

Central Presbyterian Church
History Journal
Compiled in the 1950s



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ST. LOUIS, MO.

*117 years old since
1961*

In the spring of 1844 a number of persons, members of the Second Presbyterian Church, of St. Louis, Missouri presented a petition to the Presbytery of St. Louis, asking for the organization of another Old School Presbyterian Church in the city.

The request was granted, and on the evening of April 19th, 1844, such an organization was effected known as the Fourth Presbyterian Church. It commenced with thirty-two members. The first three or four years they worshipped in a frame building on the northeast corner of Sixth and St. Charles Streets.

The pulpit was supplied until May, 1845 by Rev. Joseph Templeton, when the first pastor, the Rev. Alexander Van Court was called.

Among the men prominent in the movement were: John H. Wimer, Taylor Blow, David W. Wheeler, John Huylman, Oliver Bennet, Thomas Osborn and Othniel Cannon.

In the spring of 1846 the authorities purchased a lot on the northwest corner of Eighth and Locust Streets, where they built a ¹¹⁵ commodium brick building. During the winter of 1848 the congregation moved to the basement of the new house of worship. At the Spring meeting of Presbytery the name of the church was changed to the Central Presbyterian Church. During the winter of 1848 Protracted Meetings were held resulting in quite a revival.

Rev. Mr. Van Court, their pastor from July, 1845 to July 1849 fell a victim to the terrible cholera pleague of that year.

The church was without a pastor until December 1850, when Dr. S. J. P. Anderson was installed as their second pastor. Under his care the church prospered and the membership grew to 343. Much of this was lost during the turbulent Civil War period, but with the end of hostilities, happier conditions prevailed. During the winter of 1852-1853, Dr. Anderson held Evangelistic Meetings at the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Illinois, of which Dr. Smith was pastor, resulting in quite a revival, during which Mrs. Abraham Lincoln united with the church and had her son Robert baptized. Another one who joined at the same time shortly after became a member of Dr. Anderson's church in St. Louis, and continued in that church until her death nearly fifty years later. Dr. Anderson lost his voice in the pulpit; and later resigned May, 1868. He was called the Silver Tongued Orator.

On May 31, 1869 Dr. Robert G. Brank was installed as its third pastor. The church prospered greatly under his care. In 1870 a lot was purchased on the northeast corner of Lucas and Garrison Avenues, on which a frame chapel was built in which an afternoon Sunday School was held. In 1873 the church became unsafe

as the walls were cracked owing to the building of the railway tunnel on Eighth Street. The congregation moved out to the chapel, which had been moved to the adjoining lot thus leaving the corner free for the new church building which was a very handsome stone structure of the English Gothic style, built at a cost of \$145,000. The Chapel portion contained Sunday School class rooms, Library, Parlor, Dining Room, Kitchen, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Dressing Rooms.

During the winter of 1879-1880, when Moody and Sankey were in St. Louis, afternoon Bible Meetings were held in this church resulting in quite a few conversions. In the early nineties Dr. Edward Guerrant, of Kentucky held services here.

In 1893 Dr. Brank's health not being very good, an Associate Pastor, Reverent Edward Mack was called. At Dr. Brank's death in August 1895 he became sole pastor until 1897, when he resigned, much to the sorrow of the people by whom he was much beloved.

Reverent A. F. Carr, the next pastor was installed March 20, 1898 and remained three years, till March 1901, when his physician advised him to find a church further south as the climate of St. Louis did not agree with him. During Dr. Carr's pastorate in 1898 the Glascow Avenue Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. joined Central, her Elders becoming Elders in the United Church.

On February 2nd 1902 Reverend J. Layton Mauze was installed the sixth pastor of the Church. The Church flourished at Lucas and Garrison Avenues until the neighborhood changing, the great majority of its members moving much farther west it was thought best to sell the Church and move west. This was done in 1906. It was sold to a Jewish congregation and a new Church was built on the southeast corner of Clara and Delmar Avenues.

