

# History of the Church



Kirkland Congregational Church's Original Building



Kirkland Congregational Church UCC Today

[Origin of Kirkland Congregational Church](#)

[A Condensed History of Kirkland Congregational Church](#)

[The Story of the Stained Glass Panels](#)

[The Story of Our Church Bell](#)

## **Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship**

**By Shirley Lindahl**

In the interest of reminding those of us who know about the history of our church and also provide newcomers some interesting facts of our long history in this community, Jerry Rutherford provided a monthly column with information from Shirley's book. Following are some of the articles she wrote:



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## **Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship**

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Mrs. McGregor's Dream**

In the January issue I reached the end of Shirley's book. We have decided to begin again with our history. There is an introductory paragraph in the book which gives the reader an insight of why she gathered this information together. It states:  
For the past 100 years the life of this church and the community have been interwoven like a colorful tapestry. Long before the settlers organized into a city, they gathered together to worship and formed a church. This is the story of the Kirkland Congregational Church, its members and the community in which they have lived during a century of Christian Fellowship.

In Shirley's acknowledgement she tells of how she collected the information by going through miscellaneous church record books, trustees board minutes, Ladies Aid notes and quantities of other papers saved for what reason no one will ever know. Piece by piece the story began to fit as she read the records of the past dating from Samuel Greene's first memorandum in the original clerk's book. (He served as minister from March 1880 to July 1987.) John Gates was one of the church historian and was a great deal of help. Pam Owen, one of our current congregation is the daughter of John & Gertrude Gates.

We are all grateful to Shirley for the long hours she spent researching the paperwork to give us her book. It was published in 1979. Now someone needs to step forward to research from that date to the present.

We begin with Shirley's first chapter: "Mrs. McGregor's Dream"

The heavily timbered hills on the eastern shore of Lake Washington were a formidable wilderness in the 1870's. A few homesteaders had struggled to clear sufficient acreage to farm the fertile land. One of the first was Mrs. Nancy McGregor and her two sons, James and William Popham. They settled near the shore of Pleasant Bay, today identified as Yarrow Bay.

Aside from seeing a few Indians who camped nearby, they seldom had visitors. The prospect of neighbors became a reality in 1872 when S. Foster (Sam) French and his son Harry arrived to begin clearing the land they had just purchased. Mrs. French (Caroline) remained in Seattle for the three months it took her husband and son to build the log cabin that was to be her new home. Several times they rowed across the lake to visit her and buy additional supplies.

Their building site was on the shore of Lake Washington in the vicinity of N.E. 60th. Mrs. French often picked her way along the crude lakefront trail to Mrs. McGregor's cabin. Mrs. McGregor's constant prayer was that the gospel of Jesus Christ might be preached in this area. However, Mrs. McGregor's health failed and she moved to California before her dream became a reality.

Harry French who was active in this church for over 60 years bought 80 acres of his own immediately north of his father's land. He built a cabin of shakes and logs from his own land. In 1874 this ambitious young bachelor built a wood frame house, the first on the east side of the lake. He lived out the next 63 years of his life in this two-story nine room home. The house was preserved and moved a short distance away to 4130 Lake Washington Blvd. where it was restored.

One Sunday in June 1879 a rowboat ventured across the lake and two men made their way to the French's cabin. They were Samuel Greene and Rev. Harrison from Seattle and said that they would like to talk about starting a Sunday School for the settlers. Caroline French invited them to return the first Sunday in July when she would invite the neighbors to gather. To her delight she found 40 interested people to attend. Mr. Greene preached a brief sermon and agreed to return every two weeks.

The seeds of Christianity had been sown in a community with diverse backgrounds-- New England Congregationalists, Mid-western Methodists to Scandinavian immigrants.

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## **The Church is Founded, Constitution is Adopted**

It was in March of 1880 that the church was founded -- we are known now as the Kirkland Congregational Church---That is 118 years ago this month. Samuel Green wrote in the church register that day that Mrs. McGregor the Christian woman who had the dream of a church in this area had "since past from earth and we believe is now in heaven" --was having her prayers answered by the organization which was first known as the First Church of Christ of Pleasant Bay. The date was March 7, 1880. Rev. G. H. Atkinson, Supt. of the American Home Missionary Society of New York (then residing in Portland, Oregon) preached the sermon on John 1:1-9, "Christ the Light of the world."

Since two of the new members had not been baptized, Rev. Atkinson performed the rites for Lucy Tuttle, 15, and Louise Tuttle, 13 before the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Following the worship service they adopted by formal vote the constitution and Confession of Faith.

Samuel Green was chosen acting pastor and Caroline French was elected as church clerk. The following Sunday they elected officers and voted to apply for financial aid to the American Home Missionary Society.

The man the group had chosen to be their pastor was a dedicated Christian but was not an ordained minister. Therefore, the first order of business was to call a council of churches to examine his qualifications to judge whether he should be ordained. Congregational churches from Washington Territory (we did not become a state until November, 1889) were invited to meet at Plymouth church in Seattle (founded in 1870). Others included Olympia (1873), Mission (North Seattle), New Tacoma, Pilgrim (Fidalgo Island) and Union (Port Gamble).

Samuel Greene was required to "relate his Christian experiences and his views on the doctrine of the Bible." It was then voted unanimously that this man be ordained which the council did at an impressive ceremony that very evening. The local church approved the action of the council the very next week. "Brother Greene" was now Reverend Greene.

Reverend Greene was 44 years of age at this time. His father was a minister in Beacon Hill, Boston. It was a Congregational home and he was the fifth of 12 children. His father was secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions.

Rev. Greene and his wife Sarah moved west to Washington Territory where his brother Roger was a judge on the territorial Supreme Court in Olympia. His brother helped him get a job as an assistant Indian agent in Neah Bay where he served from 1874-75.

They then moved to the area which is now Auburn where he farmed and helped organize a church.

Three years later they moved to Seattle and joined Plymouth Congregational Church. It had always been his desire to become a minister. During the next 20 years he left his mark on Congregationalism in Washington as he helped found over 90 churches and hundreds of Sunday Schools. The only pastorate he served as a minister was the first Church of Christ of Pleasant Bay. (Our church.)

The newly chartered church filed for incorporation by stating the name, place of business, membership, officers, meetings and object. This was done to abide by the laws of the Territory of Washington. The official document registering the corporation was signed and had the seal attached by S. Foster French, Justice of the Peace, Juanita Precinct, King County, Washington Territory.

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### **The Minister was a Carpenter and The Bell Arrives**

The newly chartered church was incorporated and had a minister. Next came the bonding of the treasurer and a request for building sites. Harry French's offer was accepted. He wrote, "I will give a deed to one-half acre of land to the First Church of Christ of Pleasant Bay on condition that the Society shall do all the fencing to said lot..." (The land described was approximately at N.E. 66th along the present Lake Washington Blvd.)

The building committee was appointed in May, 1880. Their directive stated: "to select plans for a church building, locate the same on the lot selected and circulate a subscription for money, labor and material toward erection of the same." Further instructions were that "no debt shall be incurred on any condition whatever, without the means in hand to pay the same."

Aid in the amount of \$300 was asked of the American Congregational Union Building society.

Construction of the church was done by members but mostly by Reverend Greene who was a skilled carpenter. His report of December 10 was that the costs to date were \$435.14 and there was still a need to "complete the front step. The amount needed to furnish the main audience room depending upon what manner we should conclude to furnish it, whether it was with permanent pews or mere boards or benches, whether we should have a pulpit and chairs or a rough table and a box for a seat."

The Trustees gave Rev. Greene a lot for the parsonage. He cleared the land and fenced it for his pony, "Dusty" who carried him on his rounds. In January, 1881, Harry French who had been involved with the church since its inception, asked that he be baptized and thus became a member of the church.

Gifts to furnish the church were a bible for the altar from Mrs. Greene's mother, a check for \$100 from the Central Congregational Church of Providence, R.I. for furnishings--the Trustees authorized using the gift to purchase 20 pews and a pulpit.

Sarah Greene received a letter from a friend in Boston, Sarah Jane Houghton. She wanted the church to have a bell--not a poor one, but a good one. She hoped we could procure one on the West Coast. Word was sent back that there were no bell foundries in the West.

On July 1, 1881 the promised bell arrived. When Mrs. Houghton discovered none was available on the West Coast she ordered one from Meneely & Co. of West Troy, New York. The bell she selected was 32 inches wide and 24 inches high. It weighed 615 lbs, which meant it was worth approximately \$200 at that time. (In 1976 it was valued at \$8000.)

The church did not have a belfry nor the money at that time to do any further building so the bell was placed on a platform in front of the church. It was the first bell to be rung on the Eastside.

In gratitude for this generous gift "our settlement has decided to take the name of Houghton." (A name that remained in effect until 1967 when Houghton consolidated with Kirkland.)

This bell still rings for our Sunday services. (There is another story of our bell was refurbished after not ringing for several years -we'll write it for another issue.)

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### **Washington Association Meets in Houghton Church**

Congregational churches of Oregon and Washington had been grouped under one association until 1879 when the Congregational Association of Washington was formed. The Houghton church sent four delegates to the association meeting in 1880.

During 1881 weekly prayer meetings were held. Bible study was conducted on Sunday evening in addition to the regular Sunday morning service. The pastor preached only on the first and third Sunday of each month. The rest of the time everyone attended the Sunday School.

After the first full year there were 29 members. Included in the newcomers were Mr. and Mrs. John W. DeMott, whose homestead included most of the property now in downtown Kirkland. The other was Eliza Forbes, wife of Dorr Forbes. They had property on what is now Rose Hill and a saw mill in Juanita which was located north of what is now Juanita Beach. They later opened a resort area called "Juanita Beach" which is the east section of the current park. Eliza Forbes was the first woman justice of the peace in King County.

The following financial report should be of interest to us all--particularly the amount of money spent as compared to our annual budget at this time.

Treasurer Harry French reported at the annual meeting on March 4, 1882 that in addition to the \$350 aid received from the American Home Mission Society that the local church had raised \$117.86. These funds went to pay the pastor, buy Sunday School supplies, payments on two loans and a gift to foreign missions--leaving a balance on hand of \$2.75.

It was also reported that the five Sunday School classes had an average attendance of about 29 children.

Some of the expenses listed for 1882 included a map of Palestine, \$5.10; clock, \$6.25; stove, \$13.24; insurance, \$9.00; taxes, \$4.40; lamp brackets, \$5.35; can of coal oil, \$1.90. The pastor received \$60 from the local church for his salary which was supplemented by the aid sent by AHMS in the amount of \$350.

In July of 1883 the members of the church felt they were ready to host the meeting of the Washington Association. This was quite an undertaking for a church that was only three years old.

Letters were sent out announcing the Fifth Annual meeting of this group stating that each church was entitled to one delegate for its organization and one for each 10 members or majority fraction of ten.

It also stated that the church would solicit lower rates from the transportation lines to the area--from Seattle by stage to Lake Washington and then by steam ferry crossing the lake. In the narrative of this event no mention was made of housing, but what usually happened was that local families provided it.

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## **Bell Rings from Belfry**

In January of 1885 a bad snowstorm struck forcing cancellation of church services. During the spring of that year a fund drive resulted in enough cash to finally build the long-awaited belfry at a cost of \$187.27. Reverend Greene stated... "I am thankful today that the bell hangs there and my heart feels grateful each time my ear quivers with its sound."

Hattie Greene, daughter of the pastor, taught the children of the community in the one-room school housed in Harry French's cabin. She also substituted frequently for her mother's Sunday School class.

The pastor was a busy man as he noted that he had made 218 pastoral calls, conducted 4 funerals, 2 marriages and helped organize a church in Redmond. Congregational churches have traditionally sponsored educational institutions having been founders of Yale, Harvard, Oberlin, Smith and Mount Holyoke. In the West, Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon was established.

In February of 1887 Samuel Greene wrote a letter of resignation with regret. He had served over seven years and going to work for the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society in Western Washington. The church accepted his resignation and voted "that we tender to Reverend Greene a vote of thanks for his faithful labor amongst us as pastor."

In March, 1887 it was voted to change the name of the church to First Congregational Church of Houghton. A committee of three was appointed to secure a new pastor. Reverend D. H. Bicknell of Eugene, Oregon was invited to become pastor for the pledge of \$150 annually plus the aid granted from AHMS. He accepted and began his work July 10, 1887.

Sparseness of population, lack of wealth and smallness of church membership were noted by the new pastor but he did recognize the opportunity for growth and felt that "the outlook for the next few years can be looked upon as cheering. The railroad is bringing a brighter prospect to the new country just east of us." At this time Rev. Bicknell was also preaching once a month in Bothell and Woodinville and every two weeks in Redmond.

His predictions came true and in 1888 the church was able to meet current expenses, raise the pastor's salary and was not in debt.

The organ fund met its goal with the help of the Ladies Aid and the instrument purchased was "one of the best of its class on the coast." Molly Curtis who had been active in the church was able to use her musical talents and became the church organist. Her husband was the choir director.

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### **Arrival of Peter Kirk**

In 1888 rumors had been rampant that an enterprising Englishman named Peter Kirk was attempting to interest financiers in backing his plan for a steel mill in the area immediately north of Houghton.

Kirk envisioned a "Pittsburgh of the West" with a steel mill patterned after the one he operated in England. He would obtain the iron ore from the mines of A. A. Denny in the Snoqualmie Mountains. With the West being opened by the railroads he saw a ready market for steel rails.

With Leigh Hunt, owner of the Seattle Post Intelligencer, A. A. Denny and George Heilbron, Seattle businessmen and Walter Williams, a fellow Englishman, Peter Kirk set up the Kirkland Land and Improvement Co. Since aliens could not purchase land, he needed the assistance of the Seattle Businessmen to acquire the site for his steel mill. The area selected was the homesteads of John DeMott and Ed Church.

Land sales frantically took place as local families sold their property to Leigh Hunt in the name of the Land Company. In a matter of months he had purchased over 1200 acres.

John George Kellett came from England with Kirk and was given the responsibility for platting the newly acquired land into a town site. He decided the lake shore reminded him of the setting of the steel works in England so he gave it the name of Moss Bay. He wanted the town named for the man who was planning to make it into a city of 50,000---so he called it "Kirkland."

The group had been unsuccessful in purchasing property from many of the settlers south of Moss Bay so they decided to center the town on the hill to the north. Large brick houses were built for the executives of the newly formed Moss Bay Iron and Steel Works. Several of these are still standing in the 400 and 500 blocks of 10th Ave.

West. (Jo Ann and George Harris reside in one of these homes which they restored.) Construction began on large brick office buildings, a bank and stores in what was to be the town square at Market St. and Piccadilly (7th Ave.). Hillside lots west of Market were platted at an angle so as many as possible would enjoy a view of the lake. (I always wondered why those streets were at an angle!)

In the fall of '88 the wife of Peter Kirk left her palatial home in England and with her 8 children traveled first to Victoria, B.C. until housing could be arranged in Kirkland.

The railroad refused to build a line along the marshy lake shore and chose to construct it on the hill east of the town site. The town site was replatted and the mill site relocated. Piccadilly (7th Ave.) was extended and planked up the hill to the mill site on land which was purchased from Dorr and Eliza Forbes near the lake that bears their name (Forbes Lake is now called Lake Kirkland).

Problems arose daily. The lack of a rail line to the ore and coal fields raised doubts in the minds of some but work still went on at the mill site. Kirkland was making front page news in the Puget Sound papers in 1889---as well as the stories on the great fire in Seattle.

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## **Boom Affected Life in the Church**

The activity of Peter Kirk to build his steel mill had its effect on the church and its members. Harry French and Ed Church put up one of the brick buildings on Market St. It was to be a combination grocery store and post office. Today this building is the Masonic Temple of Kirkland Lodge F. & A.M. (Corner of 7th Ave. & market Street.)

Business was brisk on the lake so Frank Curtis and his teenage sons Alvin & Walt sold some of their land to help finance the building of a 60 foot steamer, "Elfin." In 1891 the competition was keen. The fare to Seattle was 10 cents each way. The speedy little steamer held 35 passengers of 2 1/2 tons of freight and traveled at 12 m.p.h. On the six trips it made daily between Kirkland, Houghton, Yarrow and Seattle. Some days it had as many as 180 passengers because many people were crossing to Madison St. where the cable car had begun operating in 1889. This meant a lot of wood chopping each day for young Walt to keep the steamer fueled. (Sounds like a good idea to move traffic across the lake at this time!!)

On February 9, 1890, the church took in 22 new members. Included in those who joined by confession of their faith that Sunday were young Peter Kirk, Jr. and his sisters Fanny, Clara and Mary. Another sister, Florence, had been assistant organist for a short time before she married and returned to England.

A Christmas program was held for the first time in 1890. The church clerk, George Taylor wrote: "At about 7:30 PM the little church on the lakefront began to assume a lively appearance and at 8 o'clock it was packed to overflowing. A Christmas tree was hung with presents. Candies and sweet meats were handed out. A literary and musical program provided the entertainment."

In 1893 financial disaster struck the United States and the ripples reached Kirkland in a devastating manner. Eastern capital was suddenly withdrawn from the young steel

company and before it ever reached production it was declared bankrupt. It is estimated over a million dollars was lost by those who had invested in the area.

The flourishing community was becoming deserted. There were no jobs so families moved away leaving empty houses and closed businesses behind. Church membership began to dwindle.

When the population was growing in 1890 Rev. Rose had suggested that a new church should be formed further north "to hold the field against any similar church." Following the bankruptcy of the steel mill several suggested that a request for consolidation of the two churches be considered.

Rev. Rose had resigned and the new pastor Rev. Horatio Ailing had been called with the understanding that he would serve both churches. An Ecclesiastical Council was called in January, 1894. After deliberating the consolidation they were unanimous in the opinion that the two churches should be united.

The joint services were held for the next four months with favorable results so the members were canvassed and a meeting held July 3, 1894, where a resolution was adopted unanimously and became known as The First Congregational Church of Kirkland.

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## Consolidation for Survival

In December of 1894 the First Congregational Church of Kirkland was incorporated. The Houghton and Kirkland churches had petitioned the AHMS for aid so that they could call Rev. George Anderson for six months (that was in 1892 before the incorporation). In 1893 they called Rev. Horatio Alling.

Then in 1894 the Houghton Congregational Church members transferred their membership to the Kirkland Church. Reorganizing took place and elections were held. As a condition of the consolidation the council had recommended moving to a more central site. It was voted to move the Kirkland building and to use the Houghton building as a parsonage. A committee was appointed to select the new site, another to investigate moving and remodeling projects and third to correspond with the Congregational Church Building Society about consolidating the mortgages.

Since the Kirkland Land and Improvement Co. had donated the original site for the church, the committee decided to see if they could just trade lots. They proposed making an exchange for lots 7 & 8 in block 195 on Clarkston St. (5th Ave). The Land Co. agreed and the deeds were exchanged (much easier in those days!).

The church record says, "the church building was removed to the new and central site beginning Oct, 1, 1894. We held our Thanksgiving service in the church and gave a dinner in the new basement netting \$40.75." (We can assume this over a mile move was by oxen and skids such as used by the local loggers.)

There were few completed streets and much of the platted township was only on paper. The building was set on the back of the present lot where our parking lot is now located.

By 1895 the steel mill dream had faded and the population was counted in the hundreds rather than thousands. But Kirkland did not become a ghost town. Still

operating were the shingle mill, saw mill and woolen mill which was located on the lake just north of the dock at the foot of Market St. The families who were here before the "boom" began still remained. Gradually newcomers arrived.

Times were not easy and money was not coming in so by the end of the summer Rev. Alling offered his resignation. The congregation regretted losing him and passed a resolution stating their deep appreciation for the work he had done. He was instrumental in the consolidation, moving the church building, establishing services in outlying communities and encouraged the young in Christian Endeavor--all in a period of great financial stringency.

Rev. Bicknell then filled the position at a salary of \$250 per month and the use of the parsonage.

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## **Beginning of the Newberry Era**

It was time to find a new minister again. When a supply minister Rev. Scudder, Congregational Conference Superintendent, had come to preach on Sept 6, 1908 he told the members, "that Rev. C. E. Newberry, who had been located at Coupeville (Whidbey Island) for a number of years as pastor desired to locate near Seattle and he might be secured if the church wished to contact him.

Little did the congregation know when this remarkable man accepted their call that he would remain for nearly 30 years, a constancy which would allow the church to grow. Rev. Charles Edwin Newberry served not only his church but his community and was often called "Father of Kirkland." As well as being a minister he also served as mayor, city clerk, councilman and school teacher.

Born in Rochester, Michigan, in 1854 he graduated from Oberlin College in 1881. He was ordained two years later at St. Ignace, Michigan. Later that same year in Edgerton, Ohio, he married Amelia Jamison, one of his high school students who was nine years his junior.

The young couple came to Washington Territory in 1884 settling in Steilacoom where he was pastor for four years, with the added duties of three missions and chaplain at the state asylum located there. (Washington became a state in 1889.) From 1886 to 1908 he was superintendent and teacher at the Congregational Puget Sound Academy which was located at Coupeville, Whidbey Island.

When the Newberrys arrived in Kirkland the church had no parsonage so they lived temporarily in the basement of the church. They rented the Bell home while their own house was being built in 1909. (The Bell house later was owned by Hans and Gudrun Ona who were the parents of Gen Cox. She lived there for several years before marrying Eva.) This house still stands at the corner of 6th St. and First Ave. across from the church sanctuary. It is one of Kirkland's historic homes.

Newcomers who breathed new life into the church were the Shumway family. The eight adult members of this family of brothers and sisters chose four acres on a hillside (near 7th Ave So--above Lake Washington Blvd.) with a sweeping view of the lake. An 18 room home with dormer windows had a rose arbor and formal flower gardens. It was constructed by J. G. Bartsch, a church member, who had also constructed the two-story Central School. (This school was on the site that is now Kirkland City Hall.) He also built the original Rose Hill School. The Shumway home later became the Heyer Clinic. In March of 1985 a momentous moving task was undertaken and this beautiful historical home was moved to Juanita where wedding receptions, social functions and seminars are held. The owners have furnished the home with antiques and it is maintaining another part of Eastside history. It is the Shumway Mansion.

Four of the Shumway sisters became active in the church and offered their home often for church meetings. Emma & Carrie joined the church. They were school teachers in Seattle as was their sister, Mary. They made the ferry trip across the lake each day.

Rev. Newberry soon discovered that the church he had come to serve was low in membership and was always struggling to meet its budget. He reminded the members in 1910 that they were in arrears four years for association dues so a special drive was held.

In an effort to raise all of the money needed the members raised \$540 in subscription and received \$150 from the Ladies Aid, but they were still short of their goal. They decided to ask for \$100 in aid from the American Home Mission and to further attempt to raise the remainder during the coming year.

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### Founder Passes Away

The death of Caroline French in 1909 brought to a close 30 years of dedicated work for the church she had helped found in the living room of her cabin by the lakeshore. She was buried next to her husband in the Kirkland Cemetery.

For funerals at the time the Kirkland Livery Stable charged \$12 for the wagon to take the casket to the cemetery located at N. E. 80th between 120th Ave NE and 122nd Ave NE (where it is still located). It was organized as the Kirkland Cemetery Association in the late 1880's with the trustees of Ed Church, John W. DeMott and Harry D. French. Since it was in the large parcel of land acquired by the Kirkland Land and Improvement Co. the new owners deed it back to the trustees on January 7, 1891. In 1909 the cemetery was officially added to the city of Kirkland (at that time it was not in the city limits of Kirkland.)

The charge was \$50 for a plot 20' by 20' suitable for eight burial sites and a single site cost \$10. The sexton was paid \$100 a year to maintain the fences, mow the grass and could keep the \$5 fee for digging the grave.

The older portion of this historic cemetery is located in the southwest section and contains the names of many of the early church families including the Frenches, Fagerbergs, and Shumways. The Shumway plot is one of the largest in the cemetery and includes the entire family plus some spouses. The French plot is distinguished by a large carved granite tombstone bearing the name "French" facing toward 120th Ave NE. Headstones cover three generations.

A pair of realtors, Burke and Farrar, bought out the Kirkland Land Development Co. (formerly the Kirkland Land and Improvement Co.) in 1910 and began a campaign to revitalize the town site. Advertising nationwide, they painted a picture of idyllic farm land in contrast to the steel mill fever that had focused attention on Kirkland earlier. They controlled 10,000 acres of Kirkland and Rose Hill and subdivided it into

building lots. These two also purchased the Walter Williams property on Juanita Bay and later developed it into Juanita Golf Course. They pumped the water from the boggy area--a few years ago this area was allowed to revert back to its natural state and now is enjoyed by many as Juanita Bay Park, with its walkways and nature trails.

