May the line not diminish!

20
5
2.11
7.12.11

These years have indeed been full ones for Central. Now she joins hands with the Clayton congregation and occupies her fourth temple of worship.

With confidence she looks forward to the Divine guidance as she completes the century and on out beyond in the service of men in the Master's name.



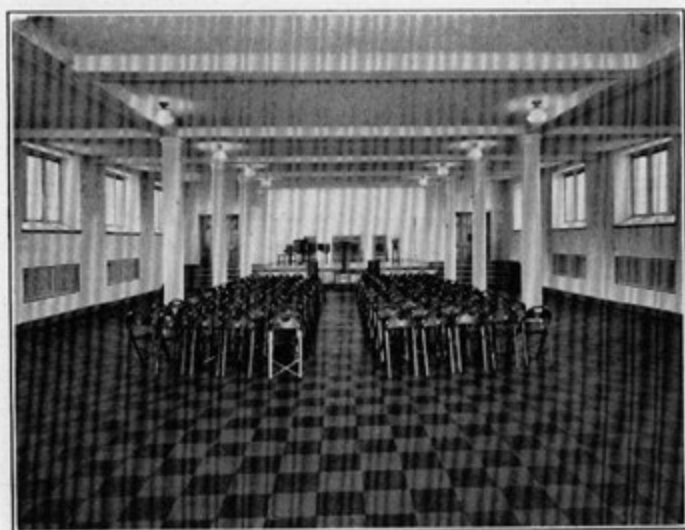
The other party to the Union which formed the New Central Presbyterian Church, was the Clayton Presbyterian Church

History of the Clayton Presbyterian Church

In the year 1886, Rev. J. Addison Smith, D.D., then in charge of the Des Peres Church, held a meeting in the town of Clayton. The results of the meeting were encouraging, and Dr. Smith continued to preach regularly one Sabbath afternoon each month. In July, 1890, Rev. T. Peyton Walton, then in charge of the Mizpah and Des Peres Churches, began preaching in Clayton, in the home of Mrs. Dr. McDonald. As a result of these services, the question of organizing a Church began to take shape. A contract for the construction of a building was let in October, 1891, and the building was finished, and was dedicated on the first day of May, 1892. The Presbytery met in the building previous to its dedication, on April 8th, and appointed a commission to organize a Church.

The commission met in the Church on the afternoon of Sunday, May 8, 1892, and proceeded to organize a Church with twenty-one members, of whom, so far as known, only two are living at this time.

The Church was entirely wrecked by a cyclone on May 27, 1896, but was immediately rebuilt on the same foundation. On October 6, 1913, ground was broken for the building at Hanley Road and Forsythe Boulevard. The cornerstone was laid on November 15th, and the building was occupied April 26, 1914.



Dining Room

The names and terms of service of the pastors are as follows: Rev. George L. Washburn, September, 1892, to November, 1893; Rev. B. H. Charles, D.D., January, 1894, to October, 1900; Rev. Walter M. Langtry, D.D., November, 1900, to the present.

The Central Church, having sold their old location, desired to move near the site of the Clayton Church, and on petition of both Churches, the Presbytery of St. Louis granted permission to the two Churches to be amalgamated. This action was taken April 16, 1930. The amalgamation took place on September 27, 1931, when the new Church, corner Hanley Road and Davis Drive, was occupied for the first time; Rev. Theodore S. Smylie, D.D., being pastor of the Church, and Rev. Walter M. Langtry, D.D., being pastor emeritus.

The New Building

In 1929 the congregation of Old Central Church, by a vote that was almost, but not quite, unanimous, decided to offer the old Church at Clara and Delmar for sale with the purpose of erecting a new Church home further west. After this decision was reached, committees were appointed to carry out the wishes of the congregation.