This was a more modest brick building, although up to date in its equipment. There were four Memorial Windows; and an Organ given in memory of a faithful member, Mrs. Hodgeman, by her children. Dr. Mauze was pastor for fifteen years and the Church prospered under his care. After the Church at Garrison and Lucas Avenues was sold the congregation worshipped in a Jewish Church at Kingshighway and Enright Avenues for six months; when the Masons offered the use of their Chapel at the Masonic Home on Delmar Boulevard above Union Avenue, where all services were held until the auditorium of the new church was completed and the Sunday School until the Chapel was completed. Rev. Trigg A. Thomas held services in this Church. In June 1917 Dr. Mauze accepted a call to Huntington, West Virginia.

In January 1918 Dr. Donald G. MacLeod was installed as pastor. He was a fine preacher of Nova Scotian parentage and was especially attentive to the sick of his congregation. He held this position until November 1922. *4 yrs*

In October 1923 James Luther Fowle was called. He was very successful in his work among the young people especially. Melvin Trotter held services in November 1926. February 9-13, 1927, Rev. Wade C. Smith held a conference on personal evangelism. And Dr. Campbell Morgan held services for a week, Bible Readings in the afternoons and Evangelistic Services in the evenings, during the winter of 1925-26, 9,000 attended these services. And in May 16--19 1927 he returned to hold another instructive conference. Dr. James F. Gray, President of Moody Bible Institute held services December 2--7, 1928. Dr. H. A. Ironsides, also held services in this church during Dr. Fowle's pastorate. In March 1929 Dr. Fowle resigned to accept a call to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Rev. Robert Karr, United Presbyterian Minister, one of the

faculty of the U. P. Seminary in St. Louis at the time, occupied the pulpit and as far as possible filled the place of pastor very acceptably for eighteen months when it was necessary for him to move to Pittsburg, as the Seminary had united with the one at Pittsburg.

Dr. Charles C. Carson, General Assembly Evangelist occupied the pulpit for some time giving good gospel sermons.

In 1930 conditions arose that made it expedient to relocate in St. Louis County and as Clayton Church had made some overtures previously toward a union of the Churches, it was completed at this time with the understanding that their Elders and Deacons should have like office in Central and that their pastor, Dr. Walter M. Langtry should become Pastor Emeritus; with a stipulated salary. Dr. Langtry had been pastor of Clayton Church for thirty-one years.

The ground purchased for the new Church was the southwest corner of Hanley Road and Davis Drive, where the present handsome stone edifice was built and occupied the last of September 1931. The Educational Building connecting with the church on the west contains the parlors and Sunday School rooms for all the different departments. Junior, Intermediate and Senior Departments have class rooms for the different classes. The Beginners have a beautiful large light room. As has also the Primary Department. The Pastor's Study is in this building; also the Church Office and a perfectly equipped kitchen. Under the Church Auditorium and the same size, is a room used as a Dining Room and finished with platform, lights and curtains so that all entertainments and pageants as well as dinners are held there. The handsome Memorial Windows were removed from the Church at Clara and Delmar and placed in the new Church.

The new pastor, Theodore S. Smylie came to Central from

the Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee, January 1, 1931.

The first funeral in this Church was that of the Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. John F. Green, who for the last twenty-five years of his life was easily the most outstanding character in the Church which he loved. A minister, who had known him in college days, but more intimately the last years of his life, said he was the most nearly perfect man he ever knew. He died August 24, 1932, an irreparable loss to his church.

In November 1933, Dr. F. Crosby Morgan held a Six Day Bible Conference in this Church, which was well attended and much enjoyed.

P A S T O R S A N D C H U R C H E S



REV. ALEXANDER VAN COURT

The first pastor was Rev. Alexander Van Court, July 1845; who died of cholera July 1849. His members spoke of him as a very Godly man.



REV. SAMUEL J.P. ANDERSON

Rev. Samuel J.P. Anderson became pastor in December 1850. The Church grew and prospered under his ministry. Membership grew to 358 in 1858. Dr. Anderson was called the "Silver-Tongued Orator." In 1868 he lost his voice in the pulpit and resigned in May of that year.