Harry French had subdivided most of his farm by 1911 keeping only his home site. He had a large cherry orchard and many youngsters in the area earned spending money picking his cherry crops. He felt the time had come when the land would be more valuable as home sites.

Among the first to purchase some of the view lots was Ludwig Marsh and his parents. They were purchased in 1905. His son, Louis Marsh built the classic Normandy style home in 1929. It still stands at 6604 Lake Washington Blvd. Jerry Marsh, current church member is the grandson of Ludwig Marsh.

To the south of the Marsh property was a home owned by Dr. George Davis and was used as the first hospital in Kirkland. To the north was the site of our first church built as the First Church of Christ of Pleasant Bay.

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### **Town is Revitalized**

As the population increased businesses started opening. At the foot of market a brick building which originally housed the offices of the steel company, became the "Bank Building" in 1911 when Glenn Johnson started the Kirkland State Bank. The Redmond-Kirkland Stage Company also began that year. It followed the route now known as N.E. 70th. Locating near the ferry dock was the meat market, barber shop, mercantile and the Kirkland Hotel which burned in 1916. A church member, V. L. Elson opened a plumbing shop.

One of the newcomers, Harry Kean, came west from Pennsylvania after reading an advertisement for a reduced railway fare for settlers interested in the Puget Sound area. The young bachelor bought land in 1912 from Burke and Farrar in the roadless area of Rose Hill. (Harry is one of my first memories of the church when I became a member in the early 50's--he was an "ageless" person who loved to garden and sing. He sang in the choir into his 80's--always added so much with his good voice and ability to read music so well.)

Harry built a small cabin making a table and benches from the trees he cleared from his land. Every morning he would walk from his home site to the ferry landing to commute to his job with the Ford Motor Co. in Seattle. Personal appearance was important to him, so part of his daily routine was to stop at a certain hollow log. There he had hidden a shoe brush and a hair brush for a last minute touch-up before he boarded the ferry.

He helped organize the Rose Hill Community Club in 1912. One of the group's first projects was to get the county to clear the streets of stumps to make travel easier. The clubhouse was the center of entertainment for many years with dances, dinners, card parties and even plays.

In 1915 he brought his bride, Grace, from Yakima to Rose Hill and they both became members of the Congregational Church of Kirkland--both singing in the choir.

As one of the first to own a car in the area he often told about how he got his first traffic ticket. "We were driving down to Chehalis in 1918 and the headlights were oil lamps which kept going out. When I arrived in town they were not burning so I was cited for traveling without lights." (Remembering Harry this was probably the only time he ever received a ticket!)

On Easter Sunday in 1911 Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Kyler joined the church and immediately became active members in the congregation. They had already been influential in the community as he had helped develop the first electric power service and telephone system for Kirkland.

In the fall of 1911 the pastor divided the area into districts with callers going out to invite families to church. An ecumenical effort began as the Methodists and Congregationalist churches held union services on Sunday evenings, alternating between the two churches.

Reverend Newberry continued the tradition of serving outpost church groups. He organized a Sunday School on Rose Hill in 1912 which had 65 pupils and 10 adults. They were expressing a wish to form a new church. He also served a similar group in Juanita.

Mrs. Newberry was busy in the community as well as the church as she served on the city council. She also started the first Camp Fire Girls group on the east side of the lake. Twenty young girls gathered together in the summer of 1911 to form the Es-Ke-Le-Da Camp Fire Girls with the Congregational Church as the sponsor providing the meeting place.

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## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### Church Was Out of Debt

The statistical report prepared by clerk, Carrie Shumway, for the Washington Congregational Conference Jan. 1, 1913, was a detailed religious census. It showed the population of the town was 600, two other churches existed in town and the current Kirkland Congregational Church membership was 31. Officers were listed and inventory of the property valued the church building at \$3000. The report showed that the church had no debts.

The report showed no evangelism emphasis at that time, some social relationships, a strong Sunday School with 96 enrolled and a successful Christian Endeavor Society.

Church was closed during Rev. Newberry's three week vacation in 1913 but Sunday School continued. A union Sunday School picnic was held in August "at the town picnic ground."

The finance committee listed suggestions to stimulate interest in the church for the coming year. Included were such ideas as (1) conduct a town census showing religious preference, (2) organize an adult Bible class, (3) welcome strangers and see that all are visited, (4) sing more familiar hymns (we've heard that comment before), (5) have a charity committee and (6) advertise.

A fellowship meeting and church supper held March 5, 1914 attracted 70 people. Reginald H. Collins served as toastmaster. Responses were given by A. B. Newell, mayor of Kirkland. His topic was "Relation of government to church" and Roy Terpenning spoke on the "Relation of school to church" a subject close to the heart of this high school principal.

According to the record book the janitorial duties had been taken over by the Intermediate boys in 1914, since the Junior boys had done it the previous year. A direct quote from this book: "But it was decided to be too much for them and was left for the Ladies Aid to attend to in the autumn."

In 1914 the choir director was paid for the first time. Mr. Hughes was given "the increase in open collection not to exceed \$10/month." One of the first services in which he participated was a special musical program given July 12 "for the aged and infirm. Automobiles were used to bring those who were unable to come by themselves."

Change was in the air in the fall of 1914 when the electric light made its first appearance in Kirkland. Rev. Newberry reported the fund from the sale of the old parsonage still had \$65 which he felt should now be used to wire the church for electric lights. The remainder of the fund was used to repair the leaky roof. (Yes, our history often speaks of "leaky roof.")

Light of another kind posed a problem due to the arrangement of the pews. "The light from the large south window has always been trying to the speaker so the seats were changed to face the east as the building was originally planned."

Still another change occurred early in 1915 when it was voted to discontinue the Sunday evening 5 o'clock vesper service due to poor attendance. It was decided to try an adult Christian Endeavor instead. By April 25 (before daylight saving was ever begun) "It was decided that during the longer daylight hours to hold the Sunday evening service at 7 o'clock instead of 5 o'clock."

Even these meetings were discontinued during July and August to give the pastor free time to hold meetings at his mission churches. He preached on Rose Hill on Sunday afternoons. He also included missionary work in Juanita, Avondale and Willows in Redmond.

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### Church Life in 1915

In June of 1915 it was noted in the minutes that the treasurer was authorized to secure 5 cords of wood that it may be dry for winter. (Bet Arnie Berkey is glad he does not have to procure 5 cords of wood--we would probably have to have 4-5 times that much for today's church building.)

Dr. C. A. Smith of Seattle was asked to speak at the annual meeting held in September of 1915. His topic was "The Work of the Layman in the Church." He emphasized four points in his talk. The Lay person in the church should: (1) carry on the prayer meeting; (2) attend to the finances of the church, (3) have an oversight of the boys of the church and direct their activities and (4) superintend the Sunday School. "In short to do all the work of the church except the preaching" was his closing statement.

Harry French, now 65, was re-elected as a trustee for three more years. One of the church officers was Ollis Patty. He served as treasurer. He also served Kirkland for many years as postmaster and city clerk. He was active in the Masonic Lodge and its youth work. The DeMolay Chapter in Kirkland is named in his honor. The tradition of members of the Kirkland Congregational church is to always be active in serving the community of Kirkland.

Christian Endeavor was an active group at this time and raised money for Christmas baskets for the needy. Anita Reese Watson was active in C. E. beginning in 1916. Later she became a Sunday School teacher for many years. In her recollections she stated that she and her brother were the janitors for a while. She recalled, "We had to go early to start the fire in the old oil drum stove in the basement. A grate cut into the sanctuary was supposed to allow the heat to rise and warm that area. One of our other jobs was to ring the bell, which took the two of us to pull the rope--for that bell was heavy." (We now push a button to ring that same bell.)

The pastor's salary remained at \$800 when efforts to raise it had not succeeded. Membership totaled 47 in 1916 with 9 listed as absent, 3 invalids and 2 removed that year.

Listed among those pledging in 1918 were Mr. and Mrs. Clark Nettleton. He was editor of the Seattle P. I. Newspaper. After admiring the quiet little town on the other side of the lake, he chose it for the setting to build his home, a replica of his wife's childhood home in Missouri. The white columned mansion on State Street has been well-preserved. Since 1933 Chet and Agnes Green resided in it. It is now known as Green's Funeral Home.

The closing remark in this chapter of Shirley Lindahl's book states, "No church services or public gatherings were held in October 1918, because of the flu epidemic."

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### **Kirkland's New Look**

World War I was felt in Kirkland with increased production at both the shipyard and the woolen mill. Dr. McKibben left as a captain in the Medical Corp of the 361st infantry to serve in France. Returning to Kirkland he helped organize the American Legion Post and was instrumental in purchasing the war-surplus boat that served as the floating clubhouse for 10 years. In 1929 the Legion was moved next door to our church. The building was the former Baptist Church. (This is the building which will become a temporary teen center.)

The year 1917 brought a complete "new look" to the waterfront area as nine additional feet of lakeshore were exposed. With the long-awaited completion on the Hiram Chittenden Locks came the realization that lowering the lake would leave all the docks unusable. Many were abandoned and shipping was temporarily disrupted until new facilities were built.

The shoreline had followed approximately the present location of Lake Washington Boulevard. The wagon road along the shore would wash out following a bad winter storm. A log bulkhead with a sidewalk on top helped protect the shore and was the main walking route to town. The creek flowing downhill from Rose Hill formed a large marsh in Kirkland from the vicinity of the baseball fields of the present Peter Kirk Park west to the lake. It was a favorite spot for ice skating in the early days. After the lake was lowered, the marsh was drained creating land that became a large truck garden. Foundations for buildings in the central part of town were all set on pilings.

Improvement of the streets was a prime consideration of the city following the war years and the church paid its share of the assessment.

The treasurer's report for the year 1919-20 showed the following:

Amount collected	\$873.14
Pastor's salary	\$800.0
Insurance (3 years)	\$18.75
Street assessment	\$6.00
Lights (19 months)	\$19.44
Groceries (church)	\$1.10
Paper and postage	\$2.33
Conference dues at 10 cents	\$6.10
Cash on hand	\$19.42

## MERGER WITH METHODIST DISCUSSED

At the annual meeting held July 21, 1920, a discussion was held concerning the desirability of merging with the Methodist Episcopal Church. The trustees were instructed to confer with a committee from the Methodist church about consolidating.

All across the nation an effort was being made to reduce the number of Protestant denominations. Towns with several congregations were asked to consider uniting where possible. Kirkland's population was about 1300. In the community beside the two discussing merger were the Baptist, Holy Family Catholic Church and the First Church of Christ Scientist.

For 30 years these two neighboring churches had often shared services so this was not a totally new idea in Kirkland. Committees from the Methodist and Congregational churches were appointed and a series of joint meetings explored the idea of uniting. Similar action had already been taken in Bremerton, Coupville and Vashon.

After discussing conditions in our community a motion was made and carried that a committee of one from each church consult with the District Superintendent of the Methodist Church and the Missionary Superintendent of the Congregational Church. A separate committee was set up to work out details of consolidating the Sunday Schools.

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### **Name Change to Kirkland Community Church**

By the summer or 1921 the merger was becoming a reality. It was decided a committee of 15 would be the governing body of the new church. The names of the two denominations were dropped and the new church was called the Kirkland Community Church. The Methodists were to provide the first minister, Rev. Temple, who received a salary of \$2500 a year plus a parsonage.

On August 21 the first committee meeting was held with C. E. White elected chairman and W. E. Sherbrooke, secretary. Carrie Shumway became financial secretary and O. S. Penney, treasurer. Committees organized were Sunday School, Woman's Work, Finance, Music, Building and Upkeep, Publicity, Social, Young People's Work, Membership and Reception.

Other action taken at this historic meeting included passing a motion to authorize giving members a choice of three memberships: Methodist, Congregational or Community Church.

It was voted to use the Congregational building as the church and the Methodist building, located one block north, for the Sunday School. Extra seats were moved to the church building, now to be called the Community Church. When the families arrived for Sunday morning services, the parents entered the church while the children scurried up the path to their Sunday School building.

Those without letters of transfer were asked to take a church vow when they united with the church. The application card read: "Desiring to lead a Christian life and to do all in my power to advance Christ's Kingdom, I hereby apply for membership in the Kirkland Community Church. I promise to be loyal to the church and join into its activities."

The new membership pledge stated:

In uniting yourself with the Kirkland Community Church, do you hereby declare your purpose to live in charity with all the children of God, to walk with Jesus Christ in obedience, service and sacrifice, to promote the moral and spiritual welfare of the community, to attend the stated services of this church and to assist by any means in your power in its work and worship?

Although they did not want to retain denominational identity, the committee of 15 realized this was not feasible. It was decided that "each affiliation appoint a secretary to take care of their strictly denominational obligations and that said funds be not included in the Kirkland Community Church budget."

Building use was discussed at one board meeting and it was decided "when an outside organization was given permission to use the building they must be required to leave it in good condition or pay \$1.00 for the necessary clean-up work." It was voted to dig-up the lawn and seed it in the spring.

Using two buildings created some security problems so the building committee recommended putting new locks on both and giving keys only to the heads of departments using the buildings. Budgeting for the joint church was difficult the first year.

(Building use problems are always there whether it is 1999 or 1921.)

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### **Articles of Agreement Adopted**

The churches had merged to become the Community Church. One of the first items needing attention was the restrooms. Plumbing done in the winter of 1922 provided two china toilets costing \$27.50 each and two enamel basins costing \$13.50 each. Church members Obed Patty, who was the city water and street commissioner and V. L. Elson, a plumber, donated their labor. The Ladies Aid paid \$56 of the total bill and after several months when it became obvious the church budget could not pay the balance, the women paid the bill (a familiar refrain).

Problems with the 30 year old buildings were mounting. During the February 14 meeting, as the board discussed the insurance adjustment for the recent fire damage, an interruption occurred. "The meeting was suspended to fight a second fire dame. After it was successfully put out the meeting resumed." Before the meeting was adjourned, a motion was moved that the building committee "arrange and construct an exit in the rear of the church building at once." Needless to say, the motion carried. The bill from the Kirkland Sash and Door Factory came to \$14.11. The heating system needed replacement so a furnace was purchased from the Lang Stove Co. of Seattle for \$125.

After a year of labor the committee of 15 called a special meeting on June 27, 1922 to consider the Articles of Agreement.

#### Article 1

Realizing the great opportunity for more efficient church work in our community and desiring to unite the Christian forces into a common fellowship of love, worship and service, we, the members of the First Congregational Church of Kirkland, the First Methodist Church of Kirkland and the other members of the Community Church, do hereby agree to federate our forces and work together for the common good, inviting those of other communions to unite with us on an equal basis, and we do hereby reconsecrate ourselves to a life of faith in Jesus Christ and of devotion to his ideals.

The document spelled out the duties of the officers, and how the executive board would function. It stated that the minister would be from one denomination for a period of three years and then it would be on a rotating basis. Article 15 stated that "any denominational group may withdraw from this compact by giving six months written notice to the clerk of the Community Church.

On July 6 the first election was held: Elders and trustees were elected and lots were drawn to determine one or two year terms.

During September, 1922, Reverend R. M. Temple left and Reverend Charles A Bowen became pastor. There was no explanation in the church record. It was noted that the new pastor requested \$150 for moving expenses and asked for a new stove for the parsonage. His family included his wife, Mary and three daughters.

Reverend Bowen was pleased with the relationship that developed with the congregation. Several months later he invited the members to a housewarming at the parsonage. He pointed out several needs the church had and they gave him permission to appeal for a flag, additional hymn books and more communion glasses.

Within a month the Camp Fire Girls presented the church with a flag and the manual training class at the high school made a flag staff. Other donations soon made the other requests possible.

New ideas tried that fall included starting a Men's Bible class, holding a Night Watch service on New Year's Eve and mailing quarterly statements to encourage bringing in delinquent pledges. Total pledges at that time came from 65 families and totaled \$1525.

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## Financial Problems Mounting

Executive board meetings for the newly formed Community Church (the joining together of the First Congregational Church of Kirkland and the First Methodist of Kirkland) were held in the office of Burke and Farrar, realtors, instead of the church. Perhaps it was an economy move for at this time they also voted to discontinue the lights in the Methodist building and to remove the meter. The church was \$461 in arrears on the pastor's salary. A fee of 41 per week was charged the school district for use of a room by the school orchestra.

Finance became a prime concern and who understood the problem better than Rev. Newberry, who suggested "that the pastor be supported in the matter of the systematic canvas be helped by volunteers to call on all of a list to be prepared by the pastor." A. B. Newell came up with a possible solution. He suggested that the poll books of the town be procured and a committee select from them a list of names to solicit for subscriptions. When this had been done 1800 letters were mailed soliciting support for the Community Church. (The record book shows among those responding with donations were the Kirkland Pool Hall and the Pastime Cigar Store!!)

For non-payment of the balance due on the bill to the Lang Stove Co., for the furnace installed the year before, the company threatened to remove the furnace. The treasurer was instructed to pay \$10 a month on this bill to avoid removal.

More trouble arose when Northwestern Mutual Fire Insurance Co. inquired whether the fire risk in the building had been reduced as had been recommended. In May the company canceled the insurance on the church building.

"The pastor, Rev. Bowen, also spoke of the advantage of an automobile in his work as it would allow him to do much more work than he could do without one. It was generally agreed that the pastor's work was greatly hindered by not having a machine." He added that if \$200 could be paid him in the next few weeks he could

handle the balance. (At that time the church owed him over \$400 but only had \$84 in the treasury.)

A transportation committee was organized to "carry the old people to church on Mother's Day" but no mention was made of helping the pastor obtain his own automobile.

The Community Church sponsored a special Memorial Sunday service in 1923. Invited were members of the American Legion, G. A. R. and Spanish-American War veterans. The church also hosted the Baccalaureate services for the Union A High School on June 4.

The annual meeting held in May, 1923 featured Rev. Bowen's report outlining his eight months in Kirkland. No mention is made in the church record showing if Rev. Bowen ever received any money to help him purchase his automobile, but he did announce that he had purchased one and it had greatly enlarged his field of service. He served as minister until Sept. of 1924 when Rev. Newberry returned again.

The Ladies Aid Mother-Daughter banquet realized a profit of \$22.50 and it was voted to turn this over to the building committee to pay for cost of construction of a wood shed and garage for the parsonage.

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### **Articles of Agreement Amended**

Repairing the church was becoming a constant problem and for the first time the board discussed the possibility of a new building. In the meantime a committee from the Ladies Aid and the Board of Trustees were to decide on the most urgent repairs needed. The ladies were more than willing to take on the job of painting and wall papering to help redecorate the church but not until the men repaired the leaky roof. They also wanted to improve their "un-handy" kitchen. (Now we have the Vision Committee to paint and wall paper; the leaky roof is being repaired and we have hopes of improving our kitchen!!)

A resolution was adopted at the July 24, 1923 meeting requesting the Puget Sound Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to reappoint Reverend Bowen. Sunday school attendance was increasing, often numbering over 200. Finding teachers was a problem as well as adequate class space as they were using four different buildings at that time. Christian Endeavor participation was also on the increase since the young people were attracted to the youth choir led by Mrs. Storey.

An every member canvas held in the fall of 1923 reduced the church's indebtedness from \$1000 to \$175. Irving Gates was on the canvas committee, reception committee, building and maintenance committee, so it fell to this busy man to arrange for a new roof on the church. (THIS IS WHAT IS KNOWN AS GOOD STEWARDSHIP!!!).

The church made benevolence donations that year of \$75 to the Japan Earthquake Fund, \$800 to the Near East Relief and \$322 to the American Bible Society. The pastor suggested, "A policy should be adopted that would take up certain definite contributions for such."

The 1924 annual meeting showed membership stood at 258 with 62 men, 139 women and 57 youth under the age of 15. A total of 89 new members had been received. The Community Church truly lived up to its name for nine denominations were

represented. (Although we are not a Communion Church now, we have three other congregations meeting in our building to carry on our history of cooperation with those of all faiths.) New officers were treasurer, C. C. Mulligan (postmaster); financial secretary, E. V. Crow; clerk, Dr. F. C. Robinson; elder, L. C. Wright and trustees, S. A. Moore, C. W. Harlow and Dr. J. R. Persons.

The Articles of Agreement were amended in 1924 pertaining to the selection of the pastor. They now stated that the pastor could be from any denomination and would continue as long as the trustees voted to retain him. When Reverend Bowen left at the end of his term in September, Reverend Newberry was asked to return as minister at a salary of \$1800. Since he had his own home the parsonage would not be used and was rented.

In 1925 women participated in the every member canvas for the first time. Harmony existed and the merger appeared to be working successfully. However, the church continued to operate at a deficit. Membership totaled 192.

Brittania McKibben, wife of Dr. E. C. McKibben, was a lover of books and helped found the Kirkland Women's Club library in 1925. In later years it became the city library. She also guided the existence of the church library. Her influence was felt in the community in many ways. She convinced the Club to use their new building, located south of the church on First St. for a child welfare clinic twice a month.

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### **First Cub Scout Pack in America**

The record shows that the First American Wolf Cub Pack, Kirkland, Washington was organized January 20, 1921. Shortly after Kirkham Evans arrived in town he presided at a public meeting to reorganize the Boy Scout of Kirkland. He wrote in the Wolf Cub record book, "After explaining the object of the meeting I announced that as nothing was being done for the younger boys of the township I was going to form a pack of Wolf Cubs." (At that time they existed in Canada but not in the United States.)

In 1923 Mr. Evans, who operated a variety store on Market St., left Kirkland. Cubmaster duties passed on to Mr. Robertson and Mrs. Mae Belle Estey who became "the first Cubmistress in the United States. The well liked Mrs. Estey remained with her "boys" in a position of leadership for nearly 20 years. As she was a church member the sponsorship came to the Congregational Church and soon the meeting place was there also.

In the early 20's she took the boys to Woodland Park, to the Bremerton Navy Yard to tour the battleship "Arizona." She hiked with them to Juanita Beach to "cook meat on a stick" and spend a week camping with them at Lake Stevens. The boys marched in the Memorial Day parades held in Kirkland and were often asked to put on craft and first aid demonstrations. Mrs. Estey made certain all her boys were in full uniform, which meant a green sweater, red kerchief and green beanie until the 1930's when the blue and gold uniform of today were introduced. One of the members who learned their early scouting skills from Mrs. Estey in the 1920's was Arnie Berkey, our resident church "fixer-upper" and leader of the Men's Fellowship pack which volunteers on many repairs and upkeep around the building and grounds. Other members of the troop (the names may be familiar to some of you) were George Davis, Jr. Walter Gibbs, Wells Elson, Elwood Jewell, Carl Stonefelt, Ed Simpson, Ariel Johnson, Melvin Labarr, Bill McKibben, Jack Wester, Bob Gardner, George Staley, Bert McLaughlin, Bob Barrie and Charles Peach.

Boy Scout Troop #1 (later #451) was sponsored by the American Legion but many of the boys and the committeemen were from the church. During the late 20's and 30's the Scoutmaster was Ernie Fortescue, who later became a very well known and respected photographer in the area. His mother, Anna Fortescue, related the following story when she was 90 years old. (This was in 1979.)

"I remember when Ernie took the Scouts on a camping trip to Silver Springs Forest Camp on the White River. I went along with our three small children and my chore was to help with the cooking. One day the boys had hiked across the river and were crossing a log to return when Wesley Englebrecht slipped. He had the troop's only rope so things looked really desperate as he was swept down the murky river. Luckily he had on a straw hat that stayed snugly on his head. The bobbing hat showed where he was so Ed Hjorth raced along until he could jump in and pull him ashore."

The Boy Scouts often hiked to Camp Collins for campouts. R. H. Collins donated land from his property located near the hill above Willows Road, north of the Kirkland-Redmond Highway on the outskirts of Redmond. A spring on the land provided water and wooded ravine sloping down to the Sammamish Valley gave a variety of terrain for the boys to set up their campsites.

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### **Christmas Program Listed in 1925 East Side Journal**

A new music teacher came to the high school in 1925 and soon formed a community chorus. Many church members participated in the cantata put on by the chorus. Florence Polson, the teacher, stayed on in Kirkland and became Mrs. Elton Gildow. She served as choir director and organist for the church for many years. She also served as music director and assisted Esther Tye in the mid-40's as choir director/organist. Florence later served when Esther left to become Mrs. Leighton Smith. Florence then resumed her choir directing in 1952 for several more years. Many recognize Florence and Esther as having set the high standards for music that we have always maintained in our church.

