

ISAAC S. BAIRD
The Author

HISTORICAL SKETCH
... OF ...
WEST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



REVEREND ALBERT N. KEIGWIN, D. D.
Pastor Emeritus, 1904

REVEREND ALEXANDER ALISON, Jr.
Pastor, 1905



COMPILED AND PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
CELEBRATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 1st, 1908.

ISAAC S. BAIRD, Historian.

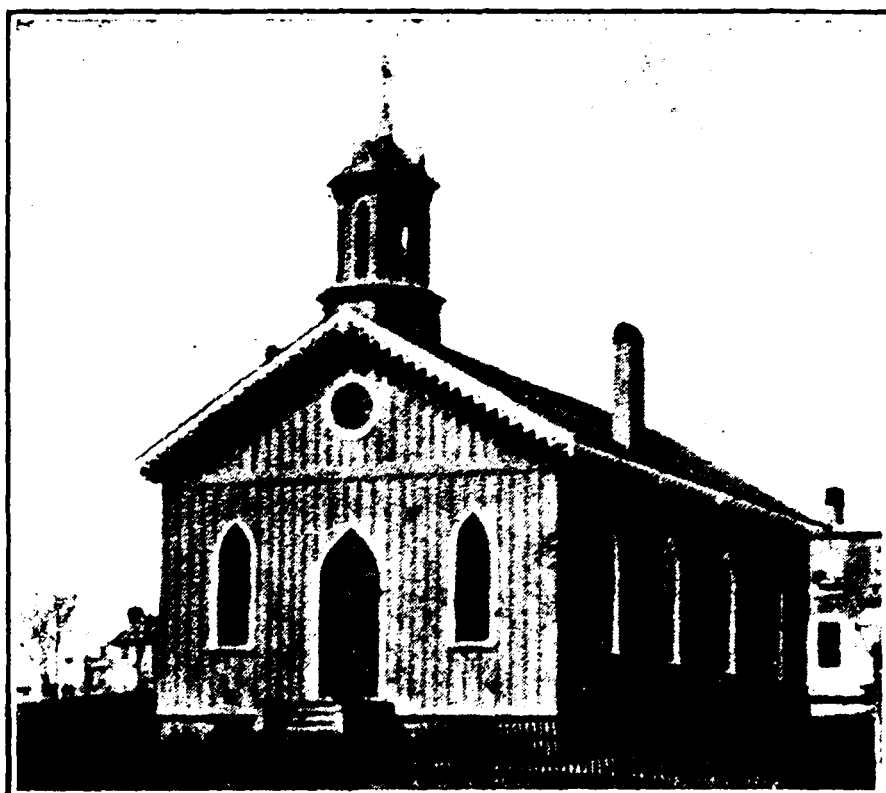
THIS LITTLE BOOK
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR TO HIS
FELLOW CHARTER MEMBERS WHO STILL SURVIVE
AFTER FORTY YEARS.

THEIR NAMES FOLLOW:

Mrs. John P. McLearn	Mrs. Annie V. McCowan
Mrs. Charlotte Gouert	Miss Sallie A Miller
Charles Gouert	Mrs. Joseph E. Miller
Mrs. Estelle Rice Mendenhall	Mrs. Rebecca Marr Smalley
Miss Rose Sinex	Miss Mary Mendenhall
James A. Robinson	Mrs. Margaret Mendenhall
Isaac S. Baird	Mrs. Aulden Collison
Annie M. Baird	Mrs. Alice Johnston
William J. Morrow	Mrs. M. D. Crossan
John Crozier	Charles F. Sherbourne
Jeanette Crozier	Mrs. Emma M. Holden
Miss Mary McLaughlin	

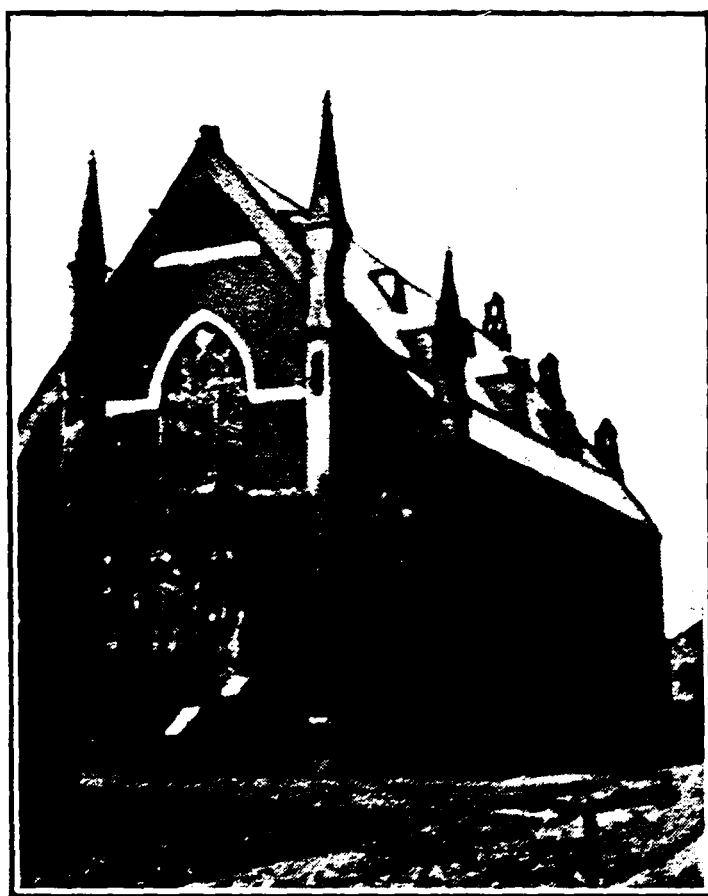
AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

This Sketch has been compiled and prepared by the Author at the request of the Pastor. The Author's chief fitness for the work was in this, that he had been an eye-witness of, and a participant in virtually all of the experiences of the forty fleeting years herein described and detailed. He desires to acknowledge the assistance rendered him by many of the members and present officers of the Church. He is especially indebted to the Pastor, Reverend Alexander Alison, Jr., and to the Superintendent of the Sabbath School, Mr. Frank Sheppard. The little volume is sent upon its mission with the prayer and hope that it may serve to link the present and coming generations with the heroic and holy spirits of the past.



THE MONROE STREET CHAPEL

Here the Congregation worshipped for three years. Building now occupied by St. Luke's Reformed Episcopal Church.

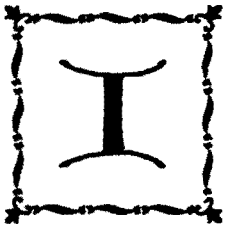


THE PRESENT BUILDING

Dedicated 1871

The Church and Her Pastors

The hand of the Lord was with them.—Acts 11:21.



IN looking backward over forty years of Church life, how clearly it is shown that this declaration of Scripture has been verified through all our history. As the Lord was with the early Church, so has He been with us, and the generous measure of success which has been attained, is due to His blessing upon our feeble efforts, and is sufficient evidence of divine approval. "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." But when He lays His mighty and skilful hand to the work it will surely be crowned with success. It has been well said that it is a great thing for any people to be able to say, at any particular period of their course, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

The following words are quoted from a former sketch of West Presbyterian Church, prepared about 1875:

Our Church, the West Presbyterian, originated in the Central Presbyterian Church of this city. The latter Church being full, and having no room to enlarge its edifice, many of its members deemed it advisable to consider the necessity and importance of commencing a new enterprise. In the latter part of the year 1866 and the early part of 1867, the matter was freely and informally discussed. For a whole year action was postponed on account of the unsettled condition of the Church, caused by the resignation of its

Pastor and the securing of a successor. On the 9th of May, 1868, a meeting of the leading members of the enterprise was held. At this meeting a committee was appointed to wait on the session of the Church for counsel and advice. The session met the proposition in the kindest and most generous spirit. They passed resolutions expressive of their conviction of the necessity for another church of the Presbyterian Denomination in the city, and cordially tendered their sympathy while pledging their liberal support to the same. About this time, a number of the members of Hanover Street Presbyterian Church, prompted by a like desire for enlarged usefulness in extending the kingdom of Christ, decided to join in this progressive movement. On the 17th of September, 1868, a committee of five was appointed to apply to the Presbytery of Wilmington for an organization.

On the 24th of the same month application was duly made, and on the 19th of October following, the Presbytery set apart The West Presbyterian Church, consisting of one hundred and eight members; sixty-seven from the Central Church, forty from the Hanover Street Church, and one from the First Presbyterian Church. Two Elders were elected, and the Church substantially organized. On Sabbath morning, October 25th, 1868, the first public service was held in the large hall of the Wilmington Institute, Rev. Dr. George F. Wiswell, of Philadelphia, conducting the service. The Sabbath School was organized on November 1st in the scientific lecture room of the Institute. Of the forty persons, seventeen were enrolled as teachers and twenty-three as scholars. The enrollment follows:

TEACHERS.

