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IN MICHIGAN FOR 100 YEARS . . .

SHEETZ

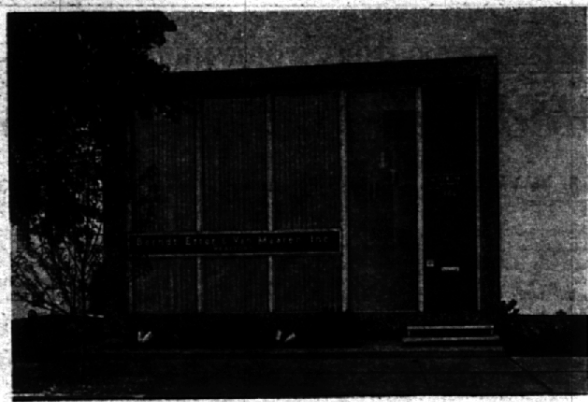
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Our Prayer For Birmingham

MAY SHE GROW AS GRACIOUSLY HER SECOND HUNDRED YEARS . . .



From 1916



1964

For nearly half of its 100 years, Birmingham has had Christian Science Church services. Starting out in June of 1916, when a group began meeting in homes to read the Sunday church service, the Christian Scientists now occupy a Georgian style edifice at the corner of Willis and Chester streets.

The church, which was extensively remodeled four years ago, has an auditorium seating over 400 and at the same time increased the size of the Sunday School to meet the needs of a growing community.

On that first Sunday 48 years ago, eight persons met at the home of A.I. Philp, on Quaker Road, and while the adults were holding their service, one teacher was teaching a Sunday School class of six children.

After meeting informally in homes for three months, the group secured a regular meeting room in the old Birmingham Club. In May, 1917, the group was formally organized into the Christian Science Society of Birmingham, a branch of the Mother Church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.

By 1924, the Society had grown large enough to be designated as First Church of Christ, Scientist, Birmingham, and a year later, the present site was purchased and a church building started.

The first service in the new church was held in July, 1927, and on June 10, 1928, the church was dedicated. A Christian Science church cannot be dedicated until it is completely free of debt.

With the post-war population growth in the Birmingham area and its resulting increase in the congregation and Sunday School enrollment, the facilities soon became overcrowded. Two complete sessions of church and Sunday School were instituted in October, 1953, to accommodate the larger attendance.

In 1956, it was decided to renovate and remodel the existing building rather than move to a new location. Purchase of the property adjacent to the rear of the church provided the additional space for this expansion.

The first step was a one-story addition to the Sunday School, doubling its capacity. Remodeling of the church was begun in May, 1960, and during the remodeling period, services were held in the Community House. Sunday School classes met in the already finished addition.

The project was completed in March of 1961, and members returned to the enlarged church which was redesigned, redecorated and refurnished throughout.

Regular Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services and Sunday School for pupils up to 20 years of age, are held. In addition the church annually sponsors several lectures on Christian Science by members of the Board of Lectureship of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Mass., which are open to the public.

The church also maintains a Reading Room at 355 E. Maple where the Bible and Christian Science literature are available for reading, borrowing or purchasing.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

is happy to have been part of Birmingham for half its hundred years.