The children's Christmas program of the Community Church made the front page of the East Side Journal in 1925. Santa was quoted as saying; "I am too busy to stop and talk to any of the kiddies on Christmas Eve so I will say hello to all of them at the church the evening before." A pageant, "The Pathway of the Star" was under the direction of Mrs. Charles Wilcox, and Mrs. H. B. Crow. Speaking parts were done by Frances Turner, Marion Todd, Erma Reese, Lillian Robinson and Dorothy Viehmann.

Other stories in the East Side Journal stated that gifts advertised were an 89 cent ivory manicure set or a \$660 Ford Fordor Sedan. Most of the men on the church board conducted a fund drive for the needy to provide food.

The top news story was the announcement that Seattle's Madison Street hill was to get a new road with an easier grade. This was welcome news for ferry riders from Kirkland for they would no longer have to back their Ford cars up that hill. Ferry traffic was expected to increase as this was the shortest route to the center of Seattle.

Dinner was 35 cents a plate or four plates for \$1.00 at the annual meeting in 1926. The occasion was a special event for the ladies for it was the first time they cooked at the church on an electric stove. It had cost the Ladies Aid \$156.25 plus \$6.10 for the

current and \$18.32 to have it installed. But the many years of frustration with the old wood stove that had to have the oven door propped shut were now at an end. "No longer would the women have to go out with a lantern to get more wood" for the church suppers to be prepared!!!

The Sunday School Christmas program was always of wide community interest and in 1926 Clarence Halvorson, owner of the Rexall Drug Store, gave a pail of hard candy for the children.

The executive board meetings for the church had been held in the offices of Burke and Farrar until 1927 when the site was changed to the realty office of Collins and Harlow. The letterhead of the two church members read "Poultry, Dairy Ranches, Water Front, City Property. We handle Exchanges and General Insurance."

Other church members in business at that time were the owners of the First National Bank of Kirkland, Clayton Shinstrom, O. S. Penney, J. P. Wester, F. M. & F. W. Roberts. Charlie Younger started a candy business making the Younger Mints.

A new road to Redmond opened that year replacing the State Aid Road (N.E. 70th St). It was further north (N. E. 85th/Redmond Way) and now is known as Highway 908.

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### Goals Set

The annual meeting in 1927 was attended by 100 people. Musical entertainment was provided by Mrs. Wilsie and Dorothy Viehmann singing accompanied by Mrs. Suckling. A duet was performed by John Gates, cello (Pam Gates Owens' father) and Marie Kneckley, pianist.

Goals set for the coming year were: (1) membership, (2) money, (3) social activities, (4) helpfulness in the community outside of strictly religious lines, (5) start a fund for a new church building and (6) get all members on committees. (The goals of our church have not changed much over the years. Number 4 has always played an important part in the life of this church--we have always been a church body that has as an important goal--service to the community in which we live.)

Although discussions were held about the need for a new church building it was felt at the time that the exterior needed painting. It was voted to raise the necessary funds by asking \$100 each from the Christian Endeavor, Sunday School and church with Rudolph Van Aalst, R. R. Miller and David Burr, chairmen for their respective groups within the church.

The press of duties as mayor of Kirkland and his desire to slow down a bit caused Rev. Newberry, who was approaching his 75th birthday, to announce his plans to retire from the pulpit in September, 1929. (He later returned in 1933-1937.)

Scoutmaster Ernie Fortescue expressed appreciation to Rev. Newberry for his help at Scout Camp during the summer months. Each year he attended part or all of the campouts with both the Boy Scouts and the Wolf Cubs.

By 1929 the Methodist Church building was in such bad condition it became a matter of finding temporary housing or consider adding on to the Community Church Building. Dr. Sherwood was asked to confer with Mrs. Sherwood on the possibility of

using the Woman's Club building on Sundays. In the meantime a committee was looking into building costs for an addition.

The pulpit committee proposed the name of Rev. Dwight Bennett. He accepted the call for \$2400 a year and a parsonage. Since the church did not own a parsonage it was necessary to rent a house for \$31 per month for the new pastor.

The Sept 12, 1929 issue of the East Side Journal reported that "Eighteen social and civic community organizations joined forces to welcome Rev. & Mrs. Dwight Bennett to Kirkland ... at a reception held at the Community Church."

Other items gleaned from that issue of the weekly paper included, "...now that talking pictures are here to stay Mr. Pauley, our local showman, believes his patrons are entitled to the best." He had just installed a new projection machine at the Gateway Theater. "George Mayhew is now the bonded representative for the Electrolux, a new invention for home sanitation." (a vacuum cleaner) The woolen mill was to resume operation within a few weeks and the cannery expected nearly 600 tons of pears so they were issuing a call for women workers. This cannery is still in existence, privately owned. They can specialty items. A fund drive was under way to build cement tennis courts on the lower terrace of the high school grounds.

The big news of that time was ordinance #367 passed by the town council and signed by Mayor Newberry. The historic ordinance changed the streets and avenues of Kirkland to a numbered system. Peter Kirk's dream was all but forgotten as streets like Piccadilly, Oxford and Fleet assumed numbers. Market, Central, Waverly, Lake Street and Kirkland Avenue were among those to retain their original names. (Because of George Harris' dream and a push from the Kirkland Heritage Society the city has been installing historical street names on signs.)

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## **Withdrawal of the Methodists**

By 1930 the need for an addition to the church building was deemed important enough to apply for a loan from the Congregational Church Building Society. The loan application signed by trustees Gates, Burr and Sherwood asked for a \$300 grant and a \$300 loan to be repaid in annual installments of \$30. This would be matched by \$1200 from the local church to provide a 400 square foot two story addition on the west side of the building.

The depression was being felt by some families who paid their pledges with a ton of coal or a cord of wood. When H. P. Everest was chairman of the board, one of the first actions was to order a neon cross for the church.

For the first time four women were elected to act as stewardesses to assist the pastor in calling. Serving were Mrs. R. R. Miller, Mrs. Harry Kean, Mrs. S. S. Palmer and Miss Ella Spangler. A \$5000 budget was adopted for 1930 with \$800 for the Methodist and Congregational World Service Missions. The fund drive received the \$5000 in pledges but later in the year the payments fell far short.

Charles Wilcox was janitor in 1930 when he wrote the board that he deserved more than \$18 per month for his labor. In great detail he spelled out his duties which included building 3 fires each Sunday, carrying the wood 165 feet, sweeping 6732 sq. ft of floor and dusting 530 linear feet of benches and moving 178 chairs. (a bit underpaid!! !!)

To temporarily solve some of the Sunday School space problem it was decided to ask the School Board for use of a portable building they were not using. David Burr, on the School Board, reported that they were willing. Clayton Shinstrom offered to pay the additional \$20 needed to erect it. Burke and Farrar granted the church use of the lot to the east of the church for the portable. Stove polish, coal pails and shovels were purchased by janitor Wilcox who was also superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Community Church was closely associated with the school district for many of the teachers were members. Also serving on the School Board were Harry Kean, A. B. Newell and David Burr. Rev. Newberry taught at the high school for several years and annually took the census for the School District #71.

In the spring of 1931 Rev. Bennett "explained at length the handicap of the present 'joint-church' plan. He proposed that the board petition the Methodist Church withdraw from Kirkland and leave the field for the present to the Congregational Church...The church still be conducted as a community church, but to only be associated with the Congregational Church so that a minister could be placed in charge with the prospect of remaining in the field until he had carried out his program, or so long as the membership wished him to stay." A special meeting was called to discuss his proposal and it met with a favorable vote.

A letter from the Seattle District of the Methodist Episcopal Church stated: "The Methodist Episcopal Church is to withdraw all responsibility or relationship with your church as of July 1, 1931 with the understanding you are to assume full denominational relationship with the Congregational Church through Rev. L. O. Baird of Seattle... reserving the right to re-enter Kirkland when or if the Congregational Church does not appear to meeting the community needs or when or if the City of Kirkland grows to sufficient size to maintain such an additional church."

The Methodists did re-enter the area nearly 30 years later with the establishment of the Lake Washington United Methodist Church on Rose Hill. (This church is one of our covenant churches in the Ecumenical Parish.)

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### The Depth of the 1933 Depression

Rev. Bennett, Methodist minister (of the Community Church) had indicated his desire to leave at the end of his year (1931). As usual the finance committee had to put on a drive to collect the back salary owed the minister. To settle the debt before he left it was decided to assume the balance due at the bank on his automobile plus some \$40 in cash. (The church record shows \$200 paid for the pastor's car in 1930 so he must have been expected to pay the balance.)

From Potlatch, Idaho, came the next minister, Rev. Ernest R. Bellingham. He was offered \$2250, no parsonage and two weeks paid vacation. He served from October, 1931 to April, 1933.

At the annual meeting of 1931 Ernest Fortescue was elected chairman of the board. Harry Kean became clerk. Total receipts for the year 1931-32 were \$1754 leaving \$609 still due to the minister. The future looked very bleak when the trustees voted in Nov. 1932 "that we pay Rev. Bellingham the back salary due him and \$50 per month from October 1 and continue at that salary for six months. "

Rev. Bellingham replied, "I can accept the drastic cut in salary only on condition there is a corresponding reduction in time I shall be expected to give to the work. " He proposed working two days a week plus Sunday and this was accepted.

At the 1932 annual meeting Ivan Travis became a trustee. He had come to Kirkland from Cosmopolis the year before to become superintendent of the school district for a salary of \$2700 a year.

It was voted to continue the neon cross which cost 75 cents per month to light.

The choir director complained that she need male voices. (A familiar refrain of most choir directors!!) It was agreed to rent the church to the Salvation Army Boys Band for a concert.

The buses were dropped at this meeting. Two years earlier a second bus had been purchased to transport children from the Northup District. H. P. Everest had agreed to personally pay the gas and oil for one bus. Mr. Bass was appointed superintendent of transportation. The children collected old newspapers to help raise money to operate the busses which were really trucks with plank seats.

The depression was at its depth in 1933 when the membership adopted the following resolution. "Because of the difficulties just now of people paying to the church enough money to pay for a pastor the board of trustees recommend that we do not retain Mr. Bellingharn after April 1, 1933 as pastor of the Kirkland Community Church. From April to October there was no minister.

The congregation asked C. W. Wilcox to act as advisor and manager of church work in addition to his other duties. Supply ministers from the conference preached during April. Among them was Rev. John P. Clyde, who wanted to become the permanent pastor. He was being considered when at the last minute Rev. Newberry who had served the church from 1908 to 1921, again from 1924 to 1929 had come before the membership and offered his services at whatever they could pay him. He served until April of 1937.

Total receipts for the fiscal year 1932-33 were only \$1032.07. The Ladies Aid paid the choir director \$10 a month to help with the expenses. The congregation extended a vote of thanks to Eberle Mercer and Clyde Simmons for painting the cross on the steeple. Tom Simmons became Sunday School Superintendent and janitor at the annual meeting.

Kirkland was under the leadership of church member Irving Gates as mayor. He had been selected by the city council when Rev. Newberry suddenly resigned as mayor when the council voted to allow the sale of beer in town. Ida Gates scolded her husband for accepting the office under the very circumstances that made the minister resign.

A. B. Newell, chairman of the school board, wrote an application for funds to the federal government's Administration of Public Works to replace Central School. (It was granted and building was completed in 1935.) The present City Hall was built on the site at a later date

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Search for a Permanent Minister**

An uplift during the days of economic stress was provided by the formation of the Kirkland Civic Orchestra. Among the musicians were church members John Gates (Pam Gates Owens father) playing cello and Lucille Crow, violin.

By October the church felt the need for a permanent minister but the board of trustees still could not offer a stated salary. Three men indicated a desire to be considered even under such indefinite conditions. Among them was the venerable Rev. Newberry, who was overwhelmingly selected for six months. The record shows he was paid \$30 for December.

The church membership of 85 owed the Congregational Conference 11 cents per member for denominational dues. A windfall of \$50 showed up in the bank statement so the dues were paid. An error had allowed this sum to be deposited to the Community Church account instead of the Lutheran church. The treasurer was directed to refund the amount to the Lutheran account.

Mrs. Mae Estey asked the board for permission to have a 28' x 30' building put on the church grounds to be used as a meeting place for her Wolf Cubs. She also suggested that it could be used for a Sunday School classroom. During the early 1930's the Wolf Cub membership included David Burr Jr., Ernest McKibben Jr., Joe Chamness, Clifford Simmons, Frank Reese, Larry Wold, Jerry Marsh, Ernest Fortescue Jr., Jack Hapfer and Warren Powell.

A surprise musical evening was put on by the Congregation to honor the 80th birthday of their beloved minister, Rev. Newberry. The members were devoted to this remarkable man who had served the church and the community in so many capacities during the 25 years he had been in their midst.

The Congregational Church in Bellevue was struggling without a minister in 1933 when Rev. Newberry was asked to preach alternate Sundays. For 12 Sundays he made the trip to Bellevue he received only \$26 with the balance of \$76 unpaid.

The May meeting of the board of trustees was held at the home of Ernest Fortescue with "special refreshments provided by Mrs. Fortescue." One of the items of business at the meeting was a request from James O. Duffey to use the church facilities to conduct a non-denominational bible class. He was holding a regular class on Rose Hill and it was quite a distance for some to travel there. He later formed the People's Church in Kirkland using the vacant Methodist Building.

A letter from the Washington Children's Home asked for a donation. "The strain of the depression for the last four years has broken many homes, with the result that a greater number of children are coming to us for help. The National and State governments have left the care of the dependent children entirely to private charitable organizations by refusing to extend aid."

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Sell-Out Crowd for Dinner**

Business and pleasure were combined for the July board meeting which was held in the home of Harry French with Rosa French and her daughter Olivia French Davis as hostesses. Over 40 attended the joint meeting of the church and Sunday school boards. The church budget was so meager in 1934 that only \$340 was listed as expenses for the minister. The balance on hand was \$1.10.

A bright spot in the "gloomy" times was the second annual native states dinner put on by the women of the church in 1935. Olivia Davis was top ticket seller with 40 to her credit. Records indicated that 250 attended the event. This was a community-wide function with a dinner costing 50 cents each and an opportunity to meet people from your home state. A popular song (that had many different verses) was "'What did Ida-hoe boys, what did Ida-hoe?" Answer: "She hoed her Mary-land boys, she hoed her Mary-land." That evening Illinois and Minnesota tied for the most from their respective home states. Several foreign countries were also represented with John Nelson (Enid Johnston's father) signing in for Sweden, Dr. E. C. McKibben, Sr. was born in China and Ernest Fortescue, Sr. from Ceylon. The guest book for this 1935 dinner showed that 35 diners had been born in Washington State.

This popular community dinner continued to be held thru the '30's. At some of the events guests dressed in costumes from their regions. The Washington State table was decorated with small evergreen trees which were decked out with aluminum tax tokens (Yes, we used to pay taxes with tokens!!). Laura Miller who was from Kentucky won first prize for her Kentucky Derby cake surrounded by a miniature racetrack.

In October of this year Reverend Newberry fell in the bathroom at his home and broke his leg. He did not resume preaching until the last Sunday of January, 1936. Among the members that year was a retired minister, Reverend C. M. Clark. He often helped

with prayer and at meetings in the absence of the pastor and served as a deacon for several years.

Construction of the new Central School (now the location of Kirkland City Hall) had left mud and gravel on 5th Avenue (which the church faced at this time) and there were no sidewalks. Through the efforts of Dave Burr a cement sidewalk was completed that Fall in front of the church. He was very active in getting things done around the church and in the town. He and his wife, Gladys, had a home on Waverly Way.

The church building continued to deteriorate with the steeple, chimney, and heating facilities all in need of repair. The aging Methodist building had been abandoned for use by the Sunday School. As an experiment the Daily Vacation Bible School was held at Rose Hill Presbyterian Church.

During 1935 the church basement was rented for \$5.00 per month to two depression-born activist organizations. The Townsend Club, advocating an old age pension plan and the Technocrats, who wanted to control industrial growth to prevent further unemployment. Both had a sizable membership in the Kirkland area.

A newspaper of 1935 revealed a new baseball diamond and grandstand was being constructed for the Kirkland town team. (Yes, Kirkland has been a baseball town for a long time.) Another store stated that Juanita Golf Course had been improved with the #5 tee anchored out in the lake. This location is now the site of the very popular Juanita Bay Park which was allowed to revert to its natural wetlands.

Church member, Ollis Patty was re-elected city treasurer for the 29th time. Kirkland became designated as a third class town. For \$495 you could purchase a Ford V-8 with "full floating spring base." The local banks were paying 2 1/2% interest on savings accounts. The Gateway Theater (which was located in downtown Kirkland) was showing Claudette Colbert in "The Gilded Lily."

Other news of the time included the fact that the ferry "Lincoln" had just undergone its annual overhaul. The church choir sang the "Holy City" on Good Friday evening. At Kirkland Junior High the boys trio sang "I've Got No Use for the Women" accompanied by Enid Nelson (Johnston). Rinso and Lux soap samples were distributed in the area by a truck crew from Lever Brothers. Pay-n-Takit Store announced its new name: "Safeway Stores."

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Reverend Newberry, Father of Kirkland, Dies**

By 1936 the economy was becoming more stable as employment increased. Once again the Washington Congregational Conference set goals for benevolences for each church. "We may not yet be out of the depression but we have made progress," wrote Claton Rice, superintendent. Kirkland Community Church was assigned a goal of \$50.

Following the Easter musical programs choir director Lucile Crow resigned after many years of service. Luella Wilsie succeeded her.

When Chet Green (who began Green's Funeral Home) became secretary of the Board of Trustees the church membership was 177 with 69 men and 108 women.

Once again the need for improving the building came under discussion. A local builder was consulted and he told them that the decayed sills and joists were beyond repair.

Reverend Newberry commented that there will be a demand for a good sized church plant in Kirkland within the next 10 years, but this is not yet the time for it.

The first Sunday of January 1937 Reverend Newberry preached his last sermon and tendered his resignation. That evening as he prepared for bed he died of a heart attack, thus closing the book on a rewarding and full life in his church. For 22 of the nearly 30 years he was in Kirkland he had been minister of the Kirkland Congregational Church. He had also served as high school teacher, mayor for four years, city councilman for eight years and town clerk for six years. Perhaps no man exerted as much influence on this town as Reverend Newberry, often referred to as the "Father of Kirkland." His funeral was one of the largest ever held in Kirkland.

The church records often contained items other than official business. One paragraph stated that Gertrude Labarr (Gates) and her sister Dorothy and a lady friend from

Seattle left by train nearly two weeks ago for Detroit and plan to drive back in their new car. Gertrude was Pam Owen's mother.

Death struck in the congregation later that year. On October 16, his 88th birthday, the church's oldest member, Henry French, died. He was the pioneer who had cleared land for his first cabin in 1872 on the shores of Lake Washington, later gave land for the first church building and helped construct it in 1880. He served the church and its congregation in many capacities over the years.

Since the church was without a pastor after Reverend Newberry's death, Reverend Fenwick of the Bellevue Congregational Church officiated at French's funeral service. He was buried in the family plot beside his pioneering parents, Sam Foster and Caroline French in the Kirkland Cemetery which he had helped found 50 years earlier.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Pruitt Family Fills Parsonage**

A new man with fresh ideas came to serve the church in the fall of 1937. The congregation sought a younger person who could motivate the work of the church after the troubled times of the depression period. In Reverend Robert Pruitt the found these qualities and called him to serve as their pastor. In November he moved from Bryn Mawr near Renton to Kirkland with his wife and five children, Roberta, Paul, Kenneth, Robert and Betty. He was offered a salary of \$75 per month and \$15 a month for house. His son, Paul went on to become a minister and was one of our special guests at our 120th outdoor anniversary celebration in August.

The following March the church had increased in membership and the finances were improving. Many in the congregation wanted a fitting memorial for Rev. C. E. Newberry who served the church for so many years. A suggestion was made to build a new church. A committee of 15 was appointed to research the matter. In April the committee, chaired by Clayton Shinstrom formed a caravan to drive to Bellingham to look over the Congregational church in that city.

The Pruitt family needed a larger house. The Bell house, originally built by James Bell and his wife, Marie Kirk Bell, was for sale. It was next door to the church and a special fund drive raised \$1100 to make the purchase. Extensive renovation was needed and several church members in a series of work sessions made the needed repairs to that the family could move in on November 1, 1938.

This year the Sunday School superintendent was Mr. Shannon and the Beginners class was taught by Winifred Johnson. Her husband Morton was the long-time Superintendent of the Lake Washington School District. Sunday School treasurer was Paul Johnston.

The Ladies Aid had increased in size and a division was made by ages. Christian Endeavor was called Youth Pilgrim Fellowship and the leader was Paul Pruitt, who later became a minister like his father.

Choir robes were needed so the 16 member choir under the direction of Luella Wilstie gave two special concerts to raise funds.

In January, 1939, just two years after the death of her husband, Mrs. Newberry died. She was affectionately called "Aunt Amelia" by many who had known her as their Camp Fire leader.

The primary building was leaking badly. The Board of Trustees passed a motion "that the Sunday School board assume the obligation of re-roofing." The job needed to be done immediately to save the piano from further damage.

Membership numbered 119 families in the fall of 1939. An addition of 17 new members included a number of young people. Enid Nelson, later to become Mrs. Paul Johnston, was one of these.

A two page bulletin commercially printed on glossy paper was used on Sunday's bulletin. In addition to the order of worship and several inspirational paragraphs it included other items of interest. Stragglers Club for Junior and Senior High Students met Sunday evenings and Pilgrim Fellowship met Wednesday evening outdoors when the weather permitted.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Building Committee Activated**

In June of 1939 the Planning Committee for the new church became officially the Building Committee. Helen Shinstrom was appointed the chair and had 11 people on her committee. A financial committee was appointed which included six persons. Among them were Clayton Shinstrom, local banker, Chet Green, funeral home owner and Irving Gates who owned the telephone company. They were to "control all monies, pledges or other collateral which pertained directly with the financing of the new church plant." It was decided the construction would not commence until the two committees felt a sufficient sum had been accumulated. Pledges were signed promising to pay at the call of the treasurer of the building finance committee with a clause that stated "It is further mutually agreed that no call will be made by treasurer until the total estimated sum of \$15,000 necessary to start the building has been pledged." Too many times in the past the congregation had talked about construction but had not been willing to pay for it.

Architects submitted plans. The committee toured recently built churches in the Puget Sound area. In July three plans were accepted by the building committee. It was felt the church needed to request that the city council establish the grade of the streets and alleys before construction as this could affect the building design. Capacity specifications were determined as follows: Auditorium or sanctuary--216; choir--23; balcony--78; and narthex--45 for a total of 362.

A loan would be needed and a request was sent to the Congregational Building Society explaining the plan to build. The response was a consent to furnish 1/3 of the cost of the building. Half of this amount would be a gift with the remainder a loan at a low interest rate.

The three plans submitted were voted on by the congregation. Architect Fred Lockman's blueprints showed an estimated cost of \$35,000. John Nelson, a church member and builder presented a simpler plan for \$25,000 and there was no record of

the cost for the other proposal. The Lockman plan received the highest vote. The plans were sent to the Congregational Building Society for approval.

Life in Kirkland in 1940 saw the WPA (Work Progress Administration) working on the Civic Center Building which served the needs of Kirkland for 27 years before it burned in a dramatic fire. Plans were underway for the third annual Strawberry Festival complete with parade, carnival and shortcake. The first ping pong tournament in town saw LeRoy Johnson paired with one partner while his wife, Nellie, the only woman entered, had another partner. (It was not noted who won the match.) The biggest news that spring was the coming of the Lake Washington Pontoon Bridge. It was to be a toll bridge and Captain Anderson of the ferry service decided to cut his rates in half making it 25 cents for a car and driver. A proposed bus service to Kirkland created a stir in town because of everyone's loyalty to the ferry. At a mass meeting "300 irate citizens packed the American Legion Hall and voted to unanimously support the ferry over the bus service." The masthead of the East Side Journal that year had two headlines: "Keep America out of War" and "Kirkland Must Keep Its Ferry."

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### Property Ownership Problem Solved

It was discovered by lawyer F. M. Roberts, brother of Helen Shinstrom, that the Community church was not a corporate body, therefore, "Not legally able to hold title to properties." A constitutional committee was set up to correct this discrepancy since the Building Society would not consider a loan unless the church was in a position to give a valid mortgage on the real estate.

