

# First Baptist Church Is Observing 20th Anniversary of Present Edifice

By Alice E. Morgan

The 20th anniversary of the dedication of the First Baptist church will be observed here May 22-25. Some of the earlier history of the church has been recounted in previous articles. From the founding of the church in 1823, to its formal establishment in 1870, its story is a checkered one. After the erection of the first church in 1875, progress was more definite and rapid, however. By the turn of the century, it was well established and growing so that by 1912 the building had to be greatly enlarged and improved.

In 1924 it was decided that a new building should be erected. The material and spiritual prosperity of the church had grown during the first decade of the century. During the pastorate of Rev. Peter B. Mackay, from 1916 to 1922, it continued to accelerate. The desire for a new and modern church was expressed frequently, according to the minutes of the church. This desire was finally discussed seriously at a special business meeting held on Oct. 14, 1924.

**Resolution Adopted**  
Of the meeting, Ruth L. Hall, church clerk, reported "The following resolution was offered by Mr. Buck: 'Whereas, the First Baptist Church and Society of Birmingham has, during its entire existence worshipped in this house in which we are now gathered, and 'Whereas this has long ceased to be adequate for our needs, and 'Whereas, we have been able to secure a much better location for our church, and 'Whereas, our heavenly Father has prospered us to an unusual extent, and we want to show our appreciation for His goodness to us in a substantial manner.' Therefore, be it resolved that

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## To Preach Here

brought many visitors to Birmingham including pastors of many other churches. The Rev. Dr. Dwight Jones of Central-Woodland Christian church, along with Clarence Vliet, superintendent of Birmingham schools, and the Hon. Henry Ellery, city mayor, took an active part in the ceremony.

Shortly after the completion of the church building it was awarded a certificate of honorable merit by the "Christian Herald" in its national survey of churches for its beauty of design and serviceable use of the building.

The English Gothic building is of Indiana limestone. Its simple beauty is enhanced by the large tracery windows and the ecclesiastical symbols carved above the front entrance. The visitor, upon entering the sanctuary is impressed with the magnificence of the stone arch above the chancel and the great wooden beams that support the high vaulted roof. These huge beams, weighing about four tons each, are the Douglas fir beams brought here through the Pacific coast.

**Designed for Beauty**  
The whole interior was designed for harmonious beauty and convenience. From every point of the auditorium, with its seating capacity of 600, is pleasing to the eye, and conveys a feeling of peace and serenity.

The church building, with its banquet hall, pastor's study, church parlor and club rooms, was constructed with two ideas "superimposed" in its design and service. In the speaking of the present church the Rev. Emil Kontz stated, "The church was designed to serve not only the needs of adults but it is particularly adapted to minister to the religious and social life of the children and young people. Thus, it serves to carry out the church's ambition to make this building a center to which the entire community will welcome."

Men from the church have, in recent months, offered their spare time in cleaning and redecorating this building, making it ready for the 20th anniversary celebration.

"It is the hope of the congregation, myself included, during our anniversary week, many of our Birmingham neighbors will come and join with us in enjoying the beautiful building, dedicated to the spiritual, education and social welfare of this fine community," the Rev. Kontz said.

## Fidelis Class Holds Annual Supper Party

Members of the Fidelis Class of the First Baptist Church and their husbands totaled 60 at the annual class supper Monday evening. Mrs. Cornell Stanger was chairman of the dinner and was assisted by Mrs. Andrew Thompson and Mrs. Jack Burkett. Entertainment was handled by Mrs. C. Brisenidine, Mrs. Warner Shetting and Mrs. K. Perkins.

## Church Club Notes

**Woman's Society**  
The Woman's Society of the First Methodist Church will hold its monthly group meeting Wednesday, May 22, at 1:00 o'clock.

**Church Club Notes**  
The Young Adult Fellowship will gather in the Church House on Friday, May 23, at 8:00 p.m. to hear Shigeo Tanabe, minister of education of Trinity Methodist Church, Detroit. He will speak on the subject "The Japanese-Americans of the West Coast". Refreshments will be served. New officers for the ensuing year were elected at the last gathering and include Kenneth Jensen, Jr., vice-president (program chairman), Paul Metzler, secretary, Virginia VanderBrook and treasurer, Ed Falberg, (re-elected). These officers will assume their duties the first of July.

**Church Club Notes**  
At 11:00 a.m. Sunday, the Rev. Arnold F. Runkel will preach on the theme "When Jesus Made a Church Survey". Special music will be furnished through a duet by Victor Ulrich and Mrs. Edward Primus who will sing "Crucifix" by Faure, and a solo by Mrs. Frye Ayers who will sing "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked".

**Church Club Notes**  
The Annual Choir Festival will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday evening, May 25, at 7:00 p.m. The Senior, Youth, and Junior choirs will participate, along with special features. Social time with refreshments will be held for the choir and public in the church parlors at the close of the festival.

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# Services

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
11:00 a.m.—The Little Church.  
1:30 p.m.—Evening prayer and young people's service.  
Holy Communion every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. except Holy Communion every month when Holy Communion is celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Socials every Monday after school in the church basement. 15 to 16 years old. Weekdays, fun and worship.

**Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian**  
11:00 a.m.—Church School Classes for adults, senior and Junior High School.  
11:30 a.m.—Morning Worship "Moses, 11 and 12 and 13." Dr. Leslie A. Betsch preaching.  
11:45 a.m.—Church School with classes for the children between the ages of 3 and 11 years.  
7:00 p.m.—Youth Fellowship.  
Dr. Donald Volman, Minister.

**Birmingham Gospel Center**  
Sunday, 10 a.m.—Morning worship.  
Sun., 11:30 a.m.—Sunday School.  
Sun., 7:30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship Service.  
Wed., 8:00 a.m.—Prayer Service.  
Wed., 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study.

**St. Hugo of the Hills**  
10:00 a.m.—Morning worship.  
11:30 a.m.—Bible School.  
7:30 p.m.—Choir practice.

**United Brethren Church**  
Rev. G. W. Swartz, pastor.  
10:00 a.m.—Church School.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning worship.  
7:30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship.

**First Baptist Church**  
Rev. Emil Kontz, pastor.  
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## New York Man Gives Lecture on Christian Science

"As Spirit, Mind, is the only real power, the only reality and the only life-giving force, it is the only power that can be used to overcome the destructive forces of the material world. It is the only power that can be used to overcome the destructive forces of the material world. It is the only power that can be used to overcome the destructive forces of the material world."

The lecturer went on by asking "Where, then, is the danger of atomic force? Not in the force itself. The danger is in the accident of suggestion claiming that you and I are human persons dwelling in a material universe. It is the belief that the idea of eternal life cannot be annihilated by any force, atomic or otherwise. However, as long as you and I believe we are persons entertaining this idea of life's eternity, there will be destruction."

"The Manual of the Mother Church, which Mrs. Eddy gave for its guidance and for the development of the Christian Science movement, with its branch churches and manifold activities, was the result of her ardent prayers to bless humanity. This codification is an singular miracle, because not only for the movement itself, but also for the world-governments that the United Nations are endeavoring to establish."

**Where Is the Danger?**  
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Services commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beautiful, modern church

May 22-25, 1946  
SUNDAY, MAY 22, at 11 A.M.—Anniversary Worship  
MONDAY, MAY 23, at 8 P.M.—Historical Night  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 6:45 P.M.—Anniversary Supper

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