The Committees

John F. Green, L. P. Rexford and L. Wade Childress were appointed by the congregation to negotiate the sale of the old Church at Clara and Delmar. This sale was finally concluded at a net price of \$187,400.00. The congregation then appointed a committee to select the site for a new Church, which committee consisted of John F. Green, David E. Woods, Charlton Alexander, Tom K. Smith, Dr. Walter M. Langtry, Mrs. L. Wade Childress and Mrs. H. I. Rieman. This committee finally decided unanimously in favor of the lot at the southwest corner of Hanley Road and Davis Drive. A Plans Committee, consisting of John F. Green, William H. Stentz, William H. Bronaugh, Irving Smith, John Barron, Mrs. L. Wade Childress, Mrs. H. I. Rieman, A. B. Lansing, James F. Green, Webster Colburn, and Robert Duncan, was authorized to select architects for the new building and to approve the plans when the architects had prepared them. Messrs. Jamieson & Spearl were selected by the committee as their architects, and they proceeded at once to draw the plans. After approval by the Plans Committee, the plans were submitted to the congregation for suggestions and approval at several meetings called for that purpose. After the plans had been finally approved the following Executive or Building Committee was appointed to take charge of the construction work and to arrange for its financing: John F. Green, David E. Woods and L. Wade Childress. Mr. Childress was of the utmost assistance in arranging with the Mercantile Commerce Bank and Trust Company for financing the new building, and Mr. Woods was of especial assistance in checking and arranging for necessary changes, alterations and additions to the original contract. Financial arrangements were made with the Mercantile Commerce Bank and Trust Company whereby it agreed to lend the Church \$133,000.00 upon our collateral security, consisting of \$172,400.00 of notes of the Congregation B'Nai El, purchasers of the old Central Church, and \$20,000.00 of notes of the purchasers of the old Clayton Church; also to purchase from us \$150,000.00 of first mortgage bonds at \$96.00 net to us, or \$144,000.00, thus making a total of \$277,000.00 cash furnished us

by that bank. This, with \$15,000.00 cash received through the sale of the old Central Church, provided a total cash fund of \$292,000.00 with which to purchase a lot and build.

The Chairman of the Building Committee was in favor of erecting only one unit of the new building at this time, either the auditorium or the educational building, but the congregation was almost unanimously in favor of erecting the entire structure and incurring whatever indebtedness might be necessary to that end.



Front Vestibule

The Organ Committee

John F. Green, William H. Bronaugh and C. McClung Thompson were the Organ Committee to decide, first, whether to remove the old organ or build a new one, and then to let the contract for a new organ if it should be so decided. This committee concluded it would be desirable to procure a new organ for the new Church, and this contract was let to the Kilgen Organ Company of St. Louis, the builders of the old Church organ at Clara and Delmar Avenues.

Moving Committee

This committee consisted of Mr. W. H. Bronaugh, Mr. Irving Smith and Mrs. William E. Harper. It has had charge of the removal from

the old Church, and also of moving into the new Church. Mrs. Harper has largely done the work of this committee, and she cannot be too highly commended for her services to the Church in this relation.

The New Edifice

The site selected for this new Church and its educational and official adjuncts is exceptionally fine. It stands high, it has sufficient slope and a sufficiently irregular shape so that the irregularity in outline desirable



Primary Department

in a Gothic edifice became a necessity and not the result of a mere whim on the part of the architects.

The style of architecture is that of the English Country Church of the late Fourteenth Century, and this has been followed quite consistently throughout with but few noticeable meanderings into other periods of English Gothic.

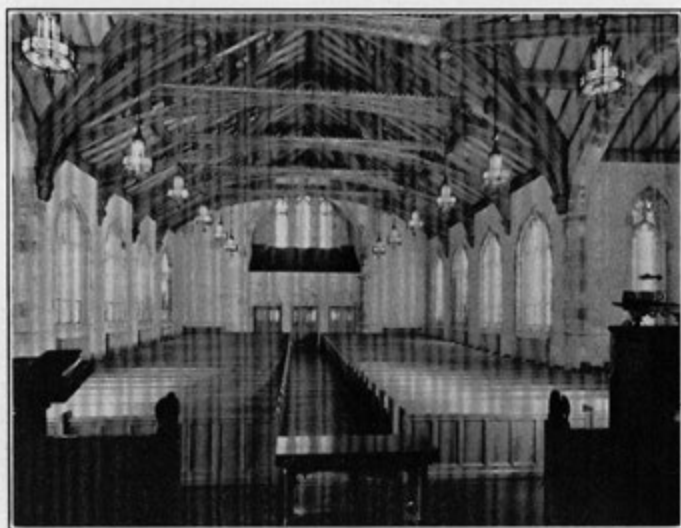
The Church proper is entered from the east through a spacious vestibule extending across the front with a stairway at its northern end. Here, also, is an entrance from the porte cochere. The stairway leads down to the lower floor and up to the gallery which runs over a portion of the vestibule, occupying in fact the area of the eastern tower.

=====

The nave is forty-six feet wide and eighty-seven and one-half feet long and there are transepts and a chancel forming the usual cruciform plan.

The seating capacity, including the seats in the gallery is seven hundred sixty-four, in addition to space for fifteen in the choir.

On the southwest of the Church is the Educational Building, three stories in height, containing seven large class rooms and many smaller rooms. To the north of the Educational Building and west of the Church proper are the pastors' studies, secretary's office, etc.