Organizing into a Community Church had created an awkward situation. The ecclesiastical body called the church was not the same as the corporate body holding title to the property at this time. The pioneers who organized the First Congregational Church of Kirkland on December 17, 1894 did it according to the laws of the state of Washington and incorporated. Through the years the church officers had been conducting much of the business that technically should have been handled by the corporate body. Each year corporate officers should have been elected and an annual meeting held. Somewhere through the years this procedure had not been continued.

A dozen of the oldest members gathered together and adopted a resolution stating how the church was organized in 1894 as a corporation and how over the period of time any minute books of this corporation which may have existed have disappeared, but that the ecclesiastical body of the same name continued to exist and still exists, subject to a name change, it be resolved that all members of the ecclesiastical body known originally as First Congregational Church of Kirkland and since known as Kirkland Community Church be admitted as members of the corporation.

Attending the meeting on October 24, 1939 were Mrs. W. H. Huntington, David Burr, Olivia Burr Powell, Sadie Calkins Amundsen, Olivia French Davis, Irving Gates, Ralph Coman, Alvin Curtis and Rosa French.

In compliance with the law, five trustees were elected for the corporate body to serve until the constitutional meeting which would be held in January of 1940. When the

congregation realized how confused the records had become it was decided to elect Myrtle Robertson to be the first church historian with the task of drawing together the miscellaneous records.

As a first step to bring proper organization to the church, a new constitution was adopted at the meeting on January 8, 1940. The official ballot for the election was properly printed. (It seems ironical at this time when I am writing about a proper official ballot, which is shown below--ballots are still be counted and recounted in Florida for the presidential election of the year 2000.) The simple ballot below has boxes for placing your "X".

# OFFICIAL BALLOT

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS—COMMUNITY CHURCH—JANUARY 8, 1940

## BOARD OF DEACONS (Vote for Four)

REV. C. M. CLARK—Deacon Emeritus

CURTIS, A. H. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
NELSON, JOHN . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRYNAN, FRED J. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
LASATER, ROY . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>

## BOARD OF DEACONESSES (Vote for Four)

MRS. J. NELSON—Deaconess Emeritus

STENSRUD, MRS. LENORE . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
FAGERBERG, MRS. EDNA . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
GILMORE, MRS. G. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
AMUNDSEN, MRS. SADIE . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRYNAN, MRS. F. J. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>

## BOARD RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Vote for Four)

PAIR, PAUL . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAVIS, MRS. CUBA . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
FAGERBURG, MRS. EDNA . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
AMUNDSEN, MRS. SADIE . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
STENSRUD, MRS. LENORE . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
CROW, MRS. LUCILE . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>

## DIRECTOR OF EVERY MEMBER CANVASS (Vote for One)

FRANKLIN, S. R. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
PAUL, FRANK . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (Vote for Five)

SHINSTROM, C. A. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
BURR, DAVID . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
DREW, MRS. LULA E. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
GATES, IRVING . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHINSTROM, MRS. C. A. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHERWOOD, DR. H. H. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
VAN AALST, JOHN . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRANK, PAUL . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRANKLIN, S. R. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
LASATER, ROY . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
GATES, MRS. IRVING . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>

## TREASURER (Vote for One)

GATES, IRVING . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## FINANCIAL SECRETARY (Vote for One)

FRANK, PAUL . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## CLERK (Vote for One)

STOLTY, MISS MYRTLE . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## ANNUAL DELEGATES (Vote for Three)

FARRELL, MRS. DON . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARKE, WM. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
DREW, LULA E. . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Minister Stays and New Church Building Becomes a Reality**

At a meeting held after church on February 25, 1940, Reverend Pruitt announced "Unless I could receive more salary I will have to resign... a call has come from a church in Tacoma." A motion to raise his salary to \$32 per week passed as the members had agreed to raise their weekly pledge by 10 cents. Reverend Pruitt withdrew his resignation.

At last the building committee cleared the way for fund raising to begin. Instead of the three-unit Lockman plan, it was agreed to build only the chapel unit at this time. The education unit and social hall would have been located on the north and east with an open court in the middle.

A congregational dinner meeting was called to announce the beginning of the drive. John Van Aalst started by announcing that he would donate 1000 tulip bulbs to be sold for \$1.00 each. The Junior Aid reported that they had \$200 to donate. The Sunday School paper drive netted \$30. At this time total membership was 260.

Before any construction could be considered it was necessary to move the parsonage since it stood on the proposed site of the new church. It was moved about one-half block away and set on a cement foundation. It is still standing and is on the S. W. corner of First Street and Sixth Avenue. (It was sold to a private party following Reverend Helliwell's service to the church. It is now painted gray with white trim--just north of the sanctuary.)

The building committee continued to make final decisions during the summer months. August 25, 1940 was a landmark day for it signaled the beginning of construction of the church needed for almost fifty years. Helen Shinstrom was given the honor of wielding the shovel at the ground breaking ceremony with Irving Gates manning the pick.

Overseeing the construction was John Nelson (father of Enid Johnston). The plans he had submitted were on the austere side as he wanted to save the church money. But when the members selected the Lockman design he simply offered to build it that way (but not without a few arguments).

This wiry Swedish carpenter had long been active in the church so this was a labor of love. Although he was paid a small wage for his work he put in countless hours which were never tallied. This remarkable man was 80 years old at this time but members recall seeing him scamper around the construction site as agile as most men half his age.

It was voted to become the First Congregational Church of Kirkland to fully show its denominational affiliation.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **The New Building is Financed**

During the quarterly meeting in March 1941 it was reported that the lot donated by Mrs. Addie White had been sold for \$1300 which would go into the building fund. A standing vote of thanks was given John Nelson for his "generous, unselfish and capable work." Thanks were also expressed to Shade Franklin and Irving Gates for their untiring services in working on the finance committee. Also passed was a motion that the Board of Trustees of the ecclesiastical body of the church be the same as the corporate body. That motion was to make sure of the proper ownership of the title to the land.

Application for the building loan contained the following data:

- Location: Kirkland, King County on the Northern Pacific Railroad.
- Population: 2200 of the following nationalities and in the following proportions: (Very mixed and mostly American citizens)
- Principal business of area: Growing vegetables, chickens, stock and the Lake Washington Shipyard.
- Members: 92 males and 134 females
- Services: 9:45 AM, 11 AM, and 7 PM
- Attendance: Average worship--95; Sunday School--140.
- Other churches in area: Presbyterian, People's, Episcopal, Lutheran, Catholic and Christian Scientist.
- Nearest Congregational Church: Seattle, 7 miles by boat, 21 by road
- Proposed building: 89 x 59 x 30 feet high, will seat 250
- Cost: Land, \$1000; Building, \$13,000, Furniture, \$6000
- Subscription: Reliable subscription in writing, \$15,000
- Aid: After using every effort to raise the money among ourselves we absolutely need \$5000.

The application was signed by Deacons: Chester M. Clark, John Nelson, Fred Drynan. Trustees: Shade Franklin, Irving Gates, Clayton Shinstrom. The document was dated April 21, 1941 and bears the corporate seal of the First Congregational Church of Kirkland.

A mortgage on the property was always held as security by the Building Society to be sure it remained as a Congregational Church and if it did not the Society could get back its money. The \$5000 in aid was to be \$2000 in a grant and \$3000 as a loan at 6% interest due in \$75 payments due on September 1, 1941 and quarterly thereafter... "but if payments are made promptly when due the interest rate will be reduced to 2%."

Difficulty in getting clear title to the land delayed granting the loan but construction continued. The building committee only spent money as it came in. The land had been in the estate of the George Oliver family and the title was eventually cleared.

In July \$2000 was received from the Building Society, half for the grant and half for the loan. The remainder was to be sent when a certificate of completion was submitted accompanied by a photo of the completed structure. "The building must be fully insured including windstorm and tornado damage." (The latter seemed a little ridiculous to the locals.) Lacking the \$3000 needed to complete the work the trustees decided to try to get a local bank loan using the Building Society payment upon completion to repay the loan. F. M. Roberts handled all the legal entanglements and the congregation was very grateful.

The ledger shows 24 elm church pews, a 6 foot clergy pew and 24 choir chairs were ordered for \$823. (Some of these pews are now in the small chapel.)

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### War Brings Changes

Progress on the new building was slow at times but the construction was nearing completion when our country was suddenly thrust into World War II. Florence Gildow, choir director said, "We are beginning to feel the effect of the war and have already lost to the service one of our most faithful and talented members, Bob Pruitt."

During January of 1942 the Junior and Primary Sunday School classes moved into the new building even though their rooms were not yet equipped. The first church service was held on January 18. During that service and before the building was formally dedicated the congregation joined in prayer. "We here and now dedicate ourselves to the reverent use of it. We pray for the spirit of humility to possess our hearts and minds, so that we may know that this building was not erected only by human skill but also there has been the continuous evidence of the guidance and power of God."

Soon after moving into the church, Reverend Pruitt announced that he would hand in his resignation shortly after the dedication of the new building as he felt his work here had been accomplished.

The church council decided that Florence Gildow should be custodian of the pipe organ. Rules were set up for its use and a fee charged those qualified who wanted to practice on it. Ruth Wright was organist for the morning service and Roberta Pruitt for the evening service.

The new pipe organ was a treasured instrument of the church. It was a Kimball two-manual organ given as a memorial gift by Helen Shinstrom, her sister Estelle Roberts and her brother F. M. Roberts, in memory of their parents, Francis and Abbie Roberts. The organ chimes were a memorial gift of the Shinstrom children: Frank, Betty, Gail and Dick, to their grandparents. A special dedication organ recital was presented by Lauren B. Sykes on the evening of the dedication of the church. The congregation joined in prayer:

*"In loving recognition of those to whom this organ and chimes are given as memorial tribute, we now dedicate these instruments to the worship of God in their service of beautifying the total program of this church with a ministry of music of superior cultural and spiritual qualities."*

Memorial gifts in addition to the organ included altar equipment, a gift of Mrs. Amy Smith in memory of O. S. Penney and the sanctuary furniture, a gift of Carrie Shumway in memory of her sisters, Emma, Mary and Elizabeth. The large 1888 edition alter Bible used today and belonged to Mary Shumway and had previously been given to the church by the Shumway family.

The six stained glass windows were all given as memorials. A. C. Estey gave one in memory of his wife Mae for her service as a Sunday School teacher for 22 years and as leader of the first Cub Scout Pack in America. Others honored by these gifts were Harry French, Mrs. Frank Curtis, Warren Norton Powell and David Burr Powell. The one honoring Harry French is now in the home of Verna Thormahlen.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Bible Read for Chancel Window**

The large chancel window was a story in itself. Myrtle Robertson decided she wanted to make a special project for her donation to the new church. "A dollar into the building fund for everyone who has read the Bible entirely through," was her goal. Having read it 25 times herself she wanted to find enough names to total \$100.

As the list grew she asked if the "Bible Readers" couldn't be the donors of the large stained glass window. The money was entirely her own but she wanted to have a meaningful purpose for giving it. Many people agreed to pursue the task, some refused and other complained their eyes wouldn't stand the strain. Another said she had so much to do indoors and out, that before she had read 10 minutes she was asleep. Another became stalled on "the begots" but Mrs. Robertson said she suspected that housework, canning, preserving, together with volunteer work with the Ladies Aid Circle interfered more than the "begots" did. As her list grew so did the price of the window. But Mrs. Robertson, a tenacious lady said, "I buttonholed more people in church and out." She added friends, relatives, strangers she encountered on the ferry to Seattle, even business people.

She made a trip to Friday Harbor to interview the daughters of Peter Kirk to gain some information for the early church history she was compiling. The three had been former members of this church so she told them of her window project. They combed their town and gave her a list which included a Mr. Talbott who had been principal of Central School in 1905 and Mrs. Mervyn Williams, widow of the son of one of the founders of the steel mill in Kirkland in the 1890's.

The Ladies Aid came to her rescue with \$42 when the window cost rose to \$207. When she had deposited the last money, her task completed, she wrote, "Call it an old lady's whim if you want ... to my way of thinking an intimate and ever-increasing knowledge of God's word is several thousand times as important to the life of

Christians as a new church building." A retired school teacher with a mission and a desire to complete it!!!

The decision as to whom the big window would be named for was given to her and the choice she made was Samuel Greene, founder and first pastor of the church. His long association with Congregational church work ended with his death in 1921. He had always remained close to the church he had served for seven years after helping found it in 1880. Four Seattle ladies also donated a portrait of Rev. Greene to the Kirkland Church since it had been his only pastorate.

Shortly after occupying the church the necessary statement of completion was sent to the Building Society showing the value of the building at \$24,000. It also showed \$13,599 was raised by cash contributions. Donated labor was valued at \$2682, and donated material was worth \$719, with \$8000 in aid from the Building Society. (A second \$3000 mortgage had been granted.)

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Old Church Building Sold and Second "Boom" Hits Kirkland**

When the trustees completed the necessary statement of completion to the Building Society they asked for permission to sell the old church building. The 50 year old structure was sold for \$300 to Chet Green who removed it from the site and used the lumber to build a garage and shed in back of Green's Funeral home. Work parties were held for several months to completely remove the old building and clean up the grounds. Permission to do this was granted in a letter that stated: "It is of course understood that the land on which the old church building was erected will be preserved by the church and properly landscaped so it will add to the beauty of your new building." (Today it is a blacktop parking lot for the church to the east of the building.)

Furnishing the interior of the building was done by the Ladies Aid (later to become "Circles"). The Senior Aid bought new dishes; Mary Martha Circle purchased the carpet and the Junior Aid bought the kitchen stove. (I think it is the one we still use!!)

Requests to use the church sanctuary and dining room necessitated establishing a fee of \$20 for outside groups. It became the setting for many weddings in the community. The old hymnals were sold for 10 cents a piece. Reverend Pruitt remained during the summer and spent his vacation in Colorado attending a ministerial school with the church paying his tuition.

The war was having its effect on the church and the community in a number of ways. The Lake Washington Shipyard (Now Carillon Point) suddenly became a vital industry as the Navy orders piled up. The quiet town on the lake shore once again experienced a boom similar to the one of 50 years ago. Almost overnight the population doubled with the new residents living in wartime housing projects hastily constructed in the Houghton Area. Stewart Heights and Projects A & B occupied

much of the land between NE 68th and 108th NE intersection south to NE 53rd. (This area is the Northwest College campus.)

With the increased population came new problems. The church received a letter from the War Emergency Committee of the Congregational Churches recommending a grant of \$150 a month be paid to the First Congregational Church of Kirkland for six months for the purpose of engaging an assistant pastor to work in the housing projects where a Sunday School of 100 was being organized. "No church is more worthy of help than the Kirkland church," the letter stated. The money was granted by the Seattle Council of Churches and Vincent Widney was hired. He was a newcomer in the area with a ministerial background. Collins School in the area was used for Sunday School, according to Ruth Wiesen, who served then as one of the teachers.

Choir practice was difficult reported Florence Gildow, director. "The war caused a shortage of men's voices and has caused an imbalance in the different parts." Verna Thormahlen was one of the teenage girls in the church who sang with the Daughters of Music, a girls choral group organized by Olivia Davis.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### Reverend Pruitt Resigns and Rev. Blish Arrives

A money raising event for 1943 was selling a calendar which had the story of the church bell. Each summer the women of the Ladies Aid held a garden party at the Shinstrom home. This was also a fund raiser. The grounds were beautifully landscaped with trees and rare plants.

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In November of this year Reverend Pruitt asked for his release as he had been offered a pastorate in Seattle. Dr. Elton Gildow, chairman of the deacons accepted his resignation "with sincere expression of our regret in losing his valuable services." Helen Shinstrom headed the committee to search for a new minister.

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The pulpit committee reported in February recommending inviting Reverend Frank Blish of Newton, Iowa. He accepted and came west with his wife and daughter without ever visiting the area or having any person contact with the congregation. Half of his moving expenses were paid and he was offered a salary of \$2500 a year.

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Budget items in 1943 were printed bulletins, \$100; postage, \$40; heat, \$175; electricity, \$175; water, \$36; phone, \$59. The janitor was paid \$25 a month, but the organist and choir director were volunteers. Landscaping around the new church building was allocated \$50. Prosperity was evident as the congregation pledged \$750 for benevolences for the year. When a family asked for a letter of transfer it was discovered that the printed form was dated 1891 so the clerk was ordered to write letters for the present until the minister could prepare a new form for printing.

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The Ladies Aid provided funds for linoleum for the kitchen and dining room. They also purchased a new communion set. In 1943 they reorganized to become Women's Federation with Circles similar to the format today. The name was later changed to Women's Fellowship.

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Reverend Blish in reviewing his beginning as minister: "There were many things

wrong with the town when we arrived. The streets were terrible, you were warned against driving on some of them. The rain fell incessantly (one of those wet years!!), the sidewalks were scarce and the gravel was hard on rationed shoes. The house we were to live in was not ready and it seemed impossible that we should be a burden to our host and hostess. When we walked the streets no one seemed to know us and much less care that they did not. Lest, however you think that all was wrong, I will recount some of the things that were right. The flowers were beginning to bloom, the grass was green, and the hearts of the church family were very warm. Mr. & Mrs. Shinstrom and their family were the ideal hosts and everything was done for our comfort. People invited us to partake of their choicest morsels, then newly rationed, some evidently cached away for just some occasion ... cordial smiles became the usual thing and slowly but surely we knew we belonged."

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He reported that had officiated at 32 funerals, 29 weddings, 24 baptisms and took in 39 members. He further commented on member, Irving Gates, who quietly did so many chores around the church (we now have Arnie Berkey!!). He further remarked, "I wish I had a whole churchful of people like him."

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### Church Growing at a Rapid Rate

Reverend Widney, had been hired earlier to develop the Sunday School program in the four housing projects in Kirkland Heights area. One session was held at 9:30 am at Collins School and another session at Stewart Heights at 10:30 AM each Sunday. About 100 children attended each. It was difficult to find enough teachers. (The church had received a grant of \$150 per month from the War Emergency Committee of the Congregational Churches of the Seattle Council to hire Rev. Widney.)

A junior choir and a Mother's Club had been started. Rev. Widney was going to try to hold a Sunday evening church service at Stewart Heights.

As 1944 began the membership of the church was at an all-time high of 347. The treasury had a healthy balance on hand of \$775. However the church clerk, Myrtle Sholty, felt something was lacking so she added the following statement to the annual report. "No report made any mention of any visitation to the sick and aged. Much more space was given to enumerating the number in attendance ... the amount of money taken in and the many physical improvements made about the church than to the spiritual growth of its members." While the budget shows the minister's salary was raised to \$3000 it also indicated an outward concern as the benevolences were raised to \$1000. For the first time the choir director was paid \$3 per week and the organist \$2 per week. It seemed additional space would be necessary soon so a new building fund was started. Complaints had been heard about the lack of cover at the entry doors so porch roofs were built as a shelter from the weather.

New officers serving in 1944 were John Gates (Pam Owens father), Ralph Haycox, Paul Frank, Mrs. S. J. Curtis, Robert Clark (owner of a funeral home in the building which housed the Unitarian Church--the 1922 building recently moved to the bottom of Market Street--It will become the home of the Kirkland Historical Society). The financial secretary was Arnold Sievers who held the office for many years. (His wife is Vi Sievers who just celebrated her 90th birthday)

Attendance was high on Easter as the treasurer reported \$185 in the loose offering. Forty new members joined during 1944. During the Lenten season there were many baptisms. Some familiar names include Pamela Gates (Owens, now) and Donna Hjorth (Margaret Kennedy's daughter).

A vacation Church School was held at both the church and the housing projects. Tom Simmons reported on the need for Sunday School teachers and the long list of reasons he had heard why people could not do it. "If you want to hear some real excuses, try being a Sunday School Superintendent for a while," he remarked.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## **Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrated**

The 50th anniversary of the founding of the First Congregational Church of Kirkland was observed in October, 1944.

Church members felt the need for a unifying world organization and joined the covenant for the Congregational Christian Compact for World Order which had been proposed nationally. It read in part "We pray that our nation shall help to establish an international organization for the better ordering of interdependent life of nations, the preservation of peace with justice and the furtherance of the general good of all peoples."

In 1945 Morton Johnson was elected as a deacon. "Mort" as he was fondly called by all was Superintendent of the newly formed Lake Washington School District which consolidated all of the area surrounding Kirkland and Redmond.

Apparently, some of the congregation were objecting to the amount of time the minister was spending away from the church. Reverend Blish was involved in several civic organizations and war-time boards. In his annual report, he indicated these activities were part of his duty in view of the manpower shortage. Other events mentioned at this time was that the trustees decided to ask the city about the possibility of paving Fifth Avenue on the south side of the church. At that time, it was the front of the church. (No mention at this time as to when the project was to be done.) Dr. J. Earl Taylor was appointed to fill the unexpired term as trustee of Dr. H. H. Sherwood who had died in the spring.

Tom Simmons was upset when he reported that the Sunday School was bursting at the seams having twice as many pupils in the space as it was originally designed to accommodate. A planning committee was set up with the trustees and John Nelson (now 85 years of age). The Memorial Building Fund had been growing and now was

nearly \$5000 so \$250 was authorized for Fred Lockman to draw up plans for the new addition.

An Easter Sunrise Service was held at Stewart Heights and was attended by 380 people. A breakfast was held in the cafeteria following the service. The choir presented a concert of Russian music, "the first in a series of concerts featuring the music of our Allies." A printed brochure complete with photographs was prepared by the deacons as a handout titled, "A Church With a Warm Welcome to all People."

Reverend Widney's work in the housing projects was increasing, but there was "competition from the tabernacle across the street." He further remarked, "there are enough people to crowd the facilities of both if people were going to church as they should."

As the war years came to a close in 1945 the Congregational Crusade was inaugurated. It was a plan for post-war reconstruction period both in this country and in the world to increase the impact of the churches upon the lives of the communities in which they serve. \$4300 was suggested for our church. The projects included were new buildings for University, Magnolia and Pullman churches, a chapel for N-Sid-Sen conference grounds, and a variety of service projects to aid war victims and missions throughout the world. A special offering in Kirkland had already collected over \$1000. With its own upcoming building project the trustees decided to make the Crusade 1/3 of their annual benevolence budget over 3 year period.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### War is Finally Over

Servicemen were returning and the church was used for 42 weddings in 1946. The post-war period was also evidenced by a letter the King County Health Department sent the church urging everyone to get a small pox vaccination.

John McCrory and Glenn Johnson made a gift to the church of the lot immediately north of the church building on First Street. A house stood on the corner lot and the church owned the rest of the block. Kirkland's boom was over once again, but this time many families stayed in the area. The housing projects remained for several more years but were eventually sold and moved or torn down less than 10 years after they had been built as temporary housing. Rev. Widney's ministry at the project was closed but he and his wife remained members of the church.

Reverend Blish purchased a house on Newcastle Road so the parsonage was renovated and rented to the Paul Franks. Secretarial help is recorded for the first time in 1946 as Mrs. Gregory "was paid a moderate amount."

A new name appeared on the Board of Deacons in 1947, Charles W. Johnson, Jr. (Charlie to everyone) an attorney in town. Florence Wilkinson was secretary-treasurer of the Sunday School. There were 18 women Sunday School teachers and seven men teachers. Some of the names you might recognize included Bob and Ruth Wiesen, Margaret Hjorth (Kennedy), Winifred and Mort Johnson, Florence and Herb Wilkinson, Florence and Elton Gildow.

Jean Proudfoot was Women's Federation president.

The trustees reported putting protective bars on the third floor windows, a railing on the balcony and for further safety, double doors from the dining room to the narthex.

In July, Reverend Blish announced his resignation and asked the trustees whether he should read it from the pulpit or take the matter to the church council. When asked if

it was his salary that was causing him to leave he replied that it was not the reason for his resignation. The board advised him to read his letter at church the following Sunday. They also suggested that he should plan to stay until his successor was selected. By December the pastoral committee which included Charlie Johnson, Tony Drain, Helen Shinstrom, Morton Johnson, Dr. Earl Taylor, Esther Smith and Eire Gregory with the assistance of Dr. Archie Hook, new Congregational Superintendent of the area, recommended Reverend Donald Mills of Wisconsin. He accepted the call but stated that he could not arrive until February.

Reverend Blish became executive secretary of the YMCA but agreed to fill the pulpit on Sundays until the new minister arrived.

The old parsonage was pressed into full service when Reverend Mills arrived with his wife Jane and their five children

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Sunday Services Broadcasted

In 1948 Kirkland had a new radio station whose call letters were KRKL and in the spring of that year it was proposed to broadcast the Sunday services on a trial basis for three months. The cost per broadcast was \$23 so the "hat was passed" and collected \$60 to start the fund. A collection plate was set in the church to receive donations for the broadcasts. But by the end of the year there was still a deficit so the idea was dropped.