Dr. Robert G. Branks
Pastor 1869-1895



Mrs. R. G. Branks
Pastor's wife

==1869—1894.==

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Pastorate of

REV. R. G. BRANK, D. D.

1. ORGAN PRELUDE,
Mr. Charles Galloway.
2. ANTHEM—"Rejoice in the Lord," - *Kotchmar.*
Miss McGinness, Miss McGrath, Mr. Ravold, Mr. Bauer.
3. PRAYER.
4. SCRIPTURE—Psalm 84.
5. HYMN—No. 309,
Congregation.
6. ADDRESS—"Fraternity of Churches,"
Rev. J. F. Cannon, D. D.
7. BARITONE SOLO—"Lost Chord," - *Sullivan.*
Mr. O. Hudson Bauer.
8. ADDRESS—"Beauty of the Long Pastorate,"
Rev. G. E. Martin, D. D.
9. CONTRALTO SOLO—"He Shall Feed His Flock," *Messiah.*
Mrs. Franklin A. Spencer.
10. ADDRESS—"The Pastor and the Man,"
Rev. M. Rhodes, D. D.
11. SOPRANO SOLO—The Pilgrim, - - *Adams.*
Miss McGinness.
12. HYMN—No. 35.
Congregation.
13. BENEDICTION—By Dr. Brank.

ST. LOUIS PRESBYTERIAN

ROBERT P. FARRIS, }
HENRY C. EVANS, } Editors.

Editorial Correspondent.
E. C. GORDON, D. D., - - Missouri.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1894.

TWO ANNIVERSARIES.

The Central Presbyterian Church of this city has just celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pastorate of its present pastor, Rev. R. G. Brank, D. D., and the fiftieth anniversary of its own history. On Sabbath, May 20th, Dr. Brank preached his twenty-fifth anniversary sermon. On Thursday of last week the two events were celebrated in the church, Rev. Edward Mack, co-pastor of the church, presided. Very happy and appropriate addresses were made by Rev. M. Rhodes, D. D., Rev. George Martin, D. D., and Rev. J. F. Cannon, D. D. Mr. William Graham, an elder in the Central church, in a beautiful speech presented Dr. Brank a one thousand dollar silver certificate. This was a present from the congregation as an expression of their love for their faithful Pastor. Perhaps, the happiest event of the dual celebration was the presentation, to Dr. Brank, of two hundred and fifty silver ten-cent pieces. These were gifts of the two hundred and fifty members of his church whom the Pastor had baptized in infancy, and who are still members of the Central church. Very appropriately, the presentation speech was made by Mr. Thomas Boothe who was the first "baby" baptized by Dr. Brank in this pastorate. Letters were read from Drs. Brooks and Niccolls, expressing regret for their absence and congratulations to Dr. Brank and his people.



*Yours very sincerely
Robt G. Brank*

REV. ROBERT GARLAND BRANK

Dr. Robert Garland Brank became pastor May 31, 1869. He was the son of Captain Ephraim McLean Brank, a surveyor and lawyer, who lived in Greenville Kentucky. It was at Greenville that Robert G. Brank was born November 3, 1824. He attended school in Greenville and graduated from Center College in Danville, Kentucky in 1848. He studied and practiced law in Greenville and was also a surveyor, like his father. Having decided to enter the ministry he attended New Albany Seminary and also Princeton Theological Seminary 1848-1849. He was ordained by the Presbytery of West Lexington, Kentucky May 5, 1852 and installed as pastor of Harmony Church at that time where he remained until 1854. He was pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Kentucky from 1854-1869 when he came to Central where he remained until he died, August 21, 1895. He was buried in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dr. Brank received the degree of D.D. in 1869 from Center College. In 1865 he married Ruth Ann Smith, daughter of Dr. John Rockwell Smith of Lexington Kentucky. She was truly a helpmate in

his work at Central and was much beloved. They had four children: Sarah Warfield, who married Rev. Mr. Cummings of Kentucky and three sons, the second being Dr. Rockwell Brank, of Summit, New Jersey. Dr. Brank was six feet three inches tall and carried himself well, so he was distinguished in appearance as well as mind and achievements. He was eloquent as a preacher, a faithful pastor and much loved man. The daily press called him the St. John of the St. Louis pulpits.