ELLA WALKER,

ANNIE MENDENHALL,

SALLIE E. SPRINGER,	JENNIE C. CAPELLE,
ELIZA B. JONES,	ESTELLE RICE,
ESSIE SIMKINS,	SARAH A. SIMMONS,
J. A. ROBINSON,	LIZZIE G. ALLEN,
ISAAC S. BAIRD,	CHARLES BAIRD,
JOHN TAYLOR,	JAMES MORROW,
JOSEPH W. DAY,	J. C. CRAVEN,
JOHN P. MCLEAR.	

SCHOLARS.

ELLA M. SMITH,	LENA HOUSEMAN,
MARY M. MENDENHALL,	HELEN A. DAY,
ELLA B. HOUSEMAN,	ALICE B. MCLEAR,
REBECCA J. MARR,	MARY J. SIMMONS,
CHARLES GOUERT,	JAMES C. MORROW,
WILLIAM E. MORROW,	ROBERT D. MORROW,
JOHN B. RITCHIE,	WALTER DAY,
CHARLES W. BEAUFORD,	CHARLES M. BAIRD,
EDWARD A. TAYLOR,	AULDEN COLLISON,
LEWIS B. MORROW,	E. NEWTON CLARK,
JOHN F. MORROW,	J. ELDRIDGE PIERCE,
NORRIS C. PASS.	

The following week on November 7th, 1868, the teachers met and elected permanent officers as follows:

JOHN P. MCLEAR, *Superintendent*.

J. A. ROBINSON, *Secretary*.

CHARLES BAIRD, *Treasurer*.

J. ELDRIDGE PIERCE, *Librarian*.

EDWARD F. LUMMIS, *Assistant Librarian*.

A constitution was also adopted at this meeting.

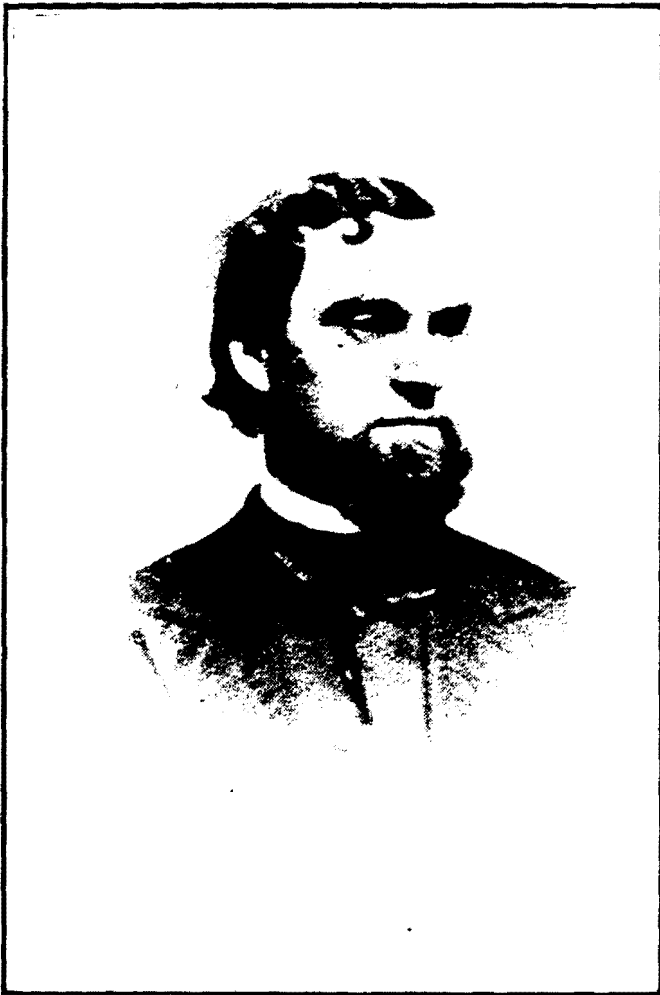
It is worthy to note that of the forty organizing members of the Sabbath School, only two are members of the school to-day, Messrs. Isaac S. Baird and Lewis B. Morrow.

On the 18th of November, 1868, a board of nine Trustees was elected. Following are their names:

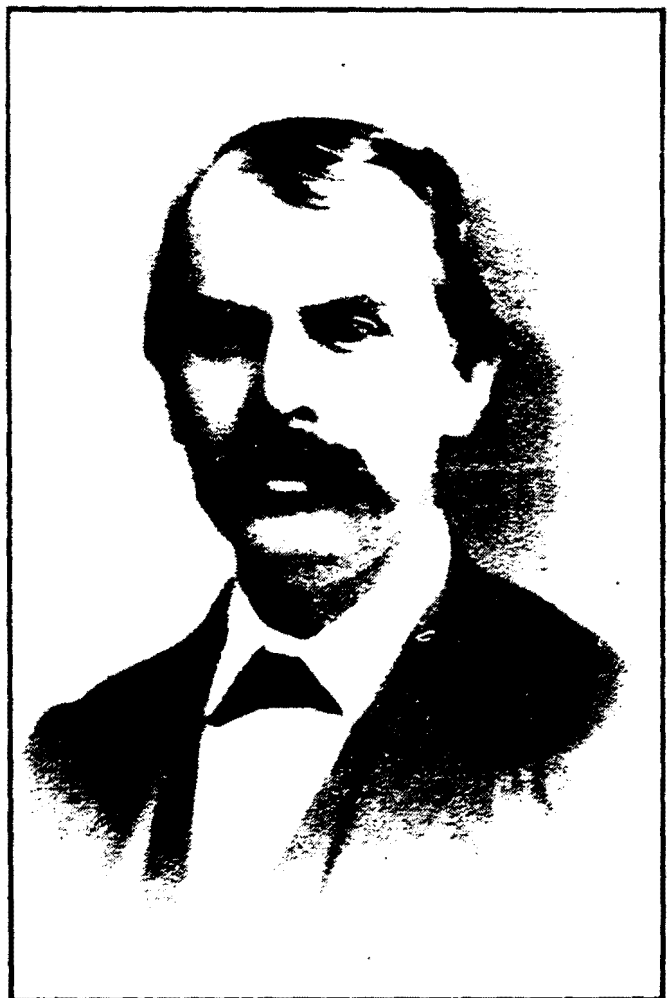
HENRY C. MCLEAR, *President*,
JOHN TAYLOR,
JAMES A. ROBINSON, *Treasurer*,
ISAAC S. BAIRD,
WILLIAM J. MORROW,
CHARLES F. SHERBURNE,
GEORGE W. HOUSEMAN,
WILLIAM MENDINHALL,
ABRAM R. WOOLSTON.

On the 10th of February, 1869, the session, consisting of three Ruling Elders, was constituted by installation; two of this number, Charles Baird and James Morrow, being ordained at the same time, John P. McLearn having been previously ordained. On the 12th of May, 1869, an unanimous call for the pastoral services of Rev. George H. Smyth, of Washington, D. C., was presented to him. Mr. Smyth accepted the call, took up his residence in Wilmington, and began his pastoral labors about the first of June. On the 30th of September following, he was installed Pastor of the Church by the Presbytery of Wilmington.

During the winter following our organization, services were held in the scientific lecture room of the Institute. In the spring we removed to the building at the southwest corner of Eighth and Monroe streets, known as the Monroe Street Chapel, now St. Luke's Church. This Chapel had been built by the Central Presbyterian Church, and for some years a very successful Mission School had been conducted on Sabbath afternoons. This building was presented to the West Church by the generous act of the Central Church; and as the West School at that time was held in the



REVEREND GEORGE H. SMYTH
First Pastor, 1869-1872



REVEREND J. M. P. OTTS, D. D.
Second Pastor, 1873-1878

morning, both schools were kept in operation until entrance was made to the new Church, when they were united in an afternoon school.

We broke ground for our new Church edifice on October 19th, 1870. The basement was built immediately. The corner stone was laid on April 24th, 1871, and on the 28th of December, following, our new Church edifice was dedicated, finished and furnished to the worship of Almighty God. It had cost \$70,272.30.

The Building Committee was constituted as follows:

JAMES MORROW, *Chairman*,
CHARLES BAIRD,
JOHN P. MCLEAR, *Treasurer*,
HENRY C. MCLEAR,
JOHN TAYLOR,
WILLIAM J. MORROW,
GEORGE W. HOUSEMAN.

The following order of exercises was observed at the dedication of our Church:

DEDICATION

OF THE

WEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

Thursday, December 28th, 1871,

10 1-2 O'clock A. M., Rev. T. L. Cuyler, D. D.

3 O'clock P. M., Rev. John Hall, D. D.

7 1-2 O'clock P. M., Rev. G. F. Wiswell, D. D.

Friday, December 29th,

7 1-2 O'clock P. M., Rev. Wm. Aikman, D. D.

Sunday, December 31st,

Rev. James McCosh, D. D., 10 1-2 A. M. and 7 1-2 P. M.

Following are the first lines of the hymns used on that occasion:

1st. How did my heart rejoice to hear, My friends devoutly say,—

2nd. Here in thy name eternal God! We build this earthly house for thee!

3rd. Rock of ages, cleft for me!

4th. Come let us join our cheerful songs,

5th. Come, gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove!

6th. Nearer, my God, to thee.