Another program that was broadcasted that year was a great success. It was "Breakfast in Kirkland!" a take off on a popular radio program which was called "Breakfast with Tom Brenneman," which came from Los Angeles. The program was sponsored by the Women's Federation and was open to all women in the community and became very popular and was always sold out. It was not unusual for the women in the kitchen to scramble an entire case of eggs for the breakfast.

Charlie Johnson played the role of Tom Brenneman one year and Stan Boreson, who still entertains in this area, made a surprise appearance at one of the breakfasts. Orchids were presented to special women and the event became a highlight of spring for the local women.

It was held at the Civic Center in downtown Kirkland. The construction of this building was begun by the WPA before World War II and was completed by the Navy who had a detachment stationed in Kirkland. Barracks and an Armory were built adjacent to the Civic Center. It was in the general area of the library and ballpark. The Civic Center had a complete mess hall and kitchen still intact when the women used it. The Navy had given it the city for recreational use. This Center was used for many events in Kirkland and was the Teen Canteen for nearly 20 years. Ben and Rhoda Barrie were hired by the Coordinating Council to be the managers. The Council was a local agency made up of representatives of the city, churches and the schools to provide recreation and welfare as a Community Chest agency.

"We saw as many as 250 teens on a typical Friday night." Rhoda stated. "The young people had to be from the Lake Washington School District and we had a lively time with them, but I always looked forward to seeing them again.

The Teen Canteen used the basement of the large building which included a room with ping-pong, pool table, a large dance floor with a juke box and a complete soda fountain with booths.

For 14 years this genial couple became Mom and Dad to hundreds of young people who dropped in on the weekend evenings. The building later was destroyed in a large fire.

It has taken many years for the community to build a new and much smaller Teen Center, but we are certain it is enthusiastically welcomed by the young people in the area.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## **Basement Becomes Fellowship Hall**

In 1949 the building committee finally recommended that a basement be excavated under the church rather than building an addition. The cost was estimated at \$25,000. It was concluded that this was the best way to achieve the goal of six classrooms, a dining room and social hall and a space for the Christian youth groups as well as the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Bluebirds and Camp Fire Girls all of which the church sponsored.

On May 22, after a series of training sessions Dr. J. Earl Taylor instructed 120 canvassers as they went out in pairs to conduct the Building Fund drive. The trustees had previously sent an illustrated brochure and cover letter explaining the need for the expanded facility. It stated, "You will notice the growth of our church has been almost phenomenal. That is partly because of population trends and partly because we have consistently tried to maintain a high standard of community service. In both respects, continued growth is expected."

In June a motion was carried that stated "the committee of Dave Burr, Morton Johnson, Harry Sisler, Dr. Taylor, Morris Proudfoot and Bill Chamness be given full responsibility to go ahead with the construction work on the basement plan ... and a grounds committee of Ed Hjorth, Robert Dawson and Ralph Westland be in charge of preserving shrubs during construction." Work progressed slowly on the basement. Sunday School classes were in rented space including the cafeteria at Central School. (This was at the site of the present Kirkland City Hall.)

Before Christmas week was over cold weather set in and Kirkland shivered under one of the most severe winters in memory. Snow came almost daily in early January climaxing in a blizzard on Friday the 13th. It crippled traffic, closing schools and even the Boeing Company.

But life has to go on, especially if a wedding is planned. Linc and Virginia Kaiser have no trouble remembering their wedding date, the day after the big blizzard. The best man could not get to Kirkland, so a quick substitution was made. The church construction was at an awkward point; the building was usable but that night there was no heat. The bride's orchid corsage froze, only about one third of the guests arrived and needless to say the punch bowl was untouched.

Attendance at church the Sunday before had been 185, but in the wake of the storm, only 50 people came on January 15. During the month of January 1950, Seattle area had 31 inches of snow.

Volunteer labor was used in much of the building. Harry Kean laid the drain tile and graded for the lawn. John Nelson (Enid Johnston's father) was back in the midst of the building project, this time doing the kitchen cupboard which we are still using today (over 50 years old!!!--you can see why we have a kitchen remodel fund!!!). The front steps were donated by Ollis Patty and the handrail to the basement by Mastin "Bo" Bouchelle (Rosaltha's husband). More about this important remodel in the next Gleaning.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Completion of Converting Basement to Fellowship Hall**

One of the last "chores" in completing the work was laying the tile floor. It was done by the members of the Kerchief and Kalico Square Dance Club in appreciation for the use of the room. In the late '40's square dancing was having a re-birth in the Northwest. When Reverend Don Mills, a square dance caller, arrived in town and found very few square dancers he decided to teach it. The Lake Washington School District offered the use of the gym as an adult education recreation program. Interest was high and the class taught by Reverend Mills soon formed Kerchief and Kalico Square Dance Club.. With the prospect of the use of the larger area they helped finish it in such a manner that it would be suitable for dancing.

Several of the church members who included Ed Hjorth, Tremaine McGinty and Herb Wilkinson learned to be callers with instruction from Reverend Mills. Other members who were charter members of the group included Clare & Ethel Crowe, Ruth & Bob Wiesen. Joining a few years later were Merle & Ellen Zigler (who still dance) and George & Shirley Lindahl.

The new section of the building was dedicated on May 14, 1950. Winifred Johnson suggested the name Fellowship Hall which was readily accepted by the members. Jean Proudfoot was in charge of the celebration which was combined with a party for John Nelson's 90th birthday. "The congregation gave him a rocking chair as a thank you for all his work for many years on the church building. It was supposed to be a subtle hint for him to take it easy. But I am afraid the rest of the family used it more than he ever did," exclaimed his daughter, Enid Johnston. She also said that she doubted that most of the people knew that he had single-handed put the church bell into place 10 years earlier. He had built the cribbing to get it hung just right. Asked why he didn't ask for help, the spunky Swede replied, "Wasn't anybody around to ask."

An officer's retreat was held the afternoon and evening of August 26 to coordinate the year's church activities. Plans were made to have coffee hours after church service and it was agreed to have classes for mothers of the nursery children.

Sunday School Superintendent Herb Wilkinson reported that we finally had enough room for 250 students. Expenses for completion of Fellowship Hall had exceeded the estimate by \$3000.

The first record of a candlelight Christmas eve service appears in 1950. The choir presented their program in the morning service and Pilgrim Fellowship planned the 11:30 pm service with the Junior Choir singing.

Membership was approaching 500 in 1950. One valued member, Irving Gates, Pam Owens' grandfather, died this year. For over 30 years he had given unselfishly of his time in every possible manner. His home on First Street was just a few blocks from the church to which he was devoted so he walked over to do little chores that he felt needed attention. As a fitting tribute the Memorial Fund in his name was used to landscape and beautify the church grounds.

Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship was led by Gordon Dick, Eastside YMCA secretary. Reverend Mills was dean of both the Senior High Camp and Officer's Workshop Camp at N-Sid-Sen with the Kirkland youth well represented. Florence Gildow and Tremaine McGinty were on the staff for the camp at Seabeck. The High School Pilgrim Fellowship was the second largest in the state that year and often averaged 45 young people in church on a Sunday morning.

Reverend Mills 6 week bible class was well attended. The coffee hours were proving successful for the fellowship they provided. Each Women's Federation Circle took one Sunday with the Pilgrim Fellowship group taking any fifth Sunday.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Growth Brings Changes

In 1950, life in Kirkland saw new buildings appearing. Lake Washington High School had just been completed on Rose Hill and the former high school building, at the foot of Market Street became Kirkland Junior High. Safeway built a new store in downtown Kirkland. Following a destructive fire Ron Richardson built a new variety store and next door the new J. C. Penney store opened. Heisdorf and Nelson built a large hatchery building on the Houghton waterfront.

Members of the church were active in the community. Ralph Lundvahl was secretary of the Kiwanis Club. Al Pratt ran the East King County Credit; Jack Osborne worked for East Side Refrigeration and Lee Johnson Sr. had the Chevrolet dealership and was also president of the Kirkland Little League Baseball Association. Clayton Shinstrom was president of the First National Bank and employed several church members who included Arnold Sievers, Jean Flanagan, Jean Makela, Glenn Lampaert and Frank Shinstrom.

Soon after the toll was removed from the Lake Washington Floating Bridge, the ferry Leschi made its 1st run.

Our choir director, Esther Tye became Mrs. Leighton Smith in 1951. The Sunday school staff number 32 and there was no difficulty getting teachers with the now improved facilities.

That spring the mortgage on the last loan was paid. John Gates (Pam Owen's father) became treasurer taking the position his father had held for many years.

On June 17, Reverend Mills submitted his resignation. The pastoral committee set out at once to find a new minister. Dr. Archie Hook advised them to "(1) prepare a brochure with photographs and statistical material on the church and Kirkland and (2) decide what qualities are most needed in a minister."

In describing the community the pamphlet noted, "population has doubled in the last 10 years, excellent opportunity for development of an active church organization ... area east of Lake Washington is becoming popular for residential use ... of the 15 churches in town our church is the only one in the Liberal Tradition."

The report concluded, "We should like a minister who will be a good man in the pulpit, dignified, have a good speaking voice and an appreciation of music. He should be a man of some experience as a minister and with a sound background of academic and religious education."

After meeting weekly without a successful candidate in sight, they discussed disposing of the parsonage feeling it was the bottleneck in not securing a pastor. The old parsonage was sold for \$6000. The Gross home at 604 First St. was purchased for \$11,875. The coal furnace was converted to oil and an additional \$300. Money could be borrowed at the local bank to purchase a parsonage since it was a dwelling and not a church.

Reverend Ivan Smith and his wife were invited to come to Kirkland as a prospective pastor. The pulpit committee hosted a dinner for them in the yard of Shade and Doris Franklin. The next week John & Gertrude Gates and Frank and Jan Shinstrom drove to Pasco to hear him preach. Their reaction was favorable so his name was presented to the congregation. The Smiths arrived in September with Reverend Smith's mother.

Reverend Smith proposed an idea of dividing the parish into geographic units called church colonies. There would be a key family in each area who would call on each family once during the year and would arrange to hold one-colony meetings of families annually. This would help the minister learn of the needs of the members and would develop fellowship, he maintained. The deacons and deaconesses were skeptical and felt it would be difficult to get key families. He persisted and kept bringing up the idea but it was never set up.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Borrowing "Neighbors" with American Legion**

During World War II, a cooperative arrangement existed between the church and its next-door neighbor the American Legion Hall. When extra tables were needed for the Family Circus Night dinner, they were borrowed from the Legion who occasionally made the same request of the church.

There was no organized men's group at that time but they always seemed available when a job needed to be done. A church picnic was scheduled in June with a work party to do outside chores as the "entertainment" for the evening. (Sounds like a good idea!!)

The annual picnic was held at Beaver Lake with Alice Mayhew heading the food committee. Gordon Dick and Max Canterbury were in charge of games.

A couples social club had been started called the Y-Cons (Young Congregationalists). They met monthly for a variety of activities including speakers, holiday parties, potluck suppers or attending plays or events as a group. They took on the task of putting up the light fixtures in Fellowship Hall in addition to their social events.

One of the circles took the name of Newberry Guild to honor the memory of the long-time minister of the church. Their project at that time was transforming the former kitchen into the bride's dressing room. Hearing aids were installed in the front pews that year.

During 1952 the church rolls showed 623 members with the addition of 136 new names. Only about 1/3 of the local membership attended service regularly. There were 54 baptisms. Reverend Smith with the assistance of his wife used a red rose to baptize each child and at the same time a candle was lit in their name.

The 1953 budget included items for newspaper advertisements, sidewalk assessments, and parsonage payments. John McCrory was chairman of the Board of Trustees when the parking difficulties were discussed.

Florence Gildow had returned as choir director and had three choirs that spring. Women's Federation sewed over 20 choir robes. A 50 voice youth choir sang once a month in church. A complimentary dinner was served the adult choir in May as a "thank you." Another innovation-the Sunday bulletin was mailed to those unable to attend church service. (Might be a good idea now, with a copy of the sermon, as they are taped.)

The men of the congregation volunteered to help repair the home of Marion Kidder when her husband died suddenly. Care was also extended when sponsoring families were assigned each new family joining the church. A city-wide fire inspection alerted the deacons to some possible hazards in the church building, and work was begun to correct them. Some members questioned the safety of the candles being lit at the Christmas Eve Service. It was decided to continue, but with added precautions.

Names appearing on the 1954 officer list for the first time were: Fred Smith, Jack Scofield, Dr. E. C. McKibben, Jr., Marion Kidder, Mary Blackburn, Vi Sievers (who celebrated her 91st birthday last month) and Audrey Hanson. Historian was Ida Gates, head usher was Clare Crowe, and Sunday School Superintendent was John Timbers.

Fireside services were held three Sunday evenings at the church to discuss membership visitations, colony plan, coffee hours, social functions, work parties and interest indicators for new committees. The Mayflower Room was used for such meetings. It was the area immediately behind the sanctuary (before the '60's remodel) and was often used for overflow seating as well as meetings.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Congregation Calls Reverend Helliwell

Preparation began on developing the church profile to be used in the search for a new minister. To quote from it. "We have a constituency with real aspirations to live a Christian life, but with a human tendency to lag, a realization of the need of a new educational building and of a minister who will work with us in fulfilling this need; and a friendly congregation with many new members not yet assimilated."

It described Kirkland as a community in transition from agricultural to suburban in nature. The school district consisted of one high school, one junior high school and six elementary schools. "Also the first public school in the state to serve the mentally and physically handicapped children." Further information on the town stated that there were fifteen churches, eleven doctors and a 35 bed hospital in downtown Kirkland. Businesses included six auto agencies, two bakeries, a blacksmith shop, three drug stores, two feed stores, one variety store, and one department store. A new freeway, Highway 2 (later to be called 405) was just beginning construction. There was a mayoral government, volunteer fire department, two bathing beaches, a civic center with a large gymnasium auditorium and a library in a portion of city hall. The population was 5000, with over 2500 in the unincorporated areas surrounding the city. The town of Houghton, south of Kirkland had a population of 3000.

The profile sent out outlined what were the expectations for the new minister. "A minister with strong religious convictions and faith in the validity of his calling... who would believe in us and persist in expecting much of us... a broad outlook and one with ability to express his faith." After a lengthy search Reverend George Helliwell was called to begin his ministry on September 1, 1955.

The parsonage was readied for Reverend Helliwell, his wife, Eleanor, and a teenage daughter Sue; their son, Tom, was attending college in California. Since their household goods arrived before the family, the women of the church took over

unpacking dishes, arranging the furniture, making the beds, and even stocking the kitchen with groceries.

The Seattle Association of Congregational Churches met in Kirkland in October. Delegates included Helen Schoen, Ethel Crowe, Ruth Tyler, Charles Johnson, Ethel Jovag, Helen Shinstrom, Fred Smith. The deacons and deaconesses updated their manual outlining their responsibilities which included communion, ushering, maintaining the membership roll, distributing periodicals, assisting with baptisms and the general church program. They also studied the proposed merger of the Congregational Christian Churches with the Evangelical and Reform Churches.

In 1956, Pilgrim Fellowship representatives were elected to become junior deacons and deaconesses for six months. The first to serve in this capacity were David Crowe and Karen Arnold. Election results for church boards show Ernie Thormahien, George Schoen, Pearl Mary Clark, Margaretta Leen (Reid) and Jerry Rutherford as newcomers. The Social Action committee encouraged discussion on civil liberties, racial integration, and other social issues.

The deacons and deaconesses needed to define the term "active members" as they were updating the membership roll. They were defined as "one who personally attends four or more services a year and contributes financially to the support of the church." With this as their guide, they began to revise the church rolls which now numbered 763.

The music committee was made a part of the constitutional committee by a vote of the congregation. "The music committee of five members shall have full responsibility for all music in the church including the organ and equipment. It shall have the duty of selection, employment and dismissal of personnel... salary proposals must be submitted to the Board of Trustees." Bryce Johnson was allowed to use the organ for his own practice and in return, he played the prelude each Sunday. A second worship service was started at 9:30 am. It was informal without music or ushers. A Friendly Calling Week was tried with 40 calls made by members on those who had not attended services recently.

Men's Fellowship which was organized the prior spring served the Mother-Daughter Banquet in May. They also assisted at the all-church picnic in June.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Pilgrim Firs Constructed**

In the spring of 1956, many men from the church, including Reverend Helliwell, traveled to our Camp at Pilgrim First for work parties. The conference had been given 125 acres of wooded land six miles south of Port Orchard to use for a campground. It was received with great enthusiasm as the only other site owned was in northern Idaho on Lake Coeur d'Alene--N-Sid-Sen. Within a year over 2500 man days of volunteer labor had produced an outstanding conference site.

All of the buildings were of pre-cut cedar logs. The lodge overlooking the lake contained a chapel, dining-auditorium area, and several meeting rooms. The attractive large fireplace in the lodge and one in the caretaker's home were the donated handiwork of our member, Nels Rasmussen, masonry contractor. Women's Fellowship seamstresses produced curtains for the cabins as their contribution. The camp was dedicated on July 29, 1956. Many members of all ages from this church have participated in activities and camping at this site over the years.

During the '50's several long time members of the church died. Names that some of the current members may remember were David Burr, Clayton Shinstrom, Alvin Curtis, Ralph Coman and Ollis Patty. Carrie Shumway was 98 when she died. She was buried in the Kirkland Cemetery in her family plot; Rosa French who had been a member off the church for 62 years also died. "Mr. Congregational Church" John Nelson (Enid Johnston's father) was still active in mind and body when he died just before his 99th birthday. He had not only contributed to the physical building of the church but had participated in the spiritual life and served as Deacon Emeritus for many years.

As the national church merger came closer to reality, Reverend Phillip Eisenhower of Lake Hills Evangelical and Reform (E&R) Church was invited to speak at a potluck supper to clarify questions on his denomination.

The Christmas service included the adult and children's choir on December 22, 1956 with the Sunday School pageant given that evening. The Christmas Eve candlelight service on Christmas Eve featured the Pilgrim Fellowship Rhythm Choir led by Sue Helliwell.

The budget included \$5000 for a Director of Christian education but after searching it was determined that there were no suitable candidate for that salary. Reverend Helliwell then asked if this church might share such a person with another church for that salary. In the meantime, the Board of Christian Education consisted of Rena Jensen, Pearl Mary Clark, Mertice Johnson, Verna Thormahien, Lucille Aidridge and Emily Champneys.

In January of 1957, a coffee hour after church services honored Ruth Tyler who had resigned as church secretary as she was moving to a retirement apartment at Wesley Gardens in Seattle.

Collections were very good this year as the collections were 90% up to date and the year's benevolences were also current. This included \$3000 for church extension in the state. The minister was allowed \$300 for car expenses and conference dues were 45 cents per member.

George Schoen suggested adding to our fellowship by having a series of social events. He was instantly appointed the chair to organize a Valentine party and box social. Maundy Thursday was observed with the traditional service of Tennebrae with the extinguishing of the candles and everyone quietly leaving the church in darkness. A sunrise service was held that year in addition to the two regular services.

The annual meeting of 1958 began with the traditional dinner but included attending the worship service put on by 30 members of Pilgrim Fellowship. Ed & Margaret Hjorth (Kennedy) were the advisors of this enthusiastic group. The young people had charge of arranging the church services during Reverend Helliwell's vacation. They held a car wash to raise money to purchase additional chimes for the organ.

Gene & Betty Martinson were advisors for the Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship. By coincidence, they had been teenagers in the same type of group in Minneapolis. And Reverend Helliwell was their minister there.

Byron Baggaley, mayor of Kirkland and a church trustee, reported that the only debt of the church was the parsonage mortgage.

The minister's annual report reflected an overworked pastor. The field for professional service in this church is larger than is possible for one man to cover. The effectiveness

of our work would be increased with additional professional ministry. (It had been promised in the first discussion Reverend Helliwell had with the church in 1955.)

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## **Classes Everywhere--Even The Kitchen!**

A preliminary building committee was making arrangements for an architectural survey to consider further additions as the Sunday School was using all available classrooms, all of Fellowship Hall and even part of the kitchen. The topic for discussion was to be: "how and where to expand, remodel or replace our church."

The Social Action Committee chair presented a resolution regarding discrimination against minority groups as a violation of human rights. The church was asked to take a stand. The question involved a cemetery that required racial segregation. After discussion the congregation voted to go on record as "strongly disapproving of the practice of discrimination based on race in any burial facilities" and letters were sent to those involved.

"Fun Night" involved each organization in the church putting on a skit. Ed Hjorth, trustee secretary wrote: "After discussion... it was decided that nothing could be funnier than a real trustees board meeting with its spontaneous repartee!" He may have been referring to the hours spent trying to settle on the color to paint Fellowship Hall--"ripple green" or "apricot." The latter won and was applied by Henry Jovag, painting contractor.

Kirkland volunteer fire fighter Clare Crowe stressed the need for a fire door on the furnace room and adequate fire escapes at one of the trustee meetings. The trustees met in homes at that time and usually included dinner prepared by the host's wife! (Evidently all of the trustees were men.)

It was reported that around 100 attended the Women's Fellowship meetings. The new project introduced was visiting rest homes. The annual church bazaar and turkey dinner had provided the bulk of their budget. Eleanor Helliwell helped organize the older women into a group to work on projects for "Friendly Service" such as sewing and preparing layettes. They took the name of "So and So's" and met for many years.

(special note: Diane Wilson has started a group on the first Wednesday of the month--we meet at 9 am in the Helliwell Room to quilt, knit, crochet, needlework--come join us.)

A calendar planning meeting was set up to arrange ushering. A small corps of men had been performing this task. This year each man in the congregation was put on the ushering list and asked to take a turn. Now men and women both serve as ushers. (Let Char Bates know when you can take your turn.)

A letter from Harriet Rogers suggested that the trustees set up a permanent building maintenance committee and allocate funds for this purpose so that maintenance would not be done in such a haphazard fashion. She also questioned why the trustees did not have any women on the board. A maintenance chairman was finally appointed in 1960 and the first woman trustee was Nadine Underwood in 1967!

The budget for 1959 showed \$20,000 for local church expenses. \$3000 for OCWM (Our churches wider mission), \$3000 for Washington Conference Church Extension and \$470 for Seattle-King County Council of churches.

The couples club was known as the Congregators and they no longer held to an age limit. The annual picnic at Paradise Lake, near Maltby, was delayed an hour on June 21 so that the congregation could watch television. Reverend Helliwell and the adult choir were featured on a video on KING-TV program which aired at 10:30 am.

After three years of trying times the deacons and deaconesses finally presented a revised list of members which showed 757 members. The time consuming task of determining active/inactive status, correcting addresses and making contact with each person had been a chore.

The board purchased two red memorial books. Enid Johnston lettered the names of each person for whom a memorial was given into Volume 1 (which was prior to 1960).

The newly formed Stewardship committee conducted a survey to find the talents and interests of the members when they were distributing the information for financial pledges. This survey resulted in new recruits for choir, teachers, transportation, phone committees, piano players, yard workers, etc. Members were also asked to pledge the number of Sundays they planned to attend church.

The Every Member Canvas was led by Jack Clark and Bruce W. Johnson. Verna Thormahien was in charge of the Vacation Bible School. Merry Garrison helped Mary

Ann Radcliffe with the children's choir. Nels Rasmussen was in his fifth year as superintendent of the Sunday School.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Omestad House Purchased & Remodeling Plan Revealed**

Purchase of the house on the corner of the block for \$4700 gave the church the entire block on 1st Street between 5th and 6th Avenues. Previously the church had negotiated with the city to set aside the alley between the church and the American Legion Hall on 5th Avenue so the property was now an shape. The house was to be used for the 5th and 6th grade Sunday School classes as a partial answer to the housing crunch. It needed a great deal of renovating to ready it for use.

Other bits of news about the congregation at this time included: A Christmas wedding uniting Bonnie DeVere and Bob Wiesen, Jr., a young couple who had grown up in the church and been active in Pilgrim Fellowship. (Bob, Sr. & Ruth's son). Alice Kinyon was choir director with Peggy Myrick, organist. Alice, an outstanding contralto also qualifies as a native of Kirkland as she was born in the historic Peter Kirk Building. The upper floors of the brick building (a brick remnant of Peter Kirk's steel mill dream) was used as a residence for several years. The cupola was her favorite part of the family's sitting room.