Auditorium

In the floor below the Auditorium is a large dining room and ample kitchen and other facilities. The dining room is arranged with a stage at one end and dressing rooms so that it may be used for a variety of entertainments. The floor of this room is covered with asbestos tile in different colors, while the ceiling is of acoustical plaster, to assure a quiet room when in use for church suppers.

The windows of the Church are of specially designed stained glass of the same period as the Church with the exception of four Memorial windows which were reset from the windows of the previous home of the Central congregation at Delmar and Clara Avenues.

The exterior walls are of local limestone with Bedford stone at all openings and corners.

The Tower at the east end rises to a height of sixty-three feet to the top of the pinnacles which emphasize the four corners.

The roof is of Vermont slate, supported by trusses, purlins and rafters, all of chestnut, finished in its natural color, giving a light effect to the interior.

The pews, chancel rail, pulpit, reredos, organ front and other interior woodwork are of oak.

The heating, which was laid out by Mr. A. H. Vogel, is of an especially superior type. Smoke abatement is provided by the use of oil burners.

The electric fixtures were made to architects' designs.

The stained glass was made from architects' cartoons.

The pews and other furniture were generally made from architects' drawings.

The New Organ

The new organ is a Kilgen, built by George Kilgen & Son, Inc., of St. Louis, and is an outstanding example of modern organ craftsmanship. It is a large three-manual, with the famous Ripieno and full choruses of Diapason and Reeds, also a number of orchestral imitative stops and harp and chimes. Its fine balance of tone, remarkable distinctive voicing and dignified churchly ensemble has caused this instrument to be acclaimed by the City's leading musicians as an artistic masterpiece.

The instrument is located at the rear of the chancel in specially prepared expression chambers and screened by beautifully designed clusters of display pipes.



Chancel

The tonal design of the organ was prepared by Mrs. Doyne Neal, in collaboration with Kilgen Brothers.



Memorial Windows

The new Church has four Memorial windows. Two of these were the gift of the children of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Shapleigh, in memory of their father and mother, both of whom were members of this Church under the ministry of Dr. Robert G. Brank; another is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Rolla Wells, in memory of her father and mother, Harry Lloyd Parker and Jane Howard Parker; the fourth Memorial window is the gift of the widow and children of Mr. D. G. Tutt, who for many years was an officer of this Church, under the ministry of Dr. Brank.

Kitchen Equipment

The women of the Church are justly proud of their white tile kitchen, with its modern equipment. More than twenty-five hundred dollars of new equipment has been purchased and added to that which was brought from the old Church.

An Acknowledgment

In large measure the successful erection of a Church edifice, and its beauty and utility, depend upon the co-operation of the architects, the building committee and the various contractors and sub-contractors. Our architects, Messrs. Jamieson & Spearl, have given the most painstaking care and attention to every detail connected with the construction, and are responsible for, and should be credited with, the architectural and artistic results. We have also been fortunate in securing the following contractors and sub-contractors, who have cheerfully and faithfully collaborated with architects and owners to produce a satisfactory structure: General contractors, Dickie Construction Company; heating contractor, Guaranteed Heating & Engineering Company; electrical contractor, H. Vierheller Electric Company; brick work, Barron-Wallenbrock Company, the same people who did the brick work on the old Church at Clara and Delmar; pew cushions and window shades, J. Kennard & Sons Carpet Company; landscaping, Wilbur Nursery Company; radiator shields, Adler Metal Products Corporation; pianos, The Aeolian Company of Missouri; folding chairs, Louis Rastetter & Sons Company; chairs, Conrades Manufacturing Company; tables, Missouri Furniture Company; kitchen equipment, Duke Manufacturing Company; refrigeration, Norge Company of Missouri; pews



and pulpit furniture, Manitowoc Church Furniture Company; electric light fixtures, Butler-Kohaus, Inc.; hardware, Geller, Ward & Hasner Hardware Company; cement work, Hinchman, Renton Construction Company; plumbing, William Hunt & Son; sheet metal, Missouri Fire Door & Cornice Company; slate roofing, George E. Lloyd; plastering, John Brenner Plastering Company; stone work, St. Louis Cut Stone Company; art glass, Davis Art Glass Company; plain glass, Condie-Bray Glass Company; stairs, Missouri Stair Company.

The beautiful electric clock in the vestibule of the Educational Building has been donated by the Hess & Culbertson Jewelry Company, the president of that company having formerly been an officer of this Church.

JOHN F. GREEN,
Chairman Building Committee.