7th. Great King of glory come,

8th. Glorious things of thee are spoken,

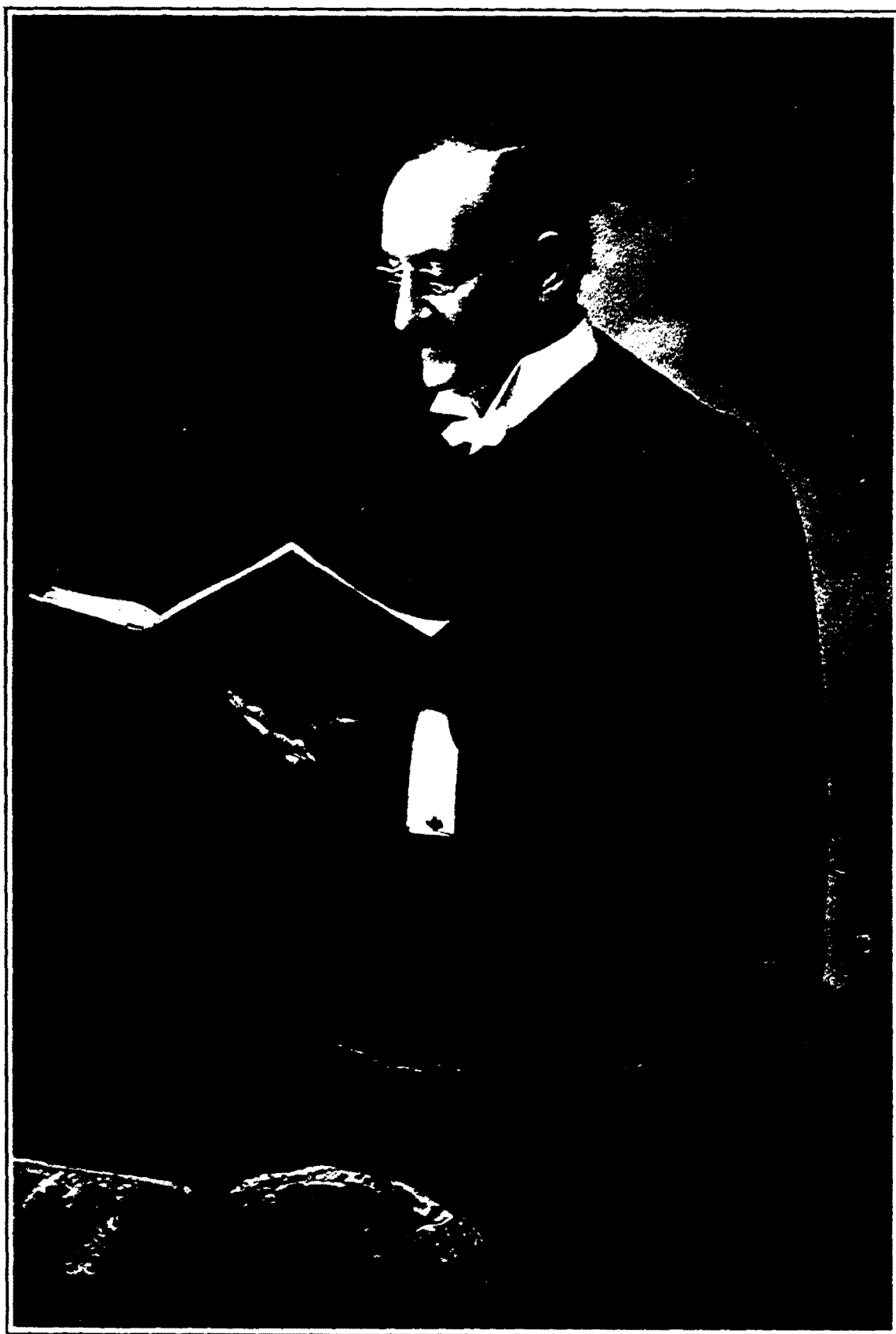
9th. Stand up, stand up for Jesus.

On April 1st, 1872, the beginning of our Church year, and having passed three years of Church history, the membership of the Church was as follows: Whole number enrolled, 284; dismissed, 17; died, 6; net membership, 261. The Sabbath School membership was 350.

In the providence of God, in September, 1872, it seemed advisable that the pastoral relation existing between the Church and the Rev. George H. Smyth should be dissolved; this dissolution was effected by the Presbytery at this time.

In the month of February, 1873, an unanimous call was extended to the Rev. Dr. J. M. P. Otts, of Columbia, Tenn. The call was accepted and Dr. Otts was installed as Pastor on June 25th, 1873.

During the ministry of Dr. Otts the Church was greatly hampered by debt. By his noble efforts, however, the difficulties were safely surmounted. Having taken possession of our new Church in the latter part of 1871 (December, 28th), there began at once a struggle with debt. Our indebtedness at this time was about 32,000 dollars. Bonds were issued for 20,000 dollars, in amounts of 500 and 1,000 dollars, drawing 6 per cent. interest. This added 1,200 dollars to our current expenses, making them about 4,300 dollars per



REVEREND ALBERT N. KEIGWIN, D. D.
Third Pastor, 1878-1904.

year. And yet in the face of these discouraging circumstances, our people went to work with faith in the Lord, and a spirit of self sacrifice and heroism that was truly wonderful. The business panic which occurred in 1873-1875, which affected the whole country, caused a sudden demand for the payment of two notes, which had been given by the Church, amounting to 10,500 dollars, and the matter having been placed in the hands of the sheriff of the county, prompt action was necessary. This was our time of trial. We were given thirty days' notice. If the money was not forthcoming, our Church was to be sold. Our people went to work with a will, and it was at this time that their faith in God was manifested, and they realized the truth of His Word: "The Lord forsaketh not His saints." The money was raised with the generous help of friends outside of our Church. The notes were paid, and the Church was saved. It has been said that several loyal members of the Church during this exigency mortgaged their homes to realize money to help keep the property from the sheriff's hands.

After serving the Church faithfully for nearly five years, and the Church having, with the blessing of God, prospered under his ministry, Dr. Otts resigned from the pastorate, and left the Church on January 27th, 1878.

On September 11th, 1878, an unanimous call was extended to the Rev. Albert N. Keigwin, of Philadelphia, to become Pastor of The West Church. The call was accepted, and Dr. Keigwin was installed on November 19th, 1878. After a pastorate of twenty-six years, during which the Lord had signally blessed and prospered our Church, Dr. Keigwin was compelled to give up his charge on account of impaired health, and on November 1st, 1904, the pastoral relation was dissolved, to take effect November 17th.

During this long and important pastorate the growth of the Church was strong and steady—more than a thousand having been added to its membership. At its close the Church roll numbered 800, the Sabbath School 908, with an average attendance of 500.

The large debt at that time, of more than \$20,000, that hung as a cloud over the church was, after several efforts, completely wiped out, and Dr. Keigwin had, in the last few years of his incumbency, the gratification of seeing annual reports free from the item of bonded or other indebtedness.

The sincere, loving and peculiarly sympathetic and self-effacing nature of the Pastor, deepened and emphasized by time, drew and held irrevocably to him the confidence and love of his people, and through his close association with the people there grew up a condition of Church fellowship truly remarkable, until the name of West Church became a synonym for Christian unity.

Preaching the Gospel with the single desire that Christ only should receive the glory, faithful from every standpoint as Pastor, attaining by his dignity, foresight and judgment, a position of eminence in the councils of the Presbyterian Church in Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, always reflecting honor upon this Church, Doctor Keigwin had well earned the title of Pastor Emeritus which was conferred upon him.

The following resolution, unanimously adopted, attests the feeling at the time of his withdrawal:

WHEREAS, At a meeting of the congregation of West Presbyterian Church, held this October 26th, 1904, our Pastor, the Rev. Albert N. Keigwin, D. D., by a formal letter has expressed his desire that the said congregation join with him in a request to the Presbytery of

New Castle for a dissolution of the pastoral relations now existing. Therefore be it

Resolved, That in joining with our beloved pastor in his request for the dissolution of the pastoral relations now existing between himself and this congregation, which appears to be inevitable, we do so with the most profound regret and reluctance.

The present pastorate extending over a continuous period of twenty-six years has been pre-eminently a successful one, the history of the church being one of continual advancement from a relatively small congregation, weakly struggling under an enormous debt, to the present successful membership and condition of prosperity and usefulness, until now its influence for good extends beyond the confines of its membership to other parts of this country and across the seas to foreign lands. God has crowned with His approval the work of His servant.

During all these years the gospel has been preached in a spirit of deepest consecration and with signal ability and efficiency, and "many have been called from darkness and the power of sin into the marvelous light of the gospel."

Long association has served to weld in inseparable bonds the hearts of pastor and people.

Constant, faithful and tactful has the pastor remained in his work, always loving, kind, considerate and sympathetic, comforting us in sickness, mourning with us in our bereavements, counselling us in adversity, exulting in our achievements; partaking of our joys and sharing our sorrows.

He has been to us an example of bright and hopeful Christian life, in every way and at all times reflecting the spirit of the Master.

To have had for so many years the influence of our pastor and the association of his faithful and beloved wife, whose personality, fidelity and energy are impressed upon every department and good cause with which the church is identified, has indeed been a rich blessing, and while memory lasts our love and gratefulness must remain.