Mary Eastman, clerk of the church, wrote, "Dick Crowe (Ethel's son) told of the wonderful friendship, leadership and comradeship given by Reverend Helliwell to the Pilgrim Fellowship young people including his participation in the snow hike during the retreat at Nels Rasmussen's cabin." The slight-built minister loved the outdoors. With his son, Tom, he had climbed Mt. Rainier and the pair had also made a canoe trip through the Bowtron Lake Chain in British Columbia.

A congregational meeting was called in April to discuss the report of the building planning committee. George Schoen reviewed the background of the committee work. In 1956 the need for additional space began to plague the Sunday School. An architectural survey was begun and Gene Martenson, church member and architect, presented reports and drawings in 1958. Remodeling for better use of the existing building was considered for over a year. Final drawings submitted at the 1960 meeting

showed a separation of church and Sunday School facilities which had been the goal to enable simultaneous use by both groups. The sketch showed a new sanctuary on the north corner of the property and remodeling the existing church to become the education wing.

When the new plan was revealed, discussion became lively with both excitement and agitation, depending on how each individual perceived the change. Questions immediately arose of what would happen to the existing building less than 20 years old. What about the stained glass windows and the oak pews? Why not just a new education wing instead of a new sanctuary?

The building committee members George Schoen, Ralph Lundvall, Nels Rasmussen, Barbara Thomas, Robert Wiesen, Alice Kinyon, Elinor and Sid Hammond had weighed the question for weeks. After being assured the present building was sound and would lend itself to a second floor easily, but could not be expanded adequately, the committee accepted the new proposal. They agreed to recommend the plan to the membership and to authorize the trustees to study the possibility of financing. By secret ballot the congregation voted 68 yes to 8 no.

The Board of Trustees was then authorized to "enter into a contract with the firm of Cummings and Martenson for plans, supervision of plans and construction of the new church." The new sanctuary (to the north as it is at present) would be built first and could be used while the conversion of the existing building took place.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Many Changes in the 60's

Urbanization was taking place across America in the early 1960's Families were living further from the center of town. This meant the custom of Sunday School at one hour and church at another was no longer practical as the driving distances became greater. Families wanted to make one trip and have worship and Sunday School at the same time.

It was difficult to soundproof and avoid confusion when both activities were in the same building at once. The sanctuary area was surrounded by classes in the basement, behind the sanctuary and above on the third floor. In addition classes were being held in the kitchen, the parsonage and the aging house on the corner of the property.

Expanding population in the area indicated future growth was imminent. Proponents of the new building plan argued it would serve for many years; for as the need arose additional services could be added without requiring any more space.

In the state of Washington, 80 percent of the churches either built new buildings or remodeled in the period between 1950-60.

After much discussion the members were called again to make a decision concerning financing. Sid Hammond, who had considerable experience in cost analysis in his position with the local school district building program, presided at this meeting. Building costs were to be \$228,000; furnishings, \$10,000; and contingency expenses \$12,000 for a total of \$250,000.

Raising that amount of money by the congregation appeared to be a monumental task. It was necessary to raise half of it within the membership before a loan could be arranged for the balance. The trustees stated, "It is apparent to us that any building project will require a program of personal giving considerably more extensive than our membership has been asked for during the past."

This statement began another heated discussion. Could we drop our benevolences? Could we get help from the Congregational Building Fund? Could we borrow locally? It was agreed the benevolences should remain. The national fund was only to help establish new churches. Local banks were not interested in loans to churches. It looked as if the congregation itself would have to raise the money.

Space was needed now. The surrounding area was growing rapidly. The decision could not be delayed. the vote was to accept three recommendations.

1. Authorize a drive to raise building fund monies which will make \$250,000 available for the building program
2. Authorize the Board of Trustees to interview a firm or individual with experience in professional leadership of pledge drives and
3. Proceed with organization and conduct the fund drive as soon as it can be arranged.

The trustees hired Gale McManus for \$2800 to be financial advisor to set up the building fund drive. By April 1961 he was ready to start the campaign to raise the \$125,000 needed before a loan could be procured. He conducted a series of training sessions, printed booklets and arranged for a Loyalty Dinner as a kick off for the drive.

The novel idea of the free dinner held at Lake Washington High School was "That we may get together in one place, at one time to think, talk and pray about the spiritual and physical need of our church." Hostesses telephoned each family inviting them personally and the response was very satisfying. No soliciting was done at the dinner which cost half of the \$900 expenses incurred by the campaign, but it was considered a good investment.

Reverend Helliwell, always the arbitrator, was sensitive to the delicate situation surrounding the proposed building when he wrote, "We are a Congregational Church. Therefore, anytime after this fund raising phase, if a majority of the membership attending a called meeting desires reconsideration of the plan, there will be such reconsideration. We go nowhere with building unless our people are behind it."

The fund drive was held during the month of May. General chairman was Dr. E. C. McKibben, Jr., team chairman was John Weaver, initial gift chairman, Sid Hammond and special gifts, Dr. J. Earl Taylor. More than 35 men did the soliciting, calling on 214 families asking for a 100 week pledge. The drive resulted in a total of \$119,613.

In October what was to have been a meeting to report progress turned into a meeting of some dissent. Those who had opposed the new sanctuary expressed the feeling that

they had not been given a choice. They stated that since only one plan had been presented a vote of "no" would have meant they wanted no new building. Others began to find fault with certain features of the design, size of new areas and proposed costs.

It was moved that "any new action on the present plan be delayed until additional studies could be made of the construction of a Christian Education Building." The vote was 52 yes and 44 no, which indicated how divided the congregation had become on this issue.

Being a Congregational church we observe the right to disagree ...and disagree we did!

Gene Martenson was then commissioned to draw an alternate plan featuring a separate education building with some remodeling of the existing building.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## **Early Sixties was a Time of Decision**

Since 1948 the proposed merger of the Congregational Church and the Evangelical and Reform Church had been discussed. The original constitution had undergone many revisions. It was suggested by Avis Avey that a panel discuss the present constitution with the church council so that they could make an informed recommendation to the congregation. This was done and on February 26, 1961 the Congregational Church of Kirkland voted to become part of the United Church of Christ and approved the proposed constitution.

Historically, the individual Congregational Churches across the nation had united in 1871 as the National Council of Congregational Churches. In 1924 The Christian Churches merged to form the Congregational Christian denomination. The United Church of Christ came into existence in 1957 and the Congregational and the Evangelical and Reform churches became the first of several to become affiliated.

Noise was on the agenda of a trustees meeting. The reason was that one spring Sunday the worship service had been disrupted by the whine of "go-carts" on the play field of Central School. (Historical tidbit- -Kirkland City Hall was the site of Central School and our sanctuary was at the south end of the building in the area of the Helliwell room and Chapel.) Letters were sent to the mayor of Kirkland and to the school board stating "...this has created a most disturbing situation for the participants at the church service." Two church members, Dr. J. Earl Taylor and Hiram Tuttle were on the school board. The board adopted a policy prohibiting motor propelled vehicles and horses from district school grounds.

Wedding plans were underway for the Helliwell family in the spring of 1961. On June 10, in her father's church Sue became the bride of Rich Redman, a young Congregationalist from Seattle who had chosen to enter the ministry.

Deacon Warner Case gave a report on Horizon House, a Congregational Conference retirement being built in Seattle that summer. He told of having already made his reservation and that he planned to move as soon as it was completed. (He lived there for 15 years and was 100 years old when he died.)

Christmas season began with a flair in 1961 when the Women's Fellowship held the first holiday Smorgasbord. Fellowship Hall was decorated with candles and greens in a holiday mood for 150 guests to dine at each of three sittings. Most of the food was donated except the salmon, ham and Swedish meat balls. The women spent days in preparation but the event was considered a great success and involved all the women of the church for the first time. Alice Mayhew was the "first" organizer of this event which has become an annual tradition. (Now we only have two servings.) The bazaar became a tradition at the same time and continued for several years. Was dropped from time to time. (In the last few years we have had a holiday gift shop before and after the dinner sittings.)

## **Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship**

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Secret Ballot for Building Plans**

The alternate building committee report was given February 4, 1962 with the decision making meeting set for one week later. Plans drawn for this design showed the existing sanctuary remaining with continued use of Fellowship Hall for education. Additional space would be achieved by construction of a two-story education wing with a basement for a cost of \$50,000 less than the original design.

Sensing the importance of the decision to be made, Reverend Helliwell wrote, "The year 1962 has seen the Kirkland Congregational Church to a place of turning, arrived at through the successful building fund raising of last year... a place of decision which will have to do with the direction of the church for many years to come. Aware of the division of feeling he continued, "We are clearly on trial for the measure of graciousness of our words and actions...our readiness to accept with grace the prevailing mind of the church, whatever that mind may prove to be."

The secret ballot revealed 106 members favored the original plan, 56 for the alternate plan and 4 voted against both plans. It was not a unanimous decision but clearly a majority. Some of the 56 voting against the sanctuary plan felt so strongly about the issue that they subsequently left the church.

Following the vote came a motion to authorize the trustees to "activate firm financing, working drawings and a call for bids... approve necessary committees and act as construction committee to work with architects toward finalizing the building plans."

Planning section committees were formed to work out the details with Ron Richardson as general chairman. Areas to be finalized by these groups were Worship (sanctuary), Fellowship (lounge and Fellowship Hall), Education (classrooms), Music (choir loft and practice room), Arts and Grounds. Members of these key committees visited other churches, gleaning ideas, worked diligently with the architects and listened to their fellow members to gain input for their area of concern.

The spring of 1962 saw great excitement in the church not only for the new building, but for the upcoming Seattle Worlds Fair (Century 21). In April, just before the opening of the six month event, the congregation voted to donate \$100 to help set up the Christian Witness Pavilion.

By July a time table was evolving that indicated construction could begin in January, 1963 when half of the total cost would have been guaranteed. At that time the H. G. Wells Co. would consider the loan application for the balance. Plans called for building the sanctuary first, then remodeling the existing building during the summer with all work to be completed by the fall.

Section reports were completed in September. The Education committee which included Barbara Thomas, Phyllis Dieckmann, Avonelle Johnson, Jean Jayne, Anita Watson, and Mary Ann Radcliffe reported that the results would be not only satisfactory for the present time but elastic in that redivisions might be made as need dictated or as education methods may changed.

The Fellowship Committee which included Ernie Thormahlen, Phyllis Dieckmann, Herb and Florence Wilkinson, Elinor Hammond and Eleanor Helliwell felt that the lounge would be useful for coffee hours, meetings or older youth Sunday School class and Fellowship Hall with a new fireplace will serve many social purposes.

Seating for 350 was achieved by the Worship Committee which included Ed and Margaret Hjorth, Bill and Marian Elgin, Jerry and Donna Marsh, Marion Kidder, John and Gertrude Gates and Norine Neyland. They reported that the general perspective of the sanctuary as previously presented has been radically changed with abandonment of the controversial roof line. They further stated that the result is a plan which the committee has received with unanimous enthusiasm.

The Music Committee who included Alice Kinyon, choir director, Mary Ann Radcliffe, Marcia Lutterman, Florence Gildow, Jerry Rutherford and Margaret Hjorth decided that during the services the choir would occupy a balcony, a needed choir rehearsal room will be provided (this room later became the Helliwell Room). They also reported that provisions had been made for relocating the pipe organ in the sanctuary balcony.

## **Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship**

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Scouts Important Part of Church Life**

There were 43 in Boy Scout Troop #452 in 1962. The Scoutmaster was Gerhard Dieckmann who led the troop for 13 years. The church sponsored the troop for over 30 years before it was disbanded in the late 1970's. Many of the men of the church served on the troop committee. Among those active in the 60's were Clare Crowe, Ernie Thormahlen, Paul Johnson, George Lindahl, Al Johnson, Ernie McKibben, Gordon Broderson, Merle Zigler and Elmer Jensen. After passing the test by camping out with the boys, they received the badge of the "skunk patrol" and the responsibilities and privileges that went with it. One duty included cooking pancakes for the annual winter outing at McKibben's cabin located in the Silver Springs area near Crystal Mountain.

Scout dinners and Eagle ceremonies were held in Fellowship Hall as well as the weekly troop meetings. The church received specific attention from boys earning the God and Country award as they worked with the minister. Scouts achieving this award in the Kirkland Congregational Church have been Ira Jensen, Charles Morgan, Travis Westland, David Eagon and Randy Crowe (Ethel's son--who now is resident manager of N-Sid-Sen).

At this time Jack Osborne was Cubmaster. Elmer and Rena Jensen were involved with the Cub Scout program that year and before they were through they had put in 25 years with the church sponsored Cub Scout Pack.

Progress continued to move steadily through the next few months. Pledge monies were being accumulated in six different savings accounts in order to keep the maximum insurable amount in each. In February Harold Hanson, Chair of the Board of Trustees, reported the best contract bid was from Don McDonald Construction Co. Other bids were award to Market Street Plumbing and Watts Electric.

## **Ground Broken for Sanctuary**

On March 10, 1963, the church broke ground for the fourth church in its 83 years of existence. Louise Curds, 91, the oldest member in both age and tenure, turned the first shovelful of earth. Participating in the symbolic ceremony accompanied by trumpets were George Schoen, of the first planning committee, Ron Richardson, of the final building committee, Sid Hammond treasurer of the building fund and the minister, Reverend George Helliwell. All others who wished took a turn on the shovel.

While construction went on life in the church saw new boards forming. Assuming duties that year were V. J. Berth, Harriet Jasper, Joan McGrew, Marjory Stonefelt, Helen Chamberlain, Everly Cox, Rod Anderson, Bill Elgin, Sarah Sharp, Pat Hicks, Merl Zigler, Vera Becker, Dee Pierce, George Lindahl, Roy Abrams, Helen Hopkins, and Meredith Gaskill. Hazel Berth was church clerk and Jerry Marsh was Enlistment Chair.

The property immediately east of sanctuary on 6th Avenue was purchased and the small house became a rental. It later became the church Pea-Patch and still later was sold where homes now exist.

A special honor came to Ed and Margaret Hjorth (now Kennedy) in May when they received the first Community Brotherhood Award for Kirkland. The award was sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The Hjorths were cited for their contribution to young people from all over the world by hosting them in their home.

The couple had served local youth as well for many years, Margaret in Camp Fire Girls and Ed in the Boy Scout program for over 25 years. At that time they were also advisors to a very active high school Pilgrim Fellowship group in the church.

July 14, 1963 was a memorable Sunday called a service of Communion Thanksgiving and Farewell to the existing church building (which is now the Christian Education Center, office, Chapel, Helliwell Room, & Fellowship Hall). For the remainder of the summer church services were held next door at the American Legion Hall. In September church and Sunday School were held at nearby Kirkland Junior High (which is no longer in existence.)

The pipe organ was stored at the Creative Arts Building (Peter Kirk Building). All pews, furniture and equipment were stored in Fellowship Hall. Shrubbery was removed for storage on the Earl Kinyon property in Juanita.

Several weeks earlier a letter had been sent to the congregations saying that anyone who wanted one of the stained glass windows should write a letter of request. Interest in stained glass was low at the time. The only families showing a desire were the Gaskills, Gildows, Thormahlens, Winsemiuses and Schoens.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Dedicating New Building**

Music rang out in the new sanctuary on November 24, 1963 to open the first service. The choir processed down the center aisle as the congregation joined in singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name." The Rhythm choir performed the Lord's Prayer. The choir director was Alice Kinyon and organist was Bob Brinkley.

It was a busy week following the dedication. A dinner was held for the Christian Enlistment canvassers. Two days later the Women's Fellowship luncheon featured the church architect, Gene Martenson. He talked about the design of the building and explained the stained glass screen as viewed from the narthex to the sanctuary.

Viewing from the far right, depict the life of Christ: The Birth, The Baptism and the Crucifixion. To the left of the doors the single panel depicts the Church in the World today. They were designed by Bill Radcliffe. The woodwork surrounding the panels was created by Ed Hjorth.

Later in the week Thanksgiving services were shared with other churches in the area and included members and ministers of the Kirkland-Redmond Ministerial Association.

George and Helen Schoen provided a set of hand bells for use by members of the church. Interested women were invited to become bell ringers under Helen's direction. For many years the bell choir provided an outstanding addition to the music program of the church and community. They provided concerts for various organizations, nursing homes and participated in festivals of bell ringers.

Other events in the life of the church during 1963 included the retirement of Tom Simmons as custodian. Elmer Jensen and Roy Abrams then shared the duties.

Glenn Lampaert retired as Sunday School treasurer when it was decided to incorporate these funds into the church general fund.

A formal dedication took place on January 26. The vows of dedication stated:

Minister: To the service of Jesus our Lord  
People: We dedicate this house  
Minister: For the worship of God in prayer and praise  
For the preaching of the gospel message  
For the celebration of the sacraments  
People: We dedicate this house.  
Minister: For the nurture and guidance of children  
For the enlistment of youth in Christian service  
For carrying the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth  
People: We dedicate this house

The committee making the arrangement for this special occasion included Rod Anderson, Emily Champneys, Ethel Crowe, Phyllis Dieckmann and Jack Holderness.

The attractive new sanctuary with its modern decor was the setting for many weddings the first year. Women's Fellowship had always provided women to help at the receptions but felt a wedding consultant would be able to better organize it. A fee schedule was set up for the use of the building with an additional fee for the consultant's service and the reception. Rolanda Simmons was the first church member to serve in this capacity. Others to follow included Velma Fogle, Sue Carter, Joan Montgomery and Helen Dahi.

The first brides in the church families to walk down the long aisle in the new sanctuary were Pam Gates who married Derald Owens. Alice Moser and Franz Wirtz were the next couple. The orange-red color of the carpet posed some uncomfortable moments for the color-conscious brides, but many weddings took place over the years with "the orange" carpet.

After successfully hosting a large contingent of P.F'ers for the Westside Conference in March, 1965, the church council voted to "go for the big one." They extended an invitation to the Washington-North Idaho Congregational Conference to hold the annual meeting in Kirkland in 1966. Consideration was given to seating, housing and feeding over 400 people and the consensus was "Let's try!!" The invitation was accepted and plans began for the busy year ahead.

A Toastmaster Club sponsored by the men in the church was started by Bill Elgin and Oscar Roloff. Its purpose was to train men to better express themselves and their viewpoint. It was open for membership to all men in the community. The group still meets in the church every Thursday evening, but also includes women.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Associate Minister Hired, and Kirkland Loses Small Town Identity**

The minister's work load had been increasing steadily and now that the new building allowed space for still more programs the need for an associate minister was even greater. A committee of Jack Clark, Phyffis Dieckmann, Henry Jovag, Jack Holderness, Tony Reynolds, Hazel Berto and Janet Hammond began the search. In April the church voted to call Kendall Baker who was just graduating from seminary. He arrived with his wife, Nancy, in July and was officially installed at an ordination service by the Seattle Association of the United Church of Christ in February, 1965.

In 1965 Dick Crowe, who was in the army in Viet Nam wrote his mother, Ethel Crowe, that for his Christmas gift he would like clothing for an orphanage in Saigon. The appeal made through Women's Fellowship gathered 950 garments and \$73 for him to make additional purchases.

The mid sixties was a time of trouble and tumult in much of the world. Viet Nam had created a period of unrest, revolt, campus demonstrations and a general feeling of distrust. Many teenagers saw the standards supported by family and church as "out of step with the times." Civil rights marches became topics not only for individual discussions but also sermons.

The Evergreen Floating Bridge (now called 520) had been completed in 1963 and had brought rapid growth to the area. Lake Washington School District needed the equivalent of one new classroom a week as it was the fastest growing school district in the state. A second high school opened in Redmond. Housing developments were springing up around the area; the downtown stores were being refurbished. The area was "spreading out" and the town seemed less cohesive. The small town atmosphere prevailed when it came to baseball. "Baseball Town USA" was a title earned by Kirkland for its large number of young ball players, excellent facilities in the "new"

Everest Little League Field in downtown Kirkland. (Of course, now we have a "state of the art" relatively new field--right in the center of town.

Another project where every citizen worked together was the building of the community swimming pool. "Our own, Arnie Berkey," played a large part of soliciting funds and donating labor for the project.

During the next several years waterfront parks were accumulated and developed for the enjoyment and use of all the citizens.

Women's Fellowship had established a scholarship for any member preparing for the ministry. Only one person from this congregation was planning to enter this profession, Judy Hjorth, daughter of Ed & Margaret Hjorth (Kennedy). Since she had finished her schooling the group voted to send her half of the collected fund to purchase necessary books and/or robe as she was soon to be ordained. Today she serves as Reverend Doctor Judy Hjorth, minister of the Northern Region of Connecticut, U.C.C..

Under the leadership of Reverend Baker, a new approach was tried for the junior high students. Tuesday night supper, prepared by a group of mothers, was served with classes and recreation following. One room on the east side of Fellowship Hall was painted by the group in psychedelic colors popular at this time.

A Young Couples group was active at this time with the Bakers as leaders. He shared the pulpit with Reverend Helliwell, led some of the study groups and worked with the Sunday School. He also served as secretary of the Lake Washington, Ministerial Association.

Action within the church took several directions to reach out to others. A covenant of open housing was prepared by the social action committee and signed by over 100 members demonstrating their willingness to accept neighbors of any race, color or creed. The stewardship committee helped canvas the Juanita-Kingsgate area for prospective church families. Some members participated in the "Living Room Dialogues," an experiment across denominational lines. Using the book by that title, bi-weekly discussions were held in homes with five Roman Catholic lay members and two lay people from five Protestant churches in the Kirkland area.

Gifts to finish furnishing the church came in the form of the baptismal fount from Jerry and Donna Marsh, the 6-gallon coffee urns from George and Helen Schoen and the Formica kitchen counters from Sid and Elinor Hammond.

Mendelsohn's "Elijah" was presented on Palm Sunday. Bible readings and discussions had prepared the congregation for this great oratorio. The title role was sung by David Jerde with other featured roles sung Allene Knight, Diane Rowe, Mary Jo Smith, Mary Ann Radcliffe, Marcia Lutterman and Mark Forbes. Alice Kinyon directed the choir.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## State Annual Conference Hosted

In the spring of 1965 the church council voted to extend an invitation to the Washington North Idaho Congregational Conference to hold the annual meeting in Kirkland in 1966. The invitation was accepted and plans began. Ken Wagner was general chairman of the host committee. Verna Thormahien chaired the reservations and was also in charge of the name tags and packets. Housing in Kirkland was not available in hotels or motels so Marguerite Johnson had the task of lining up local "bed and breakfast" homes. Church members indicated how many they could house and the response was sufficient (but not without a few anxious moments for Marguerite). Some delegates commuted from Seattle but the housing needs of nearly 200 were met in Kirkland. This was the largest annual meeting held to that date.

Between April 29 and May 1, the 450 delegates were fed in a variety of locations, including Fellowship Hall, Kirkland Junior High and Redmond Senior High. Shirley Lindahl was in charge of arranging for the meals. All women in the church were assigned to a dinner list and each meal had a chair for food and one for decorations. The dinner meals were served in the newly opened Redmond High School Cafeteria. As a souvenir table decorations at the final banquet each guest received a jar of homemade jelly labeled "Made for you by Women's Fellowship."

Other committee chairs for the conference were Clare Crowe, transportation; Byron Lutterman, arrangements and Eleanor Helliwell, hospitality. The concluding day of the conference was a mass worship service of 8000 in the Seattle Center Coliseum. There were 44 United Church of Christ churches participating with both the Kirkland vocal choir and bell choir joining in to provide the music. All the conference ministers processing in their black robes created a memorable opening. Scriptures were read by Governor Dan Evans, Reverend Ben Herbster, national president of the UCC gave the prayer and Reverend Browne Barr of California gave the sermon.

Our associate minister, Kendall Baker and his wife, Nancy, worked on the first Kirkland Art Festival. The ministerial Association had chosen films as a way to participate and asked if the sanctuary could be used for the showings. The Board of Deacons decided that the nature of some of the films would make Fellowship Hall a more suitable theater.

Art had been in the church most of the year as the Visual Art Committee arranged for a variety of shows by local artists. The Dramatic Arts Committee sponsored an Evening of Robert Frost writings.

In 1967 a committee discovered that church supported parsonages were becoming outdated. A recommendation was made that (1) a housing allowance be added to the salary of the minister, (2) the Helliwells be given an option to rent or buy the present parsonage once it had been repaired and (3) grant them \$5000 as a down-payment amount. It was adopted and the Helliwells became renters.

An experimental program called "The Circus" was held on five consecutive nights. Films and speakers explored the dynamics of Christian life for modern adults. One provocative film was "The Parables."