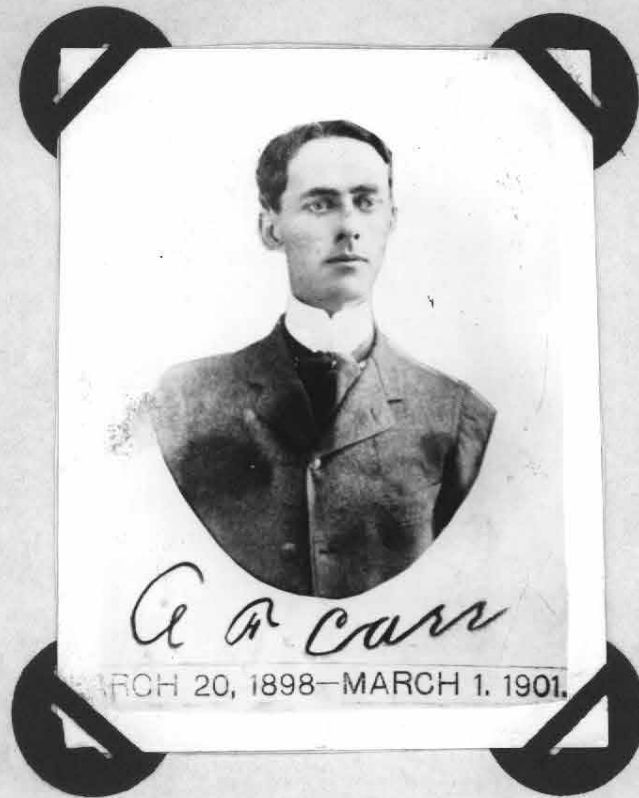
REV. EDWARD MACK

Rev. Edward Mack was Associate Pastor with Dr. Brank in 1893-1894 and after Dr. Brank's death became pastor until 1897.

Dr. Mack was born in Charleston, South Carolina July 16, 1868. He was the fourth in successive generations of ministers. His father was pastor in Charleston when he was born. He received the degree of A.B. from Davidson in 1886. His theological studies were pursued in Columbia and Princeton. On graduation from

Princeton in 1889 he was awarded the Hebrew Fellowship, by reason of which he studied for three sessions in the University of Berlin, 1890-1891. He also did graduate work in Cincinnati. He was ordained by the Albemarle Presbytery in 1889 and served a brief pastorate at Washington, N. C. before going to Berlin. After his return from Germany Dr. Mack served the First Church at Charleston, N.C. as supply, was called to be its pastor. But on account of his youth he declined that call and accepted the call to become the Associate of Dr. Brank. In 1897 he left St. Louis, with great regret, but under a sense of duty, to become the pastor of the first Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia. After five years he accepted a call to Shreveport, La. All his training had tended toward preparation for teaching, but preferring the work of the pastorate he declined several invitations to professorships in theological seminaries, but receiving a call to the Chair of Old Testament in Lane Seminary, without his knowledge or desire, he felt duty bound to accept. After eleven years in Lane, he went in 1915 to the Old Testament Chair in Union Theological Seminary, where he is still serving.

He received from the University of Cincinnati his PHD Degree; DD from Hamden-Sydney; and LLD from Davidson. He has been twice married (1) to Miss Mary Ashley Kirby, of which union there are four children, one of them, Joseph is the fifth generation of Presbyterian Ministers. (2) Miss Leonore Tinsley, of Richmond, Va., by whom he has one child, Tinsley, who insists he expects to preach.