Impressed by the spirit of consecration and high sense of duty that prompts his desire, trusting in God for guidance, we do acquiesce with earnest prayers for his continued health, happiness and success, and that his last days may indeed be his best days.

After a vacancy of seven months our fourth and present Pastor began his ministry.

At a meeting of the congregation, held on May 3rd, 1905, an unanimous call was extended to the Rev. Alexander Alison, Jr., of Philadelphia, to become the Pastor of our Church. At a meeting of Presbytery, held in the Hanover Street Presbyterian Church, on June 15th, 1905, the call was placed in his hands and formally accepted by him. He was installed as pastor on June 20th, 1905, and a public reception was given him and his wife on the evening of June 23rd, 1905.

Our new Pastor, coming to us in the full vigor of young manhood, and having been chosen without a dissenting voice, found an united people, ready to follow his lead, and to hold up his hands in every good word and work. His coming into our midst at once infused the Church with new life, and constantly we have been witnessing evidences of the blessing of the Lord upon his labors.

In the month of July, 1906, a little more than one year after the installation of Rev. Mr. Alison, the officers and members of the Church decided to have the Church building thoroughly repaired, frescoed, painted and placed in first-class condition. Arrangements were also made for a Kindegarten, to be used for the little folk in connection with the Sabbath School. This involved an expense of almost \$7,000.00, making the entire indebtedness of the Church \$8,000.00. On the 4th of November, 1906, we resumed worship in the main audience room,



REVEREND ALEXANDER ALISON, Jr.
Fourth and Present Pastor, 1905

(the renovation having been completed) after worshipping for several weeks in the lower rooms. On Sabbath, November 11th, the congregation subscribed more than the amount required to pay the whole debt of the Church, the plan adopted being to pay the entire amount within two years, making eight payments of \$1,000 each. These payments have all been met and our Church rejoices in a perfect freedom from debt. With the evidence so manifest, of the blessing of the Lord upon the work of our Pastor, the officers of the Church felt it to be their duty to call a meeting of the members of the Church and congregation, in order that they might have an opportunity to give an expression of their appreciation of his efforts by making an addition to his salary.

On April 17th, 1907, the meeting was held and the following paper was presented and adopted without a dissenting voice:

Rev. Alexander Alison, Jr.,

DEAR PASTOR: We, the members of the West Presbyterian Church and congregation, assembled this evening, with gratitude to God, desire to thank and praise Him for having, in His good Providence, placed you here as our Pastor; and we desire to express our appreciation of the energy, zeal, devotion and success which have attended your work among us; and we herein assure you that we are ready to stand by you and hold up your hands in every good word and work. And we pray that the blessing of God may be upon you, your family, and on our

Church in still greater measure. And we wish to further record our appreciation of your work in our midst by adding to your salary the sum of \$500.00, to date from the first of the present month.

Signed by,

ISAAC S. BAIRD,

Representing the Session.

ROBERT D. MORROW,

Representing the Board of Trustees.

EUGENE WYATT,

Representing the Board of Deacons.

DR. HAROLD SPRINGER,

Representing the Congregation.

In the Providence of God, our Pastor, when he came among us, in the month of June, 1905, found us a united people with a ready welcome for him, and prepared to enter with him into the work of the Church in whatever direction he might lead. With hearts and hands outstretched the people stood anxious to aid him in the upbuilding of the Kingdom of Christ and the salvation of souls. Thus encouraged he entered at once upon the work of the Church and the result has shown that the hand of the Lord has been with us. The Church since the coming of our Pastor has been almost constantly in a state of revival. At some periods it has been necessary to convene the session almost every week in order to meet those who desired to profess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Sabbath morning congregation has been steadily growing larger, and our Sabbath evening service, (a Gospel meeting) inaugurated by our Pastor at the beginning of his pastorate, has become so popular that the Church is always full and often the audience room is taxed beyond its

capacity. The rapid increase in the attendance and interest in our Sabbath School is largely due to the life and enthusiasm which our Pastor has brought into it. He himself conducts a class of 260 members. Our Mid-Week Prayer Meeting has grown to enormous proportions, and great interest and enthusiasm are being shown in its services.

Since the coming of our Pastor, a little over three years ago, the Church has received over 400 accessions, and the Sabbath School almost the same, bringing the memberships of both Church and School to the highest point they have attained in all the forty years. The Church membership is verging on a thousand and the school enrollment is nearly 1,300, the exact figures being 983 and 1,275. Our prayer is that the blessing of the Lord may continue to rest upon Pastor and people.

More than a generation has passed since our Church was organized. Many and varied have been the experiences through which we have passed, and yet how true it is that "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." In the Providence of God, since our Church life began, five of our Ruling Elders have been called from their work to their reward. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

These deceased Elders are:

Elder J. Maxwell Ocheltree, died Oct. 9th, 1883.

Elder John P. McLear, died Jan. 31st, 1892.

Elder James Morrow, died March 28th, 1896.

Elder Charles Baird, died June 8th, 1898.

Elder John P. Belville, died Feb. 22nd, 1902.

Many other members of our Church have gone to be forever with the Lord, whose earnest and devoted Christian lives have left behind them a powerful influence for good. Only twenty-two of the original one hundred and eight charter members have survived the forty years.

One of our former Pastors, the Rev. J. M. P. Otts, D. D., was suddenly stricken with apoplexy at his home in Greensborough, Alabama, on June 6th, 1901, and died in a few minutes. We cherish in memory the fact that he was a wise counsellor, a faithful friend and a devoted servant of God. "He being dead, yet speaketh."

This is the first Pastor of our Church who has been called home, and yet how often has the "Grim Reaper, whose name is Death," appeared in our midst

"And with his sickle keen
Cut down the bearded grain at a breath,
And the flowers that grow between."

The Church and Her Organizing Members

FOLLOWING are the names of the original 108 charter members. From the Central Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, Del.: Abram R. Woolston, John Taylor, Charles Baird, Mary M. Baird, Isaac S. Baird, Annie M. Baird, Joseph W. Day, Matilda M. Day, Helen A. Day, George W. Houseman, Elizabeth E. Houseman, Ella B. Houseman, Evan T. Speakman, Edith Speakman, William W. Crawford, Ann Crawford, Edward F. Lummis, G. Gilbert Cameron, Norris C. Pass, Jennie Lee, Charles F. Sherbourne, Sallie A. Miller, Lizzie Tomlinson, William J. Morrow, Matilda Morrow, Ann Morrow, William Mendinhall, Margaret Mendinhall, Eli S. Speakman, Mrs. Francis, T. Samuel Lee, George Baird, Enoch D. Howell, Eliza J. Howell, Kate Scott, Amelia Robinson, Martin Johnston, Alice Johnston, Harriett Hodges, Fanny Young, George C. Macan, George Whilhelme, Emma Mellisa Pass, Mary M. Mendinhall, Annie V. Mendinhall, William Francis, Arzillia Jefferson, George W. Robinson, Sallie J. Brown, Lizzie Allmond, Sallie Springer, Emma M. Holden, Margaret Matthews, Sallie Wiltbank, Kate Hodges, Esther A. Price, J. Eldridge Pierce, Rose R. Macan, Mrs. Whilhelme, Ellen Walker, Sarah E. Ball, Emily S. Seeds, Ella M. Smith, Emma Griffith, James S. Scanlon, Martha J. Scanlon, Mary L. Scanlon.

From the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, Del.: Miss Essie Simpkins.

From Hanover Street Presbyterian Church: John P. McLearn, Amelia F. McLearn, Mary C. Alrich, Caroline L. Smith, Sarah A. Simmons, Peter G. Hutchinson, Jane Hutchinson, Jane Henderson, Eliza Henderson, Margaret E. Henderson, Lydia Henderson, Mary Ann Connell, Sarah Stillhorn, Eliza B. Jones, Estelle N. Rice, Maria M. Capelle, Jannie C. Capelle, George Gouert, Charles Gouert, Sarah J. Bryant, Sarah J. Jones, Charlotte Gouert, Mary McLaughlin, Mrs. Edward L. Rice, John Crozier, Jeannette Crozier, Anna Ritchie, John Ritchie, J. Maxwell Ocheltree, Lizzie G. Allen, Mary R. Sinex, James Morrow, Bertha Morrow, William E. Morrow, James A. Robinson, Elizabeth Marr, Rebecca J. Marr, Elizabeth Ervin, Annie Black, Margaret Edwards.

The Church and Her Membership Growth

DURING the entire forty years the Church has experienced a steady and healthy growth in membership. At times the revival fires have burned brightly and glowingly, but the noteworthy feature of the Church's development has been her continuous and consistent growth. The following table will exhibit the ingatherings year by year, and under the various pastorates, both upon Confession of Faith in Christ and by Letter from other churches:

MR. SMYTH'S PASTORATE.

April, 1869, to	Confession	Certificate
April, 1870	33	45
1871	11	7
1872	31	23
1873	1	18
	—	—
Total.....	76	93...169

DR. OTTS' PASTORATE.