After each organization within the church had done a self-study of their goals, the ideas were brought to the church council. This group approved as the general goal of the church the following statement. "That we seek to present Christianity traditionally and progressively to the membership and the community and to enlist them in Christian expression.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Church Council Stated Goals

Ninth graders were instructed by Reverend Kendall Baker in preparation for membership in the church. Following a potluck dinner in 1967 the class met with the church council. To help them understand church work and the structure of same each board representative spoke on their group's goal for the coming year. Steve Hale explained the Social Action plans to help homeless and parentless children.

Ralph Thomas stated that the Trustees planned to improve communication with the membership concerning financial needs and obligations and also to implement a capital improvement plan which was to include repairing the parking lot and adjacent property.

Ed Hjorth said there was a need for better attendance at Men's Fellowship functions. Anita Jones told of Women's Fellowship plans to emphasize spiritual growth and also make more calls on the aged and shut-ins. Florence Gildow, Music committee chair and choir director expressed the desire to revive the youth choir and to encourage more performing arts including drama.

Alice Erickson, speaking for the Christian Education Committee suggested discussion groups following the sermons and a need for counseling of young parents. The Stewardship Committee's goal according to Walt Ferguson was to find a better way to reach new people in the church and to continue seeking a time and talent commitment from all the members.

Youth Sunday was conducted by members of the Pilgrim Fellowship. Participants included Bruce Johnson, Don Reynolds, Marie Osborne, Cindy Graham, Chuck Hammond, Sue McEvers, Chris Martenson, Dorian Lounsberry, Julie McLeod, Dick Becker, Diane Marsh, Carol Clement and Cheri Brennan.

The church decided in 1967 to have a pictorial directory. Families arrived at church. Everyone was photographed. Months later the portraits were received, but the books never arrived. The company had gone out of business.

After the new addition to the church the small chapel was used for Sunday School, second church services and small weddings. It had only a piano until John Gates (Pam Owen's father) added to the memorial fund so that an organ could be purchased in memory of his parents, Irving and Ida Gates.

Another special gift to the church was a commercial dishwasher. Women's Fellowship had begun a collection when Bill and Maude Chamness stepped in and offered to complete the funding so that the purchase was possible at that time.

Christmas that year saw a new schedule for the traditional pageant. Families gathered at 3:30 pm on the Sunday preceding Christmas for the program. It was followed by neighborhood caroling ending at the church for a party in Fellowship Hall.

In previous sanctuaries the flags, both United States and Christian, had stood on either side of the altar. The deacons questioned why they had been discontinued in the new sanctuary. The large wood cross was to be the focal point, so the visual arts committee went on record as "opposing the placement of flags in the sanctuary and suggest an alternate display somewhere within the church." The members concurred by a vote at the next annual meeting.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### Ministers Resign in 1968

On March 20, 1968 Associate minister Kendall Baker submitted his resignation to be effective in one month as he had accepted the call of Bellevue Congregational Church to become their associate minister. A farewell reception was given on April 7 for Kendall and Nancy and their children, Scott and Dana.

Retirement had been the plan of Reverend Helliwell as he approached the age of 65. On April 8 he announced that his resignation would be effective at the end of July. The Board of Deacons and Deaconesses expressed the feeling of the entire congregation with the following statement. "We regret Reverend Helliwell's decision to retire. His spiritual guidance and leadership have been an inspiration to all of us. God grant this his lifetime of faithful service in His work be rewarded by peace and contentment in his retirement and the knowledge of work well done."

The pulpit (search) committee that had been appointed to select a new associate minister was now directed to to search for a new senior minister. Ralph Thomas served as chair and was assisted by Dick Engelbrecht, Hazel Berto, Steve Hale, Elinor Hammond, Don Nelson and Don Jovag.

On June 19, 1968, the church members gathered for a recognition dinner for George and Elinor Helliwell who had served so faithfully for 13 years. The church had grown and prospered in that time and under his leadership the new building had been constructed. As a team they had exemplified the role of pastor and wife in their dedication to the church they so ably served. Eleanor had been a Sunday School teacher, member of the Bell Choir, organizer of the So and So's and a worker in Women's Fellowship activities. For three years she served as state president of Women's Fellowship.

In retirement they purchased their first home in the Montlake district of Seattle. George continued to serve on various committees and as interim pastor in several

churches. For several years he participated in Night Watch, a program where clergy walked the streets in Seattle to talk with and/or help those in need. He also counseled at Sedranar Drug Center. Both became active members of the University Congregational Church. They eventually moved to California to be near their son, Tom and daughter Sue and their spouses.

Involvement in the community as suggested in the goals which were adopted a year earlier was illustrated in the trustees report in 1968. A survey of 18 businesses in the Kirkland-Juanita area was conducted seeking job openings for minorities. Women's Fellowship sent several shipments of clothing to the Seattle Central area and to Church World Service. Ray Schoen picked up donated goods from Art's Food Center and delivered them to Griffin Home for Boys.

Interim minister Paul Van Horn served the church from September 8 to January 29, 1969. The retired minister from Tacoma with his wife guided the church during the fall and the various boards accepted the primary responsibilities for continuing programs.

John Gates resigned as treasurer after 18 years, a job held by his father for a similar number of years. His position was filled by Clarence Schott. Another resignation when our choir director, Alice Kinyon retired after 10 years of service. Donna Hjorth Nilson filled the position until October when she and her husband, Tom, left for training in the Peace Corps prior to leaving for their assignment in Liberia. Our new choir director was Glenn Bowerman.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Extensive Search for a New Minister**

The pulpit committee screened 40 applicants for the ministerial position at the Kirkland Congregational Church. A weekend visit to Kirkland and an interview with the committee had narrowed the choice when they made their selection. On November 17, 1968 they brought the name of Reverend Ronald Hutchinson of Glen Ellyn, Illinois for the vote of the congregation.

The call was extended to him and he replied, "It is with great joy, and more than a little humility that I accept the call ... I ask for your prayers that we may together continue the adventure of Faith given to the Congregational Church of Kirkland."

Since the parsonage had been sold the minister's salary of \$8400 was now supplemented by a housing allowance of \$4000 for the first year and \$1800 annually thereafter. Auto expenses of \$600 were to be paid by the church as well an annuity. One month vacation was allowed.

When he could not arrange to move before February, Reverend Van Horn agreed to remain until the end of January. As a thank you at that time the congregation gave the Van Horns the gift of a trip to Puerto Rico on a UCC tour.

For the first time in six years the church bell rang again at Christmas. Since it had come down out of the steeple during the remodeling it had been placed on a cement slab and stood quietly near the east entry doors. On Christmas Eve, following the choral cantata, "Son of Man" with trumpets, flute and trombone the great bell proclaimed the good news at the finale.

Christmas season brought the eighth annual Smorgasbord. The meat ball party several weeks prior to the event had become a tradition. The volunteer "meatball rollers" formed nearly 3000 small Swedish meatballs which were baked and frozen to await the "big day." (We now purchase frozen meatballs and make up our own special

gravy.) Ethel Jovag presided over the cooking of the salmon fillets. The stove tops held containers of scalloped potatoes and baked beans. The meatballs were thawed and heated in roaster ovens. Homemade salads, breads and pies completed the menu. (Mark your calendar now for Saturday, December 6 for our 42nd annual smorgasbord!!)

The new minister and his family were officially welcomed on February 16, although he had preached his first sermon the week prior. The Hutchinson family arrived, but negotiations on the purchase of their new home could not be finalized. They spent their first month in the home of Margaret and Ed Hjorth and their furniture was stored in the basement of a local Chinese restaurant.

The family had spent most of their life in the Midwest but the transition was made much easier for them all as the Hjorths became the children's "instant grandparents." The children were Lynn-10, Susie-8, and John-3.

## **Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship**

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Economy of Area Affects Church**

Unemployment hit the greater Seattle area in 1970 as the Boeing Company started a widespread layoff. A domino action began which affected the general economy of the entire area as the buying power was reduced for a large segment of the population. Food Banks were set up to provide free food for those in need. The Congregational Church stepped forward to house the program.

The room on the southeast corner of Fellowship Hall became a hub of activity as food came in from many churches, schools and civic organizations who conducted food drives. Volunteers from all the churches made this a truly ecumenical effort living up to the name of helping Neighbors in Need. Some food was sent from eastern Washington donors. Once a week the doors were open to anyone in need. There were no questions asked, the food was a gift of love to those who appeared. This program continued for five years until it was phased out in compliance with all the food programs in the Seattle area. It later began as the Emergency Feeding program in our church building and for well over 20 years Meredith Gaskifi has been its director and purchaser, putting in many hours of time to feed those in need. She works in cooperation with Hopelink.

In 1970 the church served the community by sponsoring dances for junior high students. Young people filled Fellowship Hall as they enjoyed these events. The newsletter became a monthly booklet edited by Chris Bell. (We call it "Good News" now.) Contributing members wrote on their special interests. Another change occurred when all the boards and committees met on the same night and were called the leadership team.

Jeanne Gardiner served as church clerk and Jerry Marsh as moderator. The following year Alice Erickson served in this capacity. Sid Hammond who had played such a large part in building the new sanctuary had retired from his position with the local school district and used his expertise to design a program to refinance the church's

bonded indebtedness. He also analyzed the major repairs and needed maintenance for the building.

Since 1969 the budget had included an item for an associate minister but the funds never materialized. In 1973 it was decided to temporarily hire Donna Hjorth Nilson to assist with the Christian Education program. A staff selection committee was set up to screen candidates to fill the position permanently. After several months of interviewing the committee had to report that they were unable to find a suitable candidate.

As an alternate program the trustees voted to use the money to pay Barbara Thomas, a member with Christian Education training to plan the curriculum for the 1973-74 program and to hire Dave Johnson for a brief summer program for the children. He was later retained for the balance of the year. At his suggestion a school bus was purchased to be used by the church.

The Sunday school that fall became the Learning Community, abandoning a formal curriculum. Some families left the church as they felt their children were not receiving religious training in this unstructured program.

Church and Terry Hammond became the leaders of the Senior High Group. Randy and Linda Crowe lead the Junior High students and were assisted by Ryan and Joan Montgomery and Pam and Locke Reader.

The role of the minister was gradually changing to include more counseling. Reverend Hutchinson reported spending 240 hours in the year 1973 in that capacity. Later that year several other UCC churches in the area formed the United Counseling Ministry.

Small group meetings were held in 10 homes as a way of developing better communications in the congregation. Discussion was open for all sorts of ideas, needs, goals or even complaints. As a result, members became better acquainted. There were monthly work parties at the church for indoor and outdoor cleanups- another way to get to know their fellow church members.

**59**

**Church Building serves many uses**

**Not found**

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### Who Will Run the Mimeograph?

The one who knew most about the inner workings of our church organization and the temperamental mimeograph machine left town in January 1975. (We now have a state of the art new copy machine that talks to our computers!!) Marj Thompson had served as a Sunday School teacher, member of Women's Fellowship and as church secretary for nearly 15 years. She loved her church and gave a great deal more time than she was ever compensated for in her "part time" job. (This seems to be a common trait of church secretaries, or office administrators--the title now.) A family move to Oakville, Washington was the reason for her resignation. A "thank you" reception was given to honor her on January 26.

The Puget Sound Blood Center came to Kirkland under the sponsorship of our church and we have served as their headquarters several times over many years.

Tom Kelly was moderator that year and Jeanne Peterson served as choir director. Don Jovag, who taught woodworking in the local school district supervised the construction and installation of two large wooden signs reading "Congregational Church of Kirkland". The symbol of the United Church of Christ also appears -- it is based on an ancient Christian symbol known as the Cross of Victory. It signifies "the kingship of the Risen Christ over all the world". The complete emblem has around the perimeter the words "United Church of Christ" and the text "That they may all be one". However, this does not appear on the sign.

The church clerk noted that school children are now scattered thru many schools instead of locally centered around the downtown Kirkland area. The current Sunday School program was not attracting as many families with children as the population increased and moved further from the center of town.

Bylaws were revised setting a a board of directors to include the moderator, vice moderator, treasurer, clerk, financial secretary, chairmen of each of the boards and

representatives of Women's and Men's Fellowship. They became the governing body of the church. The Board of Trustees was disbanded and a new Finance Committee was formed.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Bicentennial Quilt Story**

A highlight of the activities surrounding the bell was the historic bicentennial quilt made by the women of the church. It was displayed on the wall behind the podium at the bell rededication ceremony. Into an old butter churn loaned by the Thormahiens over 2500 raffle tickets were tumbled. Amy Crowe (daughter of Randy & Linda and granddaughter of Ethel) drew the winning number. Annice Jacobsen of Kirkland was the lucky recipient.

The story of the quilt began with the idea of the bell participating in the bicentennial. A major project was needed in order to raise the anticipated \$5000 for the bell installation. Through many past generations of women in the church had created quilts. Shirley Lindahl suggested that the women of the church make a quilt depicting historic sites in Kirkland--this would be the key fundraiser for the needed funds.

Some historic buildings were selected, also some buildings still standing. Up to date scenes were included in the 30 blocks that were selected for the quilt. The ideas were drawn into designs suitable for appliqué sewing by Helen Dahi, Vicky Pittson, Linda Crowe, Larry Lindahl and Shirley Lindahl.

Each block was color coded and appropriate fabric selected and placed in the packet which contained the pattern and instructions. The women selected their blocks and started creating the blocks. Often they added their own touch like tiny flags, tufts of grass for a lawn, French knots to simulate lilacs, top stitching for chimney bricks or cable stitch for a man's sweater. There were buildings, boats and symbols of Kirkland. The women who created the quilt included: Anita Watson, Joan Montgomery, Ramona Williams, Sylvia McConnell, Gale Peterson, Dee Cheney, Jeanne Peterson, Marguerite Johnson, Alice Ulsh, Karen Schumacher, Verna Thormahlen, Bertha Tarry, Shirley Lindahi, Sue Kelly, Dorothy Peck, Holly Reynolds, Chris Bell, Vicky Pittson, Ellen Zigler, Gen Cox, Sandi Dalziel, Ethel Crowe, Katie Hubbell, Sue Jovag

Berquist, Linda Crowe, Jeanne Gardiner, Jean Hoodless, Helen Hopkins, Margaret Hjorth, Helen Dahi and Mary Bailey.

Each block bore a title which had been carefully completed in embroidery which was fashioned by Alice Howlett. The blocks were assembled in several group quiltings.

For nearly three months the quilt was displayed at church and in various places of business in Kirkland. Raffle tickets were sold. The sale of these tickets and the block patterns raised over \$2500 for the bell project.

A plaque commemorating the re-hanging of the Houghton Bell and a photograph of the bicentennial quilt hangs in the church today. It is a fitting remembrance of the spirit of cooperation and dedication expressed by the members in 1976.

The bell project cost \$4600. Surplus funds remaining were given to the general fund and designated for roof repair costs.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Signs of the Times

A Other events occurring in 1976 included the church league softball team, the church pea patch allowing garden use of the vacant lot east of the sanctuary (it is now the parking lot). The Creative Art League's "Grand Slam Puppet Show." occurred in the church building as well as the use of some rooms by the Lake Washington Voc-Tech. A preschool group was also using our facilities. (We now have the Eastside Mother's Group which meets monthly in the building.)

Margaret Hjorth (Kennedy) organized dinner groups for the first time. Interested members were assigned to groups of 10-12 for monthly dinner gatherings in their homes. The idea met with instant success and has continued from time to time since then. (There is a sign-up sheet in the Lounge at this time.)

Several times at the end of a six month period an all church potluck dinner has been held featuring actors from the Seattle Repertory Theater for entertainment. Following the collection of newspapers during the bell fund drive an ongoing collection was established with a permanent box in the corner of the parking lot. Volunteers empty the box and then deliver them to Fibers International in Bellevue with the monthly collection amounting to more than \$50. (Now the city/county picks up our recycle material.)

Inez Hoyt began work as a new musical director for the children. She continues to assist at this time.

An interesting "almost disaster" occurred at Smorgasbord dinner in December, 1976. The salmon caught by Ruth Becker in Alaskan waters was shipped frozen to Seattle. A December fog covered the airport and it ended up in Los Vegas. It was finally located and the importance of its arrival in Seattle was explained to the airlines, a new attempt was made to get it to Sea-Tac airport. It did arrive, still very frozen. So Vera Becker decorated her family room in shades of salmon as she frantically tried to have

the salmon (which they donate to us) thawed in time for dinner. No one suspected "the salmon journey: when Ethel Jovag brought it out of the oven to serve---on time!

Duane Thorson was moderator in 1977. The budget at this time was \$58,357. The membership rolls had 586 names on it but it was determined that approximately 100 of those were inactive.

An interesting topic for a speech to the annual meeting by Religious Editor at the Seattle P1 newspaper was "Why People Don't Go to Church in the greater Seattle Area." It was Joel Connelly's opinion that it was a time of prosperity and people were inclined to feel less need, many were far from parental ties to a church and it is an outdoor oriented society who used weekends for this activity.

Several long overdue maintenance jobs were completed. The downstairs men's bathroom was renovated from a broom closet to a modern facility. The sanctuary roof was repaired again to try to prevent leaks during the rainy season. (An ongoing project for several years.)

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Pancake Breakfast and Auction Started**

The Finance Committee started sponsoring pancake breakfasts, first as a fund raising event and later as a thank you to the congregation. A near catastrophe was averted one time when Merle Zigler came to the rescue with an electric fry pan. It seems that the grill which had for many years functioned well blew a fuse and no one could locate it. But it took quite a while to create a supply of 100 Congregationalists with four pancakes at a time!!

Mike Small was hired to run a summer youth program for junior and senior high students. An effort was made to sell the church bus to fund this position. The bus had not been used for over two years, and a buyer could not be found for it. A year later a purchaser was found. The church was able to come up with enough funds to hire Mike.

Organist, Bob Brinkley, resigned after serving the church for 15 years. Harriet Jasper, church treasurer, reported that after several years of the church running on a deficit budget the church completed the year with a cash balance of \$478.06.

Vacation Church School became Summer Adventure with outings and events planned over a two week period, often shared with children from Seattle's Central area or from other churches in the area.

To highlight an evening discussing the history of the church, a visit was made to the historic Newberry house which was across the street. It had been the home of the longtime minister of the church. The current owners Peyton and Kris Whitely graciously open their home which made for pleasant recollections for some of the church members. When the Newberrys left it became the home of the Ona family. (They were the parents of Gen --who later married one of their boarders, a young school teacher named Everly Cox.)

The Finance Committee produced a fun-filled evening which was called a "Time and Talent Auction." Members offered their services for yard work, teaching a skill, making an item or offered the use of something they owned. Some of the bids included: "six apple pies," "wall papering a room," "weeding your flower bed." The list was long and varied. Everyone had a great time trying to outbid other members. Profits from the auction resulted in raising \$1000!! (Currently a group of women in the church are planning a big "spaghetti feed" --see related article--to help defray our deficit budget---How about a group of men planning an auction?)

By 1978 the need once again was felt for supplemental food for some in the community, so the Emergency Feeding Program began. All churches were asked to donate specific items which were collected and packed for distribution. At this time the Social Action Committee was in charge of this monthly collection.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Minister was Father of the Bride**

On the first Saturday of July, 1978, Ron Hutchinson, our minister, became the father of the bride. The ceremony performed in the bride's church (Kirkland Congregational) was officiated by the pastor of the groom, Reverend Robert Rector of the Lake Washington United Methodist Church. Lynn Hutchinson, daughter of Ron & Shirley Hutchinson became the bride of Dan Grager, son of Bill and Kaye Grager of Rose Hill. Members of both congregations came to celebrate the event.

Eva Jean Clarke was hired as choir director and later that fall also became the organist. New green choir robes were purchased with the memorial fund given in memory of Elinor Hammond.

The traditional family Christmas tree trimming evening drew 150 people. Music during the advent season took on a new approach when Ron Hutchinson challenged the congregation to sing their way through all of the carols in the hymnal---familiar or unfamiliar.

During the holiday season the sanctuary was decorated with holly wreaths and green swags created by the women under the leadership of Barbara Anderson. (Interesting note: Barbara still leads us in decorating the sanctuary and church for the holidays.) On the white wall behind the pulpit shone a star of great magnitude. By connecting hundreds of pins with mono filament fish line Linda Peck designed a 10 foot high star for the children's pageant, but its beauty was enjoyed for several more weeks. A brochure about the Kirkland Congregational Church was produced. Two Adult Bible Study classes were conducted during early 1979 by the minister and Christian Education director. From this beginning a new group was formed who wanted to hold discussion on pertinent topics. "Open Forum" began in February with Dr. Midhat Abraham speaking on the times in which Jesus lived from an economic and political viewpoint. Speakers were invited once a month for an hour before church. Some returned for additional discussions.

Sunday school attendance was growing steadily during the year. A new curriculum was introduced. Attendance climbed again to over 100. In 1973 Barbara Thomas became the first paid Director of Christian Education. At that time the office of Sunday School Superintendent was discontinued. "Shared Approaches" was an interdenominational course of study for both children and adults. "Living the Word" was the direction selected. The topic of hunger was one of the topics studied to help the children care about hungry people and gain a deeper understanding of the causes and effects of hunger on people's lives. It was the responsibility of Barbara to direct the Church School program on Sundays and a Summer Adventure program. She also conducted teacher training and had Bible study classes for adults.

The church school staff for 1979 included Mary Rogelstad, Gale Peterson, Donna Lauckhart, Janine Fredrickson, Ruth Young, Sue & Dave Peek, Pat Jovag, Debbie Hill, Peggy McClure, Pat Vuola, Linda and Randy Crowe, Linda Peck, Lockey and Pam Reader, Sue Sumeri, Don Johnson, Karen White, Connie Webber, Tom Lampe, Shari Lehman, Jeanne Peterson and Ralph Cooper.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Concluding a Century of Fellowships

The first 100 years have seen the Congregational Church of Kirkland grow steadily from the small band of settlers who met to form a Christian Church. From its pioneer beginnings this church, like the town in which it is located, has gone thru periods of rapid growth and unexpected decline. It has survived the booms and the depressions of the areas.

The name has been changed six times. The church has occupied four different buildings, the last three on the same site. Members have always been active in the leadership of the community while serving their church. One of the ministers was once the town mayor. For many years it was the main Protestant church in the area. It was the first church on the Eastside and in 1980 was one of nearly 30 churches surrounding Kirkland. (There have been 30 ministers since the day Reverend Samuel Greene became the first pastor.)

The men serving as ministers of this church came from a variety of backgrounds, some were not even Congregationalists. Several were ordained in this church as their first pastorate. There were some Methodists ministers during the period of the Community Church. More than half came from out o state to accept the call from the Kirkland Church.

Times were often difficult in the early years when the minister needed other employment to supplement the meager salary he was offered, but not always paid!

Parsonages were either provided or rented for the minister's family for the first 85 years of our history. (Today it is more consistent with the times to have the minister be an independent homeowner. A housing allowance and auto expenses have been added.

Music has always played a dominant role in the church since the days when a pump organ pumped out "Blest be the Tide that Binds." Vocal Choirs of all ages existed at different times as well as rhythm (dance) choirs and Bell Choir.

Service to others has ranged from donations of money, food, clothing and time by the members to offering the use of the building to groups within the community.

The budget adopted in 1978 for 18 months was set at \$75,000. Unforeseen circumstances created a problem for the Finance Committee when the winter of 1978-79 was extremely cold using much more than the allotted fuel budget. Inflation was at an all-time high and gasoline was also in short supply. (As our building ages, it is always a "guesstimate" on figuring the budget for any building needs.)

Many of those who served on committees our Centennial year are still giving of their time and talents to the church. Some of those include Helen Dahl, Ryan and Joan Montgomery, Dick Englebrecht, Pam & Ken Wagner, Meredith Gaskill, Dorothy Blair. Many other longtime members are still actively participating in the life of the church.

In 1980 our church one of 7000 local churches across the nation attached to the United Church of Christ. Only six of the 94 UCC churches in the state of Washington are older than ours. This is also the 100th year for Westminster in Spokane, Yakima and Chewelah

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## Women Working for the Church Since Its Beginning

Whether it was for study, service or social purposes, the women of the church have been organized since its beginning. Through their bake sales and quilting bees in the church's early history the women earned money to pay many of the debts of the church. Monthly Mini-Bazaars now earn monies for the kitchen remodeling.