REV. ARCHIBALD FAIRLY CARR

Rev. Archibald Fairly Carr, now Dr. Carr, became pastor of Central Church, March 20, 1898. He resigned March 1, 1901. Dr. Carr was born in Covington, County Mississippi August 29, 1868. His father was Lafayette Carr, a physician and his mother Jane Fairly whose people came over from Scotland in Colonial times and settled in North Carolina. He attended the Southwestern University at Clarksville, Tennessee, graduating with an A.B. degree in 1894; and with A.M. and B.D. in 1896. In the spring of 1896 he went to Baltimore as Assistant to Dr. W. U. Markland in the Franklin Street Church. After serving there for two years he was called to the pastorate of Central Church and began work there in March 1898. He was ordained to the ministry in Central Church by the St. Louis Presbytery that same month. He resigned March 1, 1901. Since that time he has had pastorates in Mobile Alabama, Fort Worth Texas, Savannah Georgia and is now located at Umatilla, Florida.



J. Layton Mauze

FEBRUARY 2, 1902.

DR. J. LAYTON MAUZE

Dr. J. Layton Mauze became pastor of Central Church, February 1, 1902. He was born at Montevideo, Virginia. He was educated in the public schools, Augusta Military Academy, Hampden Sydney College and Union Theological Seminary, all of Virginia. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri in 1915. He was ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in 1899. He has served as pastor of the following churches: Timber Ridge and Fairfield Churches, Virginia, 1899-1902 Central Church, St. Louis 1902-1917. First Church, Huntington West Virginia 1917-1927. Central Church, Kansas City, Missouri Since 1927. Of his four boys ⁽²⁾to have entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.; George Watts, his oldest and J. Layton Mauze, Jr., his third son.

Due to the influence of Dr. Mauze, the Church in 1903 assumed the support of the work of Mr. William F. Bull, an old

classmate of his, and a Missionary in Kunsan, Korea; some years later they undertook his salary as well. The ladies not only helped in the finances, but for quite a number of years sent a valuable box of clothing and household linen to the Bulls. Until in fact, the Japanese Government made the custom duties so prohibitive as to make it imprudent to continue. They then sent checks to both Mr. and Mrs. Bull each Christmas.

About 1919 the church decided to adopt Dr. and Mrs. Francis R. Crowford, of Kashing, as our representatives in China and paid their salaries until 1928. They had to return to America, owing to trouble in China in 1927.

During 1917-1928



REV. JAMES LUTHER FOWLE

James Luther Fowle was born in Washington, North Carolina October 14, 1897. He is the son of Samuel Richardson Fowle and Mary Payne Fowle. He attended the public schools at Washington. In 1913-1914 he attended Randolph Macon Academy at Bedford City, Virginia. He entered Davidson College in 1914 and received his A.B. Degree in 1918. While in Davidson he received both Junior and Senior Orator's Medal. He took part in all phases of college life, including glee club and orchestra. In the summer of 1918 he did post-graduate work in Philosophy, History and English at John Hopkins in Baltimore and studied Music at Peabody Conservatory. In 1918 he entered Union Theological Seminary and graduated with B.D. in 1921. He was appointed Hoge Fellow and returned to spend a year in post-graduate study. He attended Princeton 1923-24 and received their Th. M. Degree. During vacation he preached as an Evangelist in Virginia and West Virginia. He was called to Central, was ordained and installed as pastor on his 26th birthday, October 14, 1923. While

there he served on many Synod and Presbytery Committees, also among the local ministers.. In the spring of 1929 he accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church at Chattanooga, Tennessee and seems to be as active in the work of the church at large as he was in St. Louis. He was married January 26th 1925 to Miss Katherine Ferguson, daughter of the Rev. Frances E. Ferguson, D.D. He has one child, Mary Payne Fowle.

During Dr. Fowle's pastorate the small remaining debt on the Church was paid and the building dedicated. Also the organ was much improved by the addition of chimes given in memory of Mrs. Charles L. Thompson, a long and faithful member of the Church by her children. ✓

DR. SMYLIE TO BE INSTATED SUNDAY

Several Pastors To Officiate At
Central Presbyterian
Service

The Rev. Theodore S. Smylie, pastor-elect at the Central Presbyterian Church, 6901 Belmar, will be formally instated as minister during a special service at 8 o'clock Sunday evening.