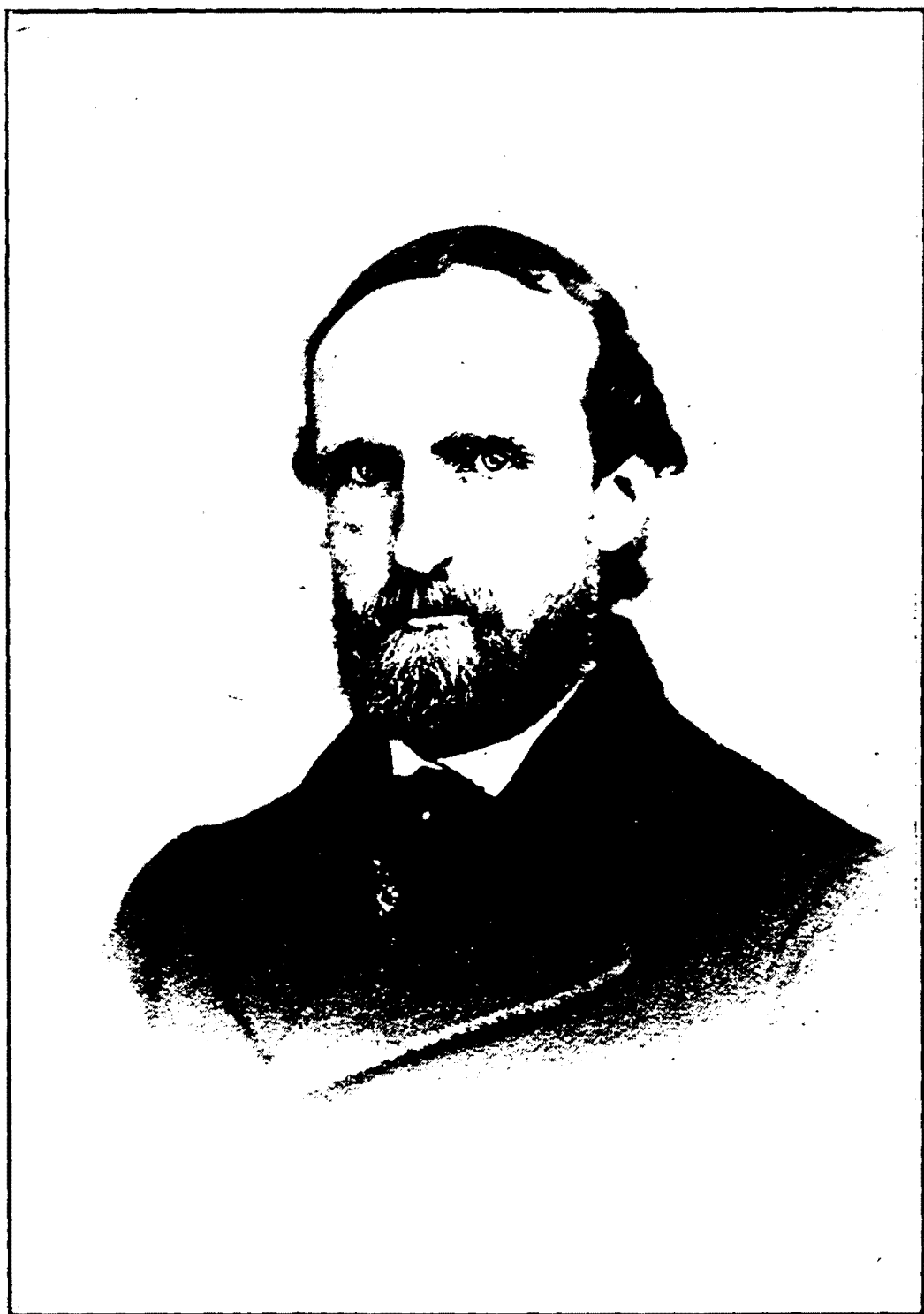
	Confession	Certificate
1874	35	11
1875	6	7
1876	73	17
1877	5	6
1878	2	3
	—	—
Total.....	121	44...165

DR. KEIGWIN'S PASTORATE.

	Confession	Certificate
1879	24	16
1880	27	13
1881	4	11
1882	10	14
1883	4	14
1884	8	11
1885	41	12
1886	39	25
1887	13	17
1888	30	18
1889	53	35
1890	10	26
1891	16	19
1892	35	16
1893	82	22
1894	21	9
1895	18	19
1896	15	13
1897	13	12
1898	72	22
1899	16	19
1900	18	11
1901	22	9
1902	38	9
1903	12	9
1904	36	18
1905	9	6
Total.....		696
		425..1121

MR. ALISON'S PASTORATE.

	Confession	Certificate
1906	101	39
1907	74	25
Nov. 1908	137	49
Total.....		312
		113...425



JOHN P. McLEAR

First Superintendent of the Sabbath School
1868-1871

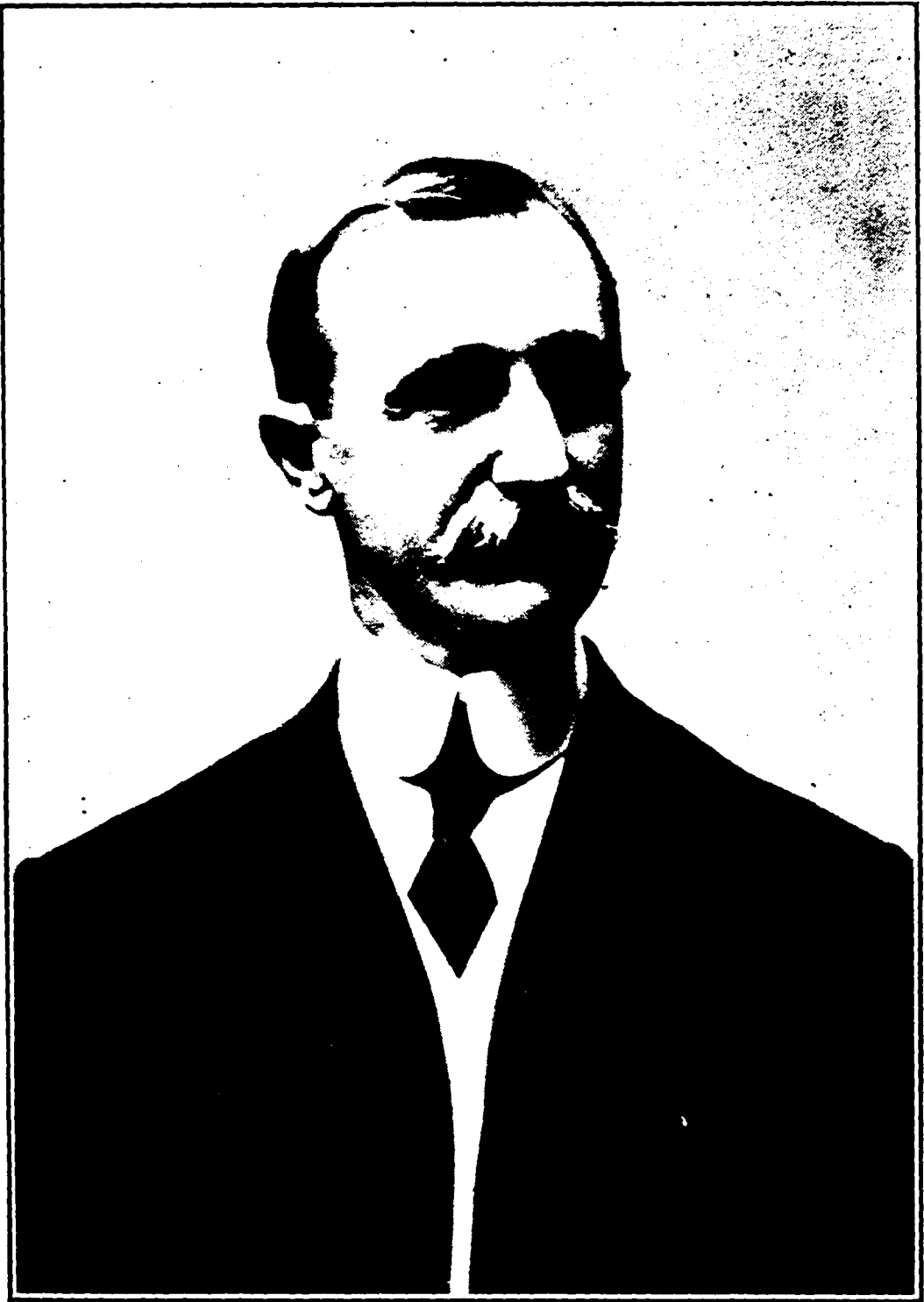
The Church and Her Sabbath School

OUR Sabbath School, which was organized one week after our Church organization, with 40 members, 17 officers and teachers, and 23 scholars, has had a steady and prosperous growth, and is now thoroughly organized and equipped for training both young and old. It comprises the Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Intermediate Departments; the Main School, the Adult Department, with the Bible Classes, including the Pastor's Westminster Bible Class, with 261 members, and the Normal Department. At the close of the pastorate of our first minister, Rev. George H. Smyth, the Sabbath School numbered 350. At the close of the pastorate of our second minister, Rev. J. M. P. Otts, D. D., the Sabbath School numbered 450. At the close of the pastorate of our third minister, Rev. A. N. Keigwin, D. D., the Sabbath School numbered 908. The school under our fourth and present Pastor, Rev. Alexander Alison, Jr., now numbers 1,275.