Women's projects still provide funds when needed. In 1889 the Ladies Aid was responsible for purchasing the first organ for the church. Money was often raised from dinners or handiwork made by the women. In 1900 they assessed themselves one dollar a year as dues. Part of their funds helped pay the pastor's salary on more than one occasion. Often they purchased equipment such as silverware for the kitchen or made draperies for the lounge. When a new minister was due in 1904 they waxed the floors, cleaned, wallpapered and painted the parsonage. That year they also sponsored a New England dinner for the families of the church. Reading the bible, sewing and "lots of conversation" filled the afternoon at Ladies Aid meetings with tea and "dainties" served by the hostess. At a picnic supper in 1905 they reported the past year had seen 22 meetings, a bazaar, a tea and four entertainments which included a St. Patrick's Day party, a strawberry social and a chicken pie dinner. Fifteen new members had joined for a total of 35. In 1906 they made \$60 serving a 200 plate dinner for the Masonic Lodge.

Janitor work often fell to the Ladies Aid. It was also the ladies who reminded the trustees of the repairs needed on the building such as a broken step or "the leaking roof."

Expenses in 1909 included tuning the piano, \$150 toward the minister' salary, carbide, flowers, missionary society and working materials for projects. Included were 69 yards of lace, 28 yards of percale, 25 yards of gingham, ribbon, yarn and crepe. With this material they made and sold "waists," ties, collar cases and aprons.

The rummage sale in 1911 included new items such as lavender sticks and baby "sacks." From the Ladies Aid came a floral piece at each funeral of a church member. A gift was always given to the pastor's wife at Christmas. There was also a tradition of giving a baby ring to each child born to a church member.

Many women in the church Ladies Aid were from the community and did not belong to the church. The minister commented that it helps the social life of the community as well as being of spiritual value to the women. When the Congregational and Methodist churches combined in 1921 to form the Kirkland Community Church, the Ladies Aid also merged. The treasury of each organization was given to their respective churches "to clear the books" and a new treasury was formed. In August of 1921 Carrie Shumway was elected the first president of this newly formed Ladies Aid.

Following this merger the new Ladies Aid was divided into four circles by geographic areas and took on the names of "Circle 1, 2, 3 and 4. The minister immediately suggested that each Circle raise \$500 for the new church building. The women accepted the goal, but the new building was only a dream for the next 20 years.

Activities for the next few years included producing a cook book, sponsored an entertainment program at the Gateway Theater, held a concert at the Kirtley Ranch, had a Mother-Daughter Banquet and made candy bags for the community Christmas tree. They also held a tea towel shower for the kitchen. In 1923 they sponsored the annual Easter egg hunt in the community and dyed 11 dozen eggs for the event. One of their projects was making dresses for the Medina Children's Home.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## More History of Women's Fellowship

Bazaars have always been popular for raising funds within the church. In the '20's dish towels always sold well. The group purchased five dozen 100 pound flour sacks at 75 cents a dozen, bleached and hemmed them for sale. Today we hold mini-bazaars on the 1st Sunday of the month (except in the summer) to raise funds for our kitchen remodeling fund.

By 1925 the circles again took new names as #1 & #2 became North Division and #3 & #4 became the South Division. That year one of their projects was a census of the church community.

Progress came to the kitchen as they were able to finally purchase an electric stove. The cost was \$168 including having the building wired properly. The old wood stove had served them well and hundreds of dinners had been prepared on it. But the biscuits would always burn if the cooks didn't prop the oven door shut with a stick!! The committee would have to go out to the wood shed to replenish the wood supply. They even chopped it sometimes!! We recently purchased two new stoves to replace our 1920 antique!! Thanks to the funds from the Mini-Bazaars!

During the '20's there were many activities and fund raisers by the Ladies Aid. Church social activities were a very important of daily life. They worked with local businesses to serve merchant lunches and also served monthly dinners to the Business Women's Club. A new piano was purchased with some of the funds raised. Many dinners were also held at the church. It was mentioned that one of the members, Grace Kean, invited all the women members of the Ladies Aid to have a basket picnic lunch at her Rose Hill and she would furnish fresh strawberries from her garden.

In 1931 eleven of the young women met at the home of Etta Blau to form a new circle to be called Happy Time. The object was "to study along lines of practical helpfulness to young mothers." Their goal was to be an organization for helping each other and

not a fund raising group. Meetings were held in the evening so that the husbands could "baby-sit."

Times were depressed in 1933 when the Ladies Aid sponsored a "hard times" party with costumes to be judged for originality. The group also ran an ad in the East Side Journal offered to "tie comforters." The charge would be \$1.25 for finished edges or \$1.50 for blanket stitch.

A secretary of one of the groups wrote in her minutes, "None of the committees had a report to make except the work committee. They reported by handing out work to the defenseless." (That type of procedure is still used today in many meetings. ---If you failed to attend, you are appointed to do the job!)

The best known of the depression time dinners were the All-State dinners. For seven years the church sponsored this community wide event. Guests sat at tables by the state of their origin. Prizes were given for the best table decorations. This, like most church dinners, featured chicken in some form prepared by the Ladies Aid. This reunion dinner was served to over 200 people each year.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Federation Formed**

Three separate women's groups trying to function in the same capacity was very cumbersome. On January 15, 1943 a committee met at the home of Ida Gates to form a "central committee." After formulating an organization acceptable to all three groups the Women's Federation was formed. (Later to become Women's Fellowship) Each circle continued to meet separately, but once a month the Federation would meet as a whole and an executive board governed. Madeline Blish, wife of the minister, was the first president. Committees set up were: program, devotions, ways and means, membership, calling, finance, housekeeping, courtesy and a service men's committee.

One of the first actions of the Federation was to write congressman "to urge the blockade be lifted and relief ships sent to help feed the starving children of Europe."

Relief packages of clothing were sent overseas. Locally food and clothing were collected to be given to the needy in the community.

In 1944 the Federation sponsored the first World Day of Prayer and invited all the other Kirkland churches to participate. Many women belonged to the Women's Federation who were not members of the Congregational Church just as it had been since the early days. It was still one of the largest women's organization in Kirkland. A Christmas tradition that was to last over 20 years began in 1944 when the Kirkland Women's Club and the Women's Federation held a joint Christmas Tea. In the earlier years the Lake Washington branch of the American Association of University Women was also included. This afternoon tea and special music alternated between the two sites. Decorations and refreshments were provided by the host group.

Dishes were purchased in 1948 and silverware in 1950. We are still using them today. (Occasionally we have replaced "missing silverware" and added some other items to be used in preparing and serving food.

Mary Martha group put on a "Tom Brenneman Breakfast" at the Civic Center in downtown Kirkland. (The Center later was destroyed by fire. The Library is now on the approximate site.) It was a simulation of the popular radio program heard at this time. The women prepared a bountiful midmorning breakfast. Rhoda Barrie cooked a 100 pound sack of potatoes a day ahead that would be used for hash browned potatoes. There were prizes and entertainment. The profit from the second year of this event was used to purchase a new stove, sink and hot water heater for the church building.

Women's Federation also paid half the cost of a new public address system for the church and the newly formed Kerchief and Kalico Club (a square dance group) paid the balance.

In 1949 the Federation meetings were held in the Women's Club until the remodeling which provided the basement (Fellowship Hall) was completed.

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## **New Circle Formed**

In 1950 the Newberry Circle came into existence to honor the memory of Reverend C. E. Newberry who had served the church for so many years. First from October 1908 to August of 1921; then again from September, 1924 to September, 1929 and finally from October, 1933 to January, 1937. This new group was formed to assist the Sunday School as substitute teachers, helping provide equipment and furnishings. Many of these women were the same ones who had originated the Junior Aid and now their children were school age.

As an added activity this group began serving at the wedding receptions. Their husbands built the bride's dressing room from the former kitchen. At first they loaned their own silver service for the receptions. (We now have our own.)

The Junior Aid name was changed to Mary Ingle at that time to honor a missionary. This group served refreshments to the choir once a month and breakfast for them between the two Easter services.

Through the years various products have been sold to raise money. Betty Brite scrubbers, vanilla, candy and dolls from India were a few. Betty Crocker coupons, Folger coffee stars and Boyd coffee lids were also saved to make special purchases. Other items collected for recycling were eye glasses and clothing. The clothing was sent to Church World Service for use over the world and also for local agency who needed emergency clothing. In 1955 after several years of discussion it was decided to redraw the names for the Circles every two years. Each Circle selected a new name using the women of the Bible. All the Circles assessed a 35 cent charge for lunch. Metal trays were purchased for each circle to use for serving lunch in the homes. Devotions were uniform as each circle had a devotion chairperson who met with Reverend Helliwell for a preparation hour before each circle meeting.

With the arrival in 1955 of Reverend George and Eleanor Helliwell the women of the church became active beyond the local church. She encouraged participation in the Eastside Council of Church Women and the state level of Congregational Women's Fellowship. At this time the name of the organization was changed to Women's Fellowship to coincide with others in the state. Its purpose was stated: "to cultivate the spirit of Christ beginning within our own lives and reaching out into home and community and the uttermost parts of the earth."

Eleanor helped the women organize the church library, cataloging and covering the books. To encourage reading she started a state competition among Women's Fellowship groups. Sewing also took on a new emphasis under her able leadership. She organized two mornings a month as sewing days. Layettes were produced in great numbers with the diapers hemmed at circle meetings. Some of the older women were organized into the So and So's and they created lap robes, clothing and quilts for many years.

Women's Fellowship Sunday was held for the first time with the service conducted by Alice Erickson, Helen Schoen, Eleanor Helliwell, Ethel Crowe, Marion Elgin, Ethel Jovag, Grace Braillard and Ethel DeVere. There was even of Women's Fellowship chorus in 1957 under the direction of Florence Gildow accompanied by Ruth Wright. Bill Radcliffe taught a class in religious painting.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Inspirational Leader Arrived**

After the arrival of George and Eleanor Helliwell in 1955, bible study was conducted by the minister before the monthly Fellowship meetings. Attendance at these luncheons reached 100 that year.

A new commercial grill type stove and separate oven was purchased in 1958. (This is the one we replaced this past year with two new electric ranges.) New skirts were made for the tables which were used for wedding receptions. A set of directions were compiled for the receptions so that each circle would serve in a uniform manner.

Pilgrim Firs camp was under construction in the late '50s and Women's Fellowship participated by sewing curtains for the cabins and collecting jars of jam for use at the summer youth camps.

In 1959 there were 10 Circles with two meeting in the evening. Calling on shut-ins was a regular part of the work of Women's Fellowship. Two women from each Circle met once a month to go on calls.

Sadie Fawcett was presented with a cup and saucer as a thank-you for the many years she served at the door, greeting and getting the guests signatures in the "guest book." It was also the custom to present a friendship cup and saucer each year to the outgoing president.

The minister gave approval in 1959 for the use of artificial flowers on the altar when fresh ones were not available. Marion Elgin made several arrangements and at the same time made ribbon corsages for the corners of the wedding tables. This talented church member was featured by the East Side Journal on Mother's Day in 1958... "ability, availability and an energized network of helpful and loving communication and deed, describes this outstanding mother."

Another member of Women's Fellowship who was recognized for her talent was Hazel Berto (Verna Thormahlen's mother) who had her first book published in 1959. "North to Alaska's Shining River" was the true story of Si and Hazel Berto's first years of marriage when they served as teachers in a remote Eskimo village.

In April, 1960 many of the Kirkland Women's Fellowship members attended a tea at the Congregational Conference Home in Seattle which honored Eleanor Helliwell at the conclusion of her three-year term as state president of Women's Fellowship.

Among the events in which the Fellowship participated that year were World Community Day, May Fellowship Luncheon, World Day of Prayer and the greater Seattle area gathering of Women's Fellowship. Often these meetings included donating school kits, medical kits or sewing projects.

The "Feminine Circle" was begun and edited by Harriet Rogers which informed of all the various activities in all of the Circles. South America was the theme of the study book used in 1961. At the end of the session a Latin Fun Festival was held with Grace Braillard as chair. Books were given to the church library each month in the name of the circle with the most attendance at the Fellowship meeting.

## **Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship**

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### **Dinner & Doings**

In the fall of 1961 it was decided to try something different instead of the traditional bazaar. A holiday Smorgasbord, dinner was to be given a one year trial. Two featured items were pickled herring and homemade pies. (Rudi Becker added the salmon later) This year would have been our 43rd Smorgasbord, but we decided to cancel it this year. Many of us have been members of the church for over 43 years and do not have the time and/or energy for the weeks of organizing, planning and participating for the couple of months it takes to produce this traditional event.

When this event was begun it was also decided to make Christmas items for sale. Circles often had work parties to create items to sell. All women of the church were asked to sign up for donation of their time to work and for preparation of food. It has always been the primary fund raiser for the Women's Fellowship budget.

In 1962 a Mother-Daughter banquet featured wedding gowns (many worn by the original owner). Our Lake Washington graduating senior girls were honored at a tea in Fellowship Hall which was cosponsored with the Business & Professional Women's Club.

Dinners were served at church so frequently in the early 60's that it seemed logical to try using dinner lists. All the women of the church were assigned to work on one dinner during the year. Chairmen were elected for the 6-8 dinners and about 15 women assigned as workers. They worked well for several years until more of the functions became potluck dinners.

As the new remodel of the church was under construction the women realized that there might be an increased number of weddings held in the spacious new sanctuary (the one we now use). It was decided to have a wedding consultant who would be paid a small amount to organize the receptions with members of Women's Fellowship still assisting.

When the new building was completed in 1964, board meetings moved into the new lounge instead of homes. Special collections were made for migrant children and for the victims of the Alaska earthquake that had occurred that spring. One Fellowship meeting became a tour of the Good Will Industries which included a visit to their chapel, lunch in their lunchroom and a behind the scenes look at how they handled donated items.

An old trunk was refurbished and placed in the lounge to become a depository for used clothing. During the 60's items were regularly sent to Church World Services clothing drives. One special drive was for children's clothing for an orphanage in Viet Nam where Dick Crowe was serving. (Ethel's son)

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## **More Miscellaneous Dinner & Doings**

Baby jars by the dozen began appearing at the church in the summer of 1965. Women's Fellowship took on the task of preparing 400 jars of jelly for favors at the state annual meeting hosted by the Kirkland Congregational Church in May 1966. Each Jar was decorated with a nylon puff making a colorful display at the final banquet.

All the women of the church were involved with this conference. Guests were housed by church families and the meals were all prepared by the women. Anita Jones, Fellowship president, led a group of six from the Kirkland church who attended the annual Women's Camp at Pilgrim Firs. Shirley Lindahl was dean of the week-long session in 1967.

Among the organizations helped by Women's Fellowship in the late 60's were FISH, Indian Center, Juvenile Center, First Avenue Service Center and Heads Up. The women made hundreds of layettes for the University Hospital.

Special coffee hours were given in September, 1970 to say good-bye to Morton and Winifred Johnson and Elton and Florence Gildow who moved to the retirement community of Panorama City near Olympia. Ruth Wright followed in a few months. All were active church members for many years. Morton was superintendent of Lake Washington School District; Florence served as Choir Director for several years and Ruth served as organist. In memory of one of their long time faithful members, Alice Mayhew, the group purchased a pair of candlesticks for the chapel. Women's Fellowship dropped their own newsletter in 1973 and began incorporating their information into the all church newsletter. Their volunteers helped staple and fold it for mailing.

In 1974 lady bug pins were worn by many indicating that they had paid one dollar for a package of ladybugs which were used to help save the date palm crops in Africa.

Smorgasbord vegetables were raised instead of purchased in 1975 when Alice Ulsh offered to grow them in the church garden patch.

Wedding consultants Joan Montgomery and Helen Dahl redecorated the bride's room and compiled a pamphlet of information for brides planning weddings and receptions at the church. A set of hostess dishes were purchased for use at these receptions by Women's Fellowship to be used for these and other special events. (They are still being used at this time.)

While the entire church was involved with the project to re-hang our historic bell, much of the fund raising was carried out by the women. A cook book started the drive, followed by a rummage, plant and garage sale. The major project was a bicentennial quilt made by the women during the spring of 1976. Over 40 women worked on the sewing and quilting under the guidance of Helen Dahl and Shirley Lindahl. Many others helped with the sale of tickets.

## Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

### Changes in the '70's

Through the 70's the study sessions at circle meetings nearly disappeared. Instead Bible study or special classes were provided on separate days for those interested. At that time there were three daytime circles and one evening circle. (At this time there are 3 daytime circles.)

Women's Fellowship continued to provide altar flowers, greeters, maintains the library, pays for the nursery care, stocks the kitchen and coffee hour supplies, does the seasonal decorations for the sanctuary and did much of the painting and cleaning of the building. (Sounds a little like today's happenings!!)

Prior to the late '60's women usually wore hats to church, then clothing for all generations took a turn away from the traditional and more formal attire. By the 70's hats had disappeared and the pant suit was becoming the accepted attire for women at many formal occasions, including church services.

The Mother-Daughter banquet of 1979 was the first event of the centennial year. The men served the chicken dinner with strawberry shortcake as dessert. Dinner was eaten by the light of kerosene lamps and the women and daughters wore historic clothing. A skit traced the 100 year story of the role of women's organizations in the church. Ten Hammond was selected as woman the year. Previous winners of this honor had been Alice Erickson, Ethel Crowe and Mary Bailey.

From Ladies Aid to Women's Fellowship, the mission has been the same: spiritual enrichment, service to others and to socially get to know each other.

As a group women have always played a vital role in the life of this church during its first one hundred years.

Following is a list of Women's Fellowship Presidents since 1921 (no records available before this.) -thru 1979--when Shirley Lindahi published "In Christian Fellowship."

1921, 1922 Carrie Shumway  
1923-1926 Mrs. Huntington  
1927 Edna Penney  
1928-1929 Mrs. Drew  
1930-1931 Mrs. R.R. Miller  
1932 Amelia Newberry  
1933 Nora Howard  
1934-1936 Louise Curtis  
1937 Ruth Sherwood  
1938 Maude Chamness  
1939-1940 Mrs. Freeman  
1941 Nora Howard  
1942 Lena Simmons  
1943 Madeline Bush  
1944 Jo Piper  
1945 Helen Shinstrom  
1946 Mildred Clay  
1947 Jean Proudfoot  
1948 Doris Franklin  
1949 Edna Drain  
1950 Mrs. Rufus Salyer  
1951 Winifred Johnson  
1952 Alice Mayhew  
1953 Harriet Rogers  
1954 Ethel Crowe  
1955 Ethel Jovag  
1956 Ethel Crowe  
1957 Helen Schoen  
1958 Marion Elgin  
1959 Thea Nikias  
1960 Avis Avey  
1961 Phyllis Dieckmann  
1962 Verna Thormahlen  
1963 Donna Badcon  
1964 Shirley Lindahi  
1965 Elinor Hammond  
1966 Katie Hubble  
1967 Anita Jones  
1968 Alice Erickson  
1969 Linda Harting  
1970 Phyllis Davis

1971 Dixie Sievers  
1972 Chris Bell  
1973 Ellen Zigler  
1974 Terry Wegner  
1975 Dorris Knibb  
1976 LuAlice Calkins  
1977 Brenda Rasciner  
1978 Rae Jo Bridges  
1979 Terry Hammond

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## **Pastors in the Pulpit**

The men serving as ministers of this church came from a variety of backgrounds, a few were not even Congregationalists. Several were ordained in this church as their first pastorate. There were some Methodists ministers during the period of the Community Church. More than half came from out of state to accept the call from the Kirkland church.

Times were often very difficult in the early years when the minister needed other employment to supplement the meager salary he was offered--and some times not even paid.

For the first 85 years the parsonages were either provided or rented for the minister's family. Today it is more consistent with the times to have the minister be an independent homeowner. Both a housing allowance and auto expenses were added to the minister's income. Later an annuity was also added.

During the first 25 years the pastors served outlying mission churches or Sunday Schools in Redmond, Juanita, Bothell, Woodinville and Bellevue. Often they preached both the morning and evening service in Kirkland and held still a third afternoon service elsewhere. A few served a joint pastorate by preaching on alternate Sundays.

Congregational ministers are not assigned by the conference but are called by the local congregation. A pulpit committee was formed and was responsible for selecting the new pastor. The term usually was open with provisions or either the minister or the congregation to terminate it.

Each minister perceived his role in the community in a different manner. Some entered politics, some served on civic or school boards, others joined service clubs. A few made the decision to remain out of secular activities. While the request for an

assistant pastor was often heard only twice for brief periods did this church provide for a second minister. Today there is a paid Christian Education director on the staff.

Following is a list of minister servicing the church from 1880 - Present:

Samuel Greene	March 1880 - July 1887
Dennis Bicknell	July 1887 - December 1890
W.F. Rose Dec.	December 1890 - March 1893
Horatio Ailing	August 1893 - August 1895
Dennis Bicknell	November 1895 - November 1896
Jasper Hard	December 1896 - May 1897
Harry Painter	June 1897 - September 1897
James M. Brown	October 1897 - April 1898
O. B. Whitmore	September 1898 - January 1900
Joseph C. Young	June 1900 - May 1901
A.G. Boyd June	1901 - July 1902
J. Morgan Lewis	October 1902 - April 1904
John W. Holway	December 1904 - October 1905
David R. Tomlin	January 1906 - June 1908
Charles E. Newberry	October 1908 - August 1921
R. M. Temple	August 1921 - September 1922
Charles A. Bowen	September 1922 - September 1924
Charles E. Newberry	September 1924 - September 1929
Dwight Bennett	October 1929 - June 1931
KR. Bellingham	October 1931 - April 1933
Vacant	April 1933 - October 1933
Charles E. Newberry	October 1933 - January 1937
Vacant	February 1937 - November 1937
Robert Pruitt	November 1937 - November 1942
Frank Bush	February 1943 - January 1948
Donald Mills	February 1948 - August 1951
Ivan Smith	September 1951 - April 1955
Charles Wiliams	April 1955 - September 1955
George Helliwell	September 1955 - July 1968
Paul Van Horn	September 1968 - February 1969
Ronald Hutchinson	February 1969 - February 1993
Max Oliphant	Fall 1993 - September 1994
Walter John Boris	September 1994 - Present

This is the last page of Shirley's Book 'In Christian Fellowship' which was published in 1979.

What would you like to do? Start over at the beginning?  
Or use this space to hear from our members and friends?  
We all know you all have stories to tell. Do you want to do it here?

Let us know.

...Jerry Rutherford..

# Gleanings From In Christian Fellowship

*By Shirley Lindahl  
Edited by Jerry Rutherford*

## In Conclusion

In the March issue of the Good News the last of Shirley's book there was a list of "Pastors in the Pulpit" which was to have ended: "Following is a list of ministers serving the church from 1880. Ron Hutchinson 1969 --"

Shirley published her book in 1979 before Ron completed his ministry in 1993. We had other ministers also serve the church before Walter John Boris arrived.

- 

Kendall Baker served as Associate Minister from 1965 - 1968.

- Dee Eisenhauer served as Associate Minister from 1985- 1989
- Max Oliphant served as Interim Minister from 1993 -1994
- Walter John Boris arrived in September of 1994 and is still serving our church

This completes Shirley's collection of the history of our church to 1979. A wonderful legacy that she has left us as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary. Someone who enjoys research and has the time needs to update our history. Who will step forward?

Following are a few general items of interest excerpted from Shirley's book which are of particular interest at this time in our history:

The history of the city of Kirkland and the Congregational Church are closely bound together. Over the years, many city officials were also active members of the church. Reverend E. Newberry, who served as minister three different time periods between 1908 thru 1937, was mayor of Kirkland in 1933. He also taught in the local high school, served as city clerk, and a councilman.

He was followed in office by another church member, Irving Gates. Mr. Gates was also one of the founders of the first telephone company in Kirkland. Another church

member, Ollis Patty, was elected city treasurer over 20 times. Lake Washington School District superintendents and many school teachers were also active church members. We have been a member of Greater Kirkland Ecumenical Paris and an Open and Affirming Congregation.

The first Cub Scout Pack in America was begun by church member, Amelia Newberry, on January 20, 1921. Ten years earlier, she had started the Campfire Girls in Kirkland.

During the year 2000 our church celebrated its 120th Anniversary by holding reunions which included Sunday school teachers, weddings, baptisms and choir. This year the city of Kirkland celebrates its 100 birthday and it is the 125th anniversary of our church. On April 27 members of our church will participate in the monthly program at Heritage Hall at 7:00 PM.

Kirkland Congregational Church, UCC continues its lifetime history of participating in the life of the community as well as many outreach programs. Four other congregations hold their worship service in our building, Cub Scouts, twenty 12-step groups, Eastside Mothers, Sons & Daughters of Norway; Kirkland Police & Fire Departments and others meet during the week. Northshore Adult Day Care program meets 5 days a week in Fellowship Hall. And we have been hosting Tent City 4 for a 90-day period.

What other new experiences will we record in our 125th year?