The committee who will have charge of the service includes Dr. Walter Langtry, pastor of the Clayton Presbyterian Church, who is expected to become emeritus upon the union of the two congregations with completion of the new church building at Hanley road and Davis drive, who will preside; Dr. William Crowe, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, who will preach the sermon; Dr. W. O. Davis, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Crystal City, Mo., who will charge the congregation; and W. S. Hancock, elder of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, who will complete the commission.

The Clayton congregation has been invited to attend this service.

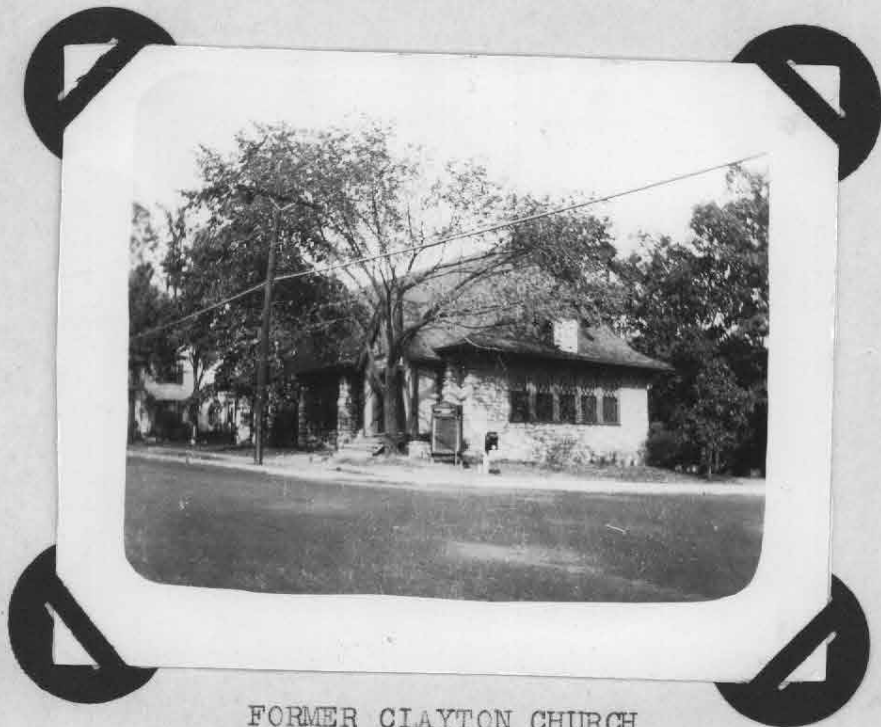
During the morning service at 11 o'clock, Dr. Smylie will give the third of a series of sermons on "A Soul-Saving Program." The church quartet will provide special music at both services. The public is invited.

DR. THEODORE SHAW SMYLIE

Rev. Theodore Shaw Smylie was born April 5, 1893 in Jackson, Louisiana, son of a minister, Rev. Nathaniel Smylie; grandson of two ministers: Revs. John A. Smylie and M. B. Shaw, all of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. Rev. John A. Smylie was one of the group which, in 1861 met in Augusta, Georgia to form the Southern Presbyterian Church. He attended Southwestern College, Clarksville, Tennessee. Graduated from Arkansas College, Batesville, Arkansas, with A.B. Degree. B.D. Degree from Louisville Theological Seminary in 1915. Received D.D. degree from Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri in 1931. His first pastorate was First Presbyterian Church, Welch, West Virginia. Then supplied North Fork, West Virginia. Then First Presbyterian Church, Paris, Kentucky. Second Presbyterian Church, Huntington, West Virginia. Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Memphis Tennessee. Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri in 1931. For about sixteen months he served as a Chaplain in the A.E.F. in the World's War. He married Miss Mildred Hutchinson of Ravenswood, West Virginia and has four sons.



REV. WALTER M. LANGTRY
Pastor Emeritis, Oct. 26, 1931.