The first superintendent of the Sabbath School was the late Mr. John P. McLearn, who served in that capacity from the time of organization, November 1st, 1868, until December, 1871. During his incumbency of the office the sessions of the school were held in the morning. From the very beginning the school gave promise of speedy development and large growth. It was felt, however, that this development could be best encouraged by an afternoon school. Accordingly the session was changed from morning to afternoon.

Upon the retirement of Mr. McLearn in 1871, Mr. Charles Baird was elected superintendent of the school. For twenty-seven years, until his death on June 8th, 1898, Mr. Baird continued in this office. Under his skillful management and wise direction the Sabbath School became a mighty force in the Church and community. He gathered about him an intelligent and trained band of teachers and officers. With their excellent assistance the school was organized and graded, and the growth through all the period of Mr. Baird's leadership, was continuous and unretarded. No historical sketch of West Church and Sabbath School would be complete without an emphatic reference to Charles Baird and his work. For he was a tower of strength to the cause not merely in one capacity, but in every capacity in which God placed him during his active and intense life. A separate chapter in this record is devoted to the sketch of his life, which was written at the time of his death by his Pastor, Dr. Keigwin, and engrossed upon the minutes of session.

In the autumn following Mr. Baird's death, the Sabbath School Association chose Mr. Frank Sheppard to succeed to the office of superintendent. Mr. Sheppard came to the new post with an experience of several years as superintendent of the Baird Mission School. The task to which he was called was no easy one. It was felt by all that ability of no mean order would be necessary to properly fill the place of such a superintendent as Charles Baird. How well Mr. Sheppard has succeeded in doing so, his ten years' incumbency will suffice to indicate. Surrounded and supported by an efficient and faithful body of helpers he has administered the duties of the office with conspicuous skill. The membership has grown constantly and, at times, rapidly. The curriculum has been shaped and settled. The financial and secretarial systems have



FRANK SHEPPARD

Third and Present Superintendent of the Sabbath School, 1898

been revised and perfected. The school in every way has developed until now it stands first among the schools of the Synod of Baltimore, and seventeenth among the ten thousand Presbyterian Schools in the United States.

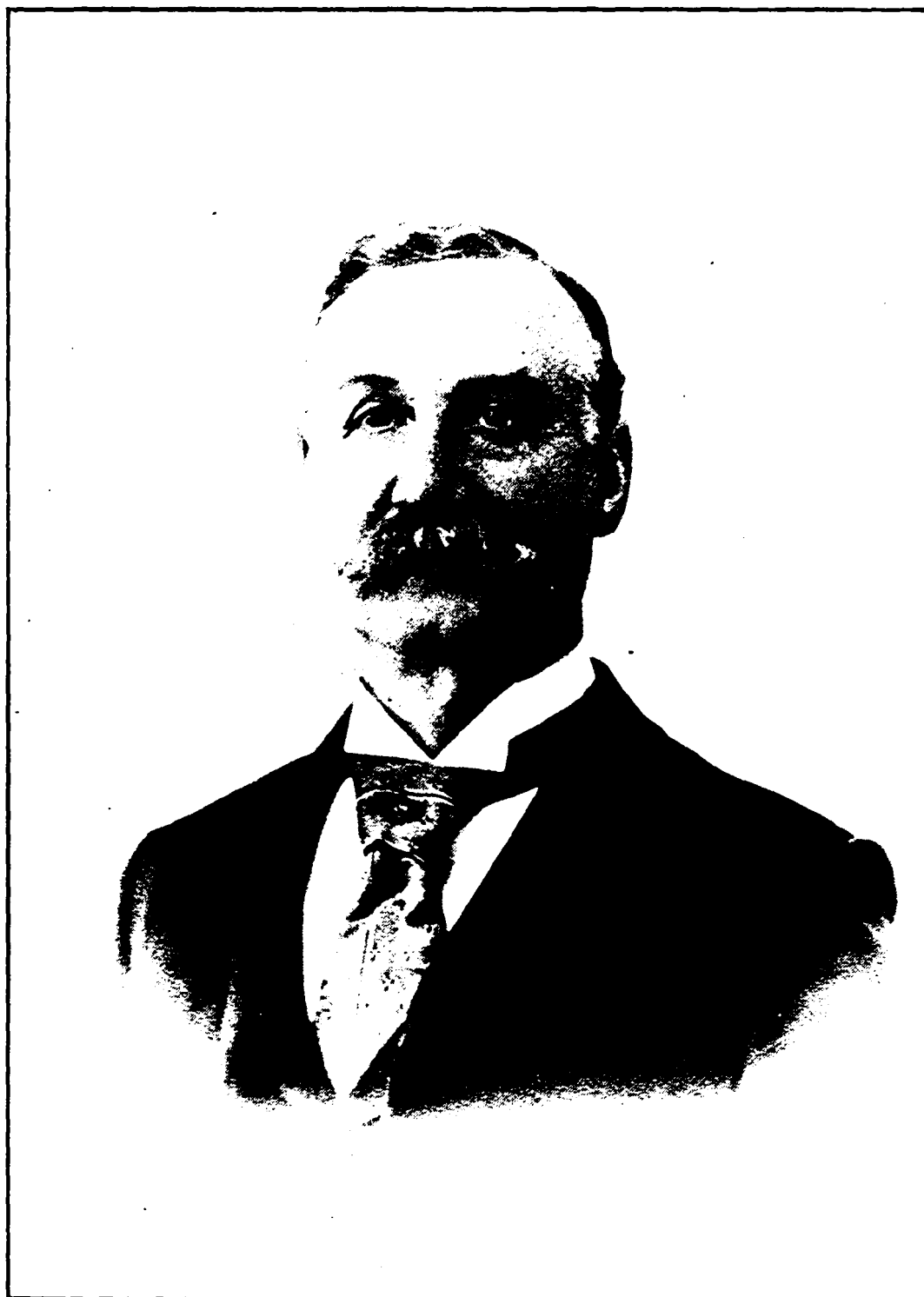
To such proportions has the Sabbath School grown that it has recently been found necessary to employ a separate Pastor to look after its pastoral interests. This office is known as that of "Parish Helper." Miss Alice H. Stoppard, who came to the office in March, 1907, is the first and present incumbent. She has organized a Normal Department for the training of Sunday School teachers, which will doubtless soon prove to be an invaluable asset to the school's efficiency.

Charles Baird and His Work



THE following minute was adopted by session at the time of the death of Mr. Baird:

“On Wednesday morning the 8th of day of June, 1898, after an illness of but two days, Elder Charles Baird entered into his glorious reward. Charles Baird was born in Wilmington, Del., October 31st, 1835. He made a profession of religion in early life in the Hanover Street Presbyterian Church, of this city, and immediately began the active Christian life, which was characteristic of him until the day of his death. He was one of the original members of the Central Presbyterian Church of this city, and for a number of years served faithfully in its Board of Trustees. Foreseeing the needs of the western part of the city, which had already begun its rapid growth, he assisted in the organization of a mission school which was located at the corner of Eighth and Monroe streets, and during most of the time it was maintained he was its efficient superintendent. When West Church was built he brought the Sabbath School to it, and until the time of his death continued as superintendent, first of the afternoon school, and subsequently, when the morning and afternoon schools united, he was elected and continued the superintendent of the two schools. Under his able management, and by his untiring nergy, the school always flourished. His fondness for children and his fidelity to the Master made him known all through the State and out of it, as a prominent Sabbath School worker.



CHARLES BAIRD
Second Superintendent of the Sabbath School,
1871-1898

“Mr. Baird was elected an Elder at the time of the organization of the church. He took a deep and intelligent interest in all that related to the Presbyterian Church, often attended Presbytery and Synod, where his abilities were recognized by his appointment upon important committees. He was also sent by the Presbytery to the General Assembly and served on the Committee of Ministerial Relief, which secured an endowment of more than one-half a million of dollars for that Board. For many years he served in the Board of Education of this city as its President, and to him is largely due the efficiency of its public school system. At the time of his death he was president of the auxiliary for the aid of our citizen soldiery engaged in the war with Spain, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Young Men’s Christian Association, of which he had previously been President. Mr. Baird was of a genial, cheerful disposition that won for himself friends in every walk of life. The active head of a large manufactory which he conducted with great success, he was never too busy to attend to the duties of the church and the public. He was faithful to every duty of religion in public and private, and was never absent from a Communion season from the time of the organization of the church till his death.

“Since the organization of this church, which was largely due to his thought and energy, it has sustained no loss that can be compared to that which befell it upon his death. Others have fallen at our side, who were efficient, active and useful members of the church, but none at a time when so much seemed to depend upon them. Mr. Baird was called suddenly when in the prime of his useful life. He was interested in every object connected with the church’s welfare, and was most active and useful as the efficient superin-

tendent of its Sabbath School, and the clerk and treasurer of the session. In this profound sorrow, we the session of the Church, would place upon permanent record the expression of our humble submission to the will of God in this unexpected and great loss that we have sustained. We would resolve by the help of God to endeavor to emulate his example of fidelity to God in his devotion to the cause of Jesus Christ, both as a member of the church and in his business and social life. We would be reminded by this Providence that there is a limit to our service, and like him 'be instant in season and out of season' in the performance of our duty; for although, 'God buries the workman he carries on the work.' Upon us falls the task of pursuing the work so nobly sustained in past years by Charles Baird."

The Church and Her Officers

OUR ELDERS.



THE following named persons have served the Church as Elders since its organization :

Mr. John P. McLearn, installed, February 10th, 1869; died, January 31st, 1892.

Mr. James Morrow, ordained and installed, February 10th, 1869; died, March 28th, 1896.

Mr. Charles Baird, ordained and installed, February 10th, 1869; died, June 8th, 1898.

Mr. James Maxwell Ocheltree, ordained and installed, May 2d, 1881; died, October 9th, 1883.

Mr. John Crozier, ordained and installed, May 2d, 1881; term expired, May 2d, 1884.

Mr. John P. Belville, ordained and installed, November 30th, 1884; died, February 22d, 1902.

Mr. Christopher R. Evans, ordained and installed, November 30th, 1884; removed to Woodbury, N. J.

Mr. Isaac S. Baird, ordained and installed, May 29th, 1892.

Mr. Morris D. Crossan, ordained and installed, May 29th, 1892.

Mr. Robert S. Schultz, installed, May 29th, 1892; removed to Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Warden R. Humphrey, ordained and installed, October 29th, 1899.

Dr. F. W. Lang, ordained and installed, October 29th, 1899; removed to Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Frank Sheppard, ordained and installed, October 29th, 1899.

Mr. Theodore W. Triggs, ordained and installed, October 29th, 1899.

DEACONS.

The following named persons have served in the office of Deacon since the organization of the Church :

William W. Crawford, ordained and installed, July, 1881; dead.

Jacob Kates, ordained and installed, July, 1881; dead.

Joseph E. Miller, ordained and installed, July, 1881; dead.

Horatio Cornell, ordained and installed, December 15th, 1893; dead.

Joshua B. Carpenter, ordained and installed, December 15th, 1893; removed.

Benjamin Reed, ordained and installed, December 15th, 1893; removed.

Eugene Wyatt, ordained and installed, December 15th, 1893.

On account of death and removals, Mr. Wyatt is our only Deacon at present.

The Deacon's fund is obtained by a special collection each year, and so far has been sufficient for the demands.

TRUSTEES WHO HAVE SERVED THE CHURCH SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION.

Henry C. McLearn, elected November, 1868.

James A. Robinson, elected November, 1868.

Isaac S. Baird, elected November, 1868.

John Taylor, elected November, 1868.

William J. Morrow, elected November, 1868.

Charles F. Sherbourne, elected November, 1868.

William Mendinhall, elected November, 1868.
George W. Houseman, elected November, 1868.
Abram R. Woolston, elected November, 1868.
Ela H. Clark, elected November, 1870.
Joseph E. Miller, elected November, 1871.
Frank Scott, elected November, 1871.
Robert Scott, elected November, 1872.
William F. Lang, elected November, 1872.
William E. Morrow, elected November, 1874.
J. Eldridge Pierce, elected November, 1875.
John Crozier, elected November, 1876.
Jeremiah Wood, elected November, 1877.
Dr. Willard Springer, elected November, 1878.
Joseph Bellah, elected November, 1879.
James Crooks, elected November, 1880.
John P. Belville, elected November, 1881.
John R. Marr, elected November, 1881.
C. A. Spenser, elected November, 1881.
M. D. Crossan, elected November, 1881.
Joseph L. Ocheltree, elected November, 1881.
John R. Hudson, elected November, 1882.
William E. Janvier, elected November, 1883.
Robert D. Morrow, elected November, 1884.
Mr. Russell, elected November, 1886.
Theodore W. Triggs, elected November, 1887.
Lewis A. Bower, elected November, 1888.
Warden R. Humphrey, elected November, 1889.
Frank T. Clymer, elected November, 1889.
Frank Sheppard, elected November, 1896.
Charles N. Bower, elected November, 1897.
A. Victor Hughes, elected November, 1899.
Archibald A. Capelle, elected November, 1899.
Edgar M. Ocheltree, elected November, 1899.
Howard E. Henderer, elected November, 1899.
Joseph Stuart, elected November, 1900.

Lewis T. Wilson, elected November, 1901.
John H. Peach, elected November, 1904.
Willard Chandler, elected November, 1904.
Lynford Thomas, elected November, 1906.
Horace S. Allen, elected November, 1907.

Names of those persons who have served as President of the Board of Trustees of our Church :

Mr. Henry C. McLear, from organization to 1882.
Mr. William Lang, from 1882 to February, 1884.
Mr. John R. Marr, from 1884 to January, 1897.
Mr. John R. Hudson, from 1897 to October, 1899.
Mr. Frank T. Clymer, from 1899 to January, 1902.
Mr. Robert D. Morrow, from 1902 to the present time.

The following named persons have served as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees :

Mr. James A. Robinson, from organization to 1871.
Mr. Isaac S. Baird, from 1871 to 1882.
Mr. John P. Belville, from 1882 to 1888.
Mr. John R. Hudson, from 1888 to 1890.
Mr. Warden R. Humphrey, from 1890 to 1899.
Mr. Charles N. Bower, from 1899 to present time.

STATED CLERK OF SESSION.

For several years after our organization, the minutes of session were kept by the Pastor. In June, 1873, Elder John P. McLear was elected Stated Clerk, and served in that capacity until January, 1874, when he resigned. Elder Charles Baird soon after was made Clerk, and held the office until his death, which occurred on June 8th, 1898. Elder Isaac S. Baird was then elected Clerk and still holds the office.

TREASURER OF THE SESSION.

Elder James Morrow was elected to be the first Treasurer of session, and held the office until his death

on March 28th, 1896, when Elder Morris D. Crossan was elected Treasurer, and fills the office at the present time.

STATED CLERK OF THE CONGREGATION.

Soon after our organization, on May 12th, 1869, Mr. Martin Johnston was elected Stated Clerk of the congregation. Mr. Johnston filled the office until November 21st, 1877, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Dr. Willard Springer. Dr. Springer held the office until November 20th, 1878. Upon his resignation, Mr. Joseph E. Miller was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Miller held the office until his death, which occurred on November 12th, 1900. For two or three years before his death, Mr. Miller was so enfeebled by sickness as to be unable to perform the duties of the office, and Mr. Theodore W. Triggs was made temporary Clerk. After the death of Mr. Miller, Dr. Harold L. Springer was elected Stated Clerk, and now holds the office.

The Church and Her Finances

EFFORTS TO LIQUIDATE CHURCH DEBT.

ALTHOUGH many efforts had been made to reduce the debt upon the church, and with some measure of success, yet the most notable and successful efforts (excepting the one made during the business depression of 1873-1875), were the following:

November 17th, 1889, the amount raised was \$10,-314.82.

January 29th, 1900, the amount raised was \$7,-556.12.

November 11th, 1906, the amount raised was \$8,-000.00.

Thus, with the blessing of the Lord, our church is now free from debt.

SALARIES.

When our first Pastor, Rev. George H. Smyth was called, his salary was fixed at \$2,000 per year. This was regularly paid, and at the close of his pastorate he was presented with \$500 additional. It was during the pastorate of our second minister, Rev. Dr. J. M. P. Otts, that we experienced our greatest financial difficulties. The business panic from 1873-1875, caused our revenue to decrease, and it required great effort to meet our obligations. We owe much to the business ability and energy of Mr. Henry McLearn, who was then the President of our Board of Trustees, and who rendered great service by his financial management. The

salary of Dr. Otts was the same as our first Pastor, and while for a time it was paid in an irregular manner, yet it was fully paid. Our next Pastor, Dr. A. N. Keigwin was called at the same salary, \$2,000, and after a few years, \$500 was added to it. During the business depression of 1894, we were forced to re-trench, and Dr. Keigwin requested that his salary be placed at \$2,000, which was done. His salary was fully paid and when he withdrew from the Church he was presented with \$1,000 in addition, being the equivalent of six months' salary. Our present Pastor, Rev. Alexander Alison, Jr., was called at a salary of \$2,500, and at a meeting of the congregation held on April 17th, 1907, it was decided to add \$500, making his salary \$3,000 per year. Several thousand dollars more are annually expended upon others workers who assist in the administration of the church.

Something over four thousand dollars are annually contributed by the Church to benevolent objects.

The Church and Her Missions

THE BAIRD MEMORIAL MISSION.

THIS Mission was organized under the auspices of the West Presbyterian Church, at the southwest corner of Front and Market streets, the first session being held on Sabbath morning, January 21st, 1894. Charles Baird and John R. Hudson were the managers of the enterprise, Mr. Hudson having kindly offered the use of a room in the building in which his business was conducted. The organization was composed of the following named person from the West Church: Mr. Charles Baird, Mr. John R. Hudson, Mr. Charles McCowan, Mr. Edward Tarring, Mrs. John P. McLearn, Miss Alice McLearn, Miss Clara Mendinhall, Miss Clara McCowan, Miss Rose Sinex, Miss Annie Walker, Miss Adelaide Simpers. Thirty-three scholars were also in attendance.