FORMER CLAYTON CHURCH
Hanley Road and Forsyth

Walter McAfee Langtry

1866-1947



MRS. DALE MOORE LANGTRY
FUNERAL TO BE TOMORROW

83 yrs. Died Feb 3-1957
Funeral services for Mrs. Dale Moore Langtry, widow of the Rev. Walter M. Langtry, former pastor of the Clayton Presbyterian Church, will be tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at the Bopp undertaking establishment, 12 North Hanley road, with burial in Hiram cemetery.

Mrs. Langtry, who was 83 years old, died of infirmities Sunday at the home of her son, William A. Langtry, Chesterfield, where she had been living. She was active in church work during the 31 years that her husband held the pastorate in Clayton.

Surviving are two sons, William, and the Rev. Walter Dale Langtry of New Orleans.

There are a number of criteria by which men judge the success of a life. Perhaps the commonest — and least worthy — is material gain. By this standard, Dr. Langtry did not achieve spectacular success. He amassed no fortune. He left no legacy of gold and bonds. Another standard, often applied, is earthly fame, usually tinged with dubious notoriety. Here again, Dr. Langtry did not measure up. He never sought nor won the world's acclaim. He was no "political preacher". His influence was quiet and unassuming; but not less real because he never "threw his weight around". He never sat in the seat of the mighty nor gained for himself preferment, position, or power. But there is another standard for the determination of human worth and life success; and by that true measure Walter Langtry attained an enviable — more, a brilliant career. That ultimate criterion is the ability to live in harmony with oneself, with other people, and with God. By that three-fold standard alone can life be accurately assessed. No one was ever more perfectly integrated than Dr. Langtry. No insatiable ambitions, no base desires, no unacceptable passions tore his soul. Without pride or complacency, he was humbly and serenely at peace with himself. And that inner harmony carried over into his relations with his fellow men. He awakened no storms, he stirred no enmities. To be with him wrought calm. His very companionship was healing. Many men have had wider acquaintance, no man has more completely equated his contacts and his friendships. And the crown of his glorious success was his peace with God. No cataclysm shook his faith. He met the prophet's requirement of one who did justly and loved mercy and walked humbly with his God.

"The golden evening brightened in the west
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the Blest
Halleluja!"

— B. F. Hall



MR. JOHN F. GREEN

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have no record of when the first Sunday School was started, but it is known that Mr. David H. Bishop was one of the early Superintendents, later Mr. Thomas M. Barron. There have been quite a number, but the one who served the longest and most faithfully was Mr. John F. Green, whose own consistent Christian life was a wonderful example to the young people by whom he was much loved.

At present the school is governed by a commission composed of two elders, a deacon and a layman and seems to be in a flourishing condition.

It has a Cradle Roll Department, ages $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 years; Beginners 4 to 6; Primary 6 to 9; Junior 9 to 12; Intermediate 12 to 15; Senior, over 15. The Adult Department has three Bible Classes. There have been many earnest and efficient teachers in this school.

Dr. J. Layton Mauzé, Jr.

Layton Mauzé was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 27, 1908, the son of Dr. J. Layton Mauzé, Sr., and Eleanor Harmon Mauzé, and is one of six children.

He received his formal education at Davidson College, Columbia University, and Union Theological Seminary of Virginia. He was licensed and ordained June 9, 1935, in Kanawha Presbytery in West Virginia. He served as the Assistant Minister of The First Presbyterian Church, Huntington, West Virginia, from 1935 to 1937; as the Minister of The Central Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, from 1937 to 1949, and of The Central Presbyterian Church, Saint Louis, Missouri, from February, 1949, to the present. He received his Doctor of Divinity from Westminster College in 1941, and was Moderator of the Synod of Missouri in 1949.

He married Sue Dunn of Kinston, North Carolina, April 4, 1931. They have four children: Suzanne Mauzé Barefoot, J. Layton, 3rd, George, 3rd, and James Francis.

The only three churches in which Dr. Mauzé has served are the three ministered to by his father. He has one brother who is a minister, Dr. George Mauzé, in The First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, Texas.