Mr. Baird and Mr. Hudson gave the work their attention for a brief period, when Mr. Frank Sheppard was elected as the first superintendent. He served until January, 1898, declining a re-election, and in the same year he was called to the superintendency of the home school to succeed Mr. Baird, whom death had claimed. Charles N. Bower was elected superintendent to succeed Mr. Sheppard.

Under the skillful management of Mr. Bower, and owing to the devotion and energy with which he entered into the work, and to the faithful co-operation of the officers and teachers connected with the Mis-

sion, the work has greatly prospered. Much good has, under the hand of God, been accomplished. In April, 1908, Mr. Bower gave up his position as superintendent on account of ill health, and the work has since been under the care of Miss Martha White, the assistant superintendent. The principal hindrance to the work of the Mission at present is the need of a permanent location in which to worship and conduct the sessions of the school.

Since the organization it has been necessary to change the location of the Mission a number of times. From Front and Market streets to 112 West Front street, to the Church of the Covenant building on West street below Third, to 425 West Second street, to 315 Madison street, and to the West Church, where the sessions are being held temporarily. A Board of Directors has been appointed for the Mission, and a committee is now seeking a suitable place to locate. A building fund amounting to about one thousand dollars is in hand. The Mission was at first known as the Front Street Mission of the West Presbyterian Church, but soon after the death of Mr. Charles Baird in 1898, the name was changed to the Baird Memorial Mission. The number of officers, teachers and scholars is 147. By the working out of plans already on foot, it is expected that the Baird Mission will shortly develop into a Christian settlement. Under such an organization it would gradually emerge along institutional lines.

THE ITALIAN MISSION.

Through the efforts of our Pastor, Rev. Alexander Alison, Jr., a Mission among the Italians of our city was established in October, 1905. Mr. Frizzini, an Italian Corporteur, was sent by the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work. For

six weeks he canvassed the field, gathering the Italians of the city to hear the preaching of the gospel in the Italian language. These first services were held in the quarters occupied by the Baird Memorial Mission on West street, below Third. So successful was Mr. Frizzini in his preliminary work that the Board thought it advisable to locate here a permanent Italian preacher. This they were encouraged to do by the generous offer of the West Church people to provide a meeting place and defray all the expense of the enterprise over and above the salary of the Missionary. The Rev. Cyrillo Barana, a minister of the Italian Waldensian Church, was delegated by the Board to succeed Mr. Frizzini in Wilmington.

In the western part of our city there is a section covering several blocks, containing a population of 2,500 Italians. In this neighborhood, at Seventh and Scott streets, a room was secured where the Mission was located, and where it has ever since carried on its growing work. During the early period of the Mission's history, it met with severe, and at times malicious opposition from the Roman Catholic Church. So troublesome did this interference become that it was necessary on several occasions to obtain police protection for the worshipping Italians. On one of these occasions a patrol wagon, liberally laden with police, was sent to quell a riot at the entrance of the Mission building, and seven base fellows who had been guilty of discharging fire arms, were arrested and subsequently punished. Notwithstanding these and many other internal troubles with which the work was early hampered, it developed rapidly and encouragingly. On March 1st, 1906, a spectacle was witnessed in West Church, the like of which had never before been seen. Eleven Italian men were received into full communion with the church upon Confession of Faith in Jesus

Christ. In the presence of a vast audience, the examination was conducted by the Pastor through an interpreter. The joy of this occasion was only surpassed by that experienced a year and a half later when the Italian Missionary who had succeeded Mr. Barana, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery. This was the first ordination of an Italian to the ministry in the history of the Presbytery.

In June, 1906, the Mission was organized with thirteen directors. Under the faithful and consecrated supervision of these directors the work among the Italians has grown to most encouraging proportions. On October 21st, 1906, Rev. Mr. Barana removed to Philadelphia to become Assistant Pastor of the First Italian Presbyterian Church of that city. Mr. Thomas H. De Pamphilis was sent by the Sabbath School Mission Board to take his place. From the outset the work of Mr. De Pamphilis has been greatly blessed. He is a Christian gentleman of unusually fine spirit, and assisted by his good wife, a helpmeet of extraordinary ability and attainments, he has won for himself a place in the esteem not merely of the Italian colony, but of the membership of West Church and the whole Christian community.

Shortly after Mr. De Pamphilis took up the work at the Mission, the directors proceeded to the organization of a Sabbath School. To start with there were ten scholars and three teachers, Mr. W. Marvin Truss acting as superintendent. Mr. Truss and his associate, Mr. Archibald M. Main, who was early appointed to help the superintendent, together with the faithful little band of teachers, ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. De Pamphilis, went to work with a will. It was not long before the membership of the school had been multiplied by four. At the present time there is an

enrollment in the Sabbath School of almost a hundred. A devoted band of teachers, led by Mr. Archibald M. Main, who became superintendent upon the retirement of Mr. Truss in the year 1907, looks after this most important work of "making Americans." Almost fifty Italian people have been welcomed into the fellowship of the Church since the Mission was established. Every Sabbath evening Mr. De Pamphilis preaches in Italian, illustrating his sermons by means of the stereopticon. The crowds attending the meetings throng the small Mission room and stand without at the windows.

The work is seriously hampered by the lack of a suitable building in which to carry it on. The directors are constantly praying that the way may speedily be opened for the acquisition of a commodious structure in which to carry on this growing work. Sewing classes for the women and girls and classes in English for the adult Italians are features of the work being done.

LAOS EXPANSION.

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., issued the following statement several years ago:

"After years of waiting and earnest prayer, God has opened the way for the long desired new station at Chieng Tung as a center for the vast multitudes of people in the northern part of our Laos field. The Board had felt obliged to condition its approval upon the securing of the necessary funds and the additional missionaries required. These conditions have now been met, chiefly as a result of a missionary campaign conducted by Mr. Dodd and the Forward Movement Secretary of the Board in the New Castle (Del.), Presbytery, where nearly \$2,000 have been secured in new

individual pledges. About as much more is called for in order to cover for the first year the additional current expenditure thus incurred by the Board.”

In February, 1903, our Church entered this Forward Movement, and is now contributing \$200 a year toward the support of the station at Chieng Tung, where we are represented by the Rev. W. Clifton Dodd. This money is contributed by individuals connected with our Church, and its collection is under the management of Mr. Theodore W. Triggs, one of our Elders.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA WORK.

Our Sabbath School several years ago became definitely interested in the work our Mission Board is doing at Highland, South Dakota. Mr. James M. Hamilton, a most consecrated missionary, is our personal representative in that needy home mission field. In a recent visit to Wilmington and West Church he greatly endeared himself to us, and warmed our hearts toward his work.

The Annex

OWING to the increasing number of scholars and the crowded condition of our Sabbath School, it became necessary in the year 1894 to provide more room for the school. Hence it was decided that we build an annex to our Church building on Wollaston street. Ground was purchased and a two story building, 27 feet 8 inches by 58 feet, was erected that same year, at a cost of \$4,772.21. This building affords a splendidly equipped Kindergarten room and secretary's quarters in the basement. On the first floor there are two commodious and attractive rooms for the Primary and Junior grades, separated from one another and from the main school by glass partitions, which can be opened and closed. On the second floor are two large rooms opening into the audience room of the Church. These afford space for Bible classes, Church meetings, or for social purposes. This equipment is amply sufficient for the growing needs of our school. Within the last few years, however, the school membership has grown to such an extent as to make imperative a further enlargement of our quarters.

The Church and Her Women

DURING all of our church history, nothing has stood out more prominently, or is more deserving of mention, than the zeal, devotion, and persistent efforts of the women of our church in doing so much to assist in carrying on the Lord's work. They have raised many thousands of dollars toward the liquidation of the church debt, the renovating, repairing, and furnishing the church, contributing to Home and Foreign Missions, and the different Boards of the Church, feeding the poor, clothing the naked, visiting and comforting the sick, and sympathizing with the bereaved and sorrowing. As we look backward we miss many who were once thus actively engaged, who have gone from their work to their reward. In every emergency these faithful women have been found at the front, and their readiness to help has been an inspiration to the whole church.

LADIES' MITE SOCIETY.

This society is the oldest organization in our Church. It was organized on the morning of November 1st, 1868, at the close of our first public meeting for worship. Mrs. Emma M. Holden was elected President, Mrs. Annie Mendenhall, Secretary, and Mrs. John P. McLear, Treasurer. When our first Pastor, Rev. George H. Smyth, came to us, his wife, at the request of Mrs. Holden, was made President. She held the office until her death on September 1st, 1871, when Mrs.

Holden was again chosen to be President and held the office until Dr. Otts became Pastor. During the pastorate of Dr. Otts his wife was made President, at the suggestion of Mrs. Holden. After the removal of Mrs. Otts from our Church, in January, 1878, Mrs. Holden was again elected President, and is still holding the office.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

This society was formed on March 2d, 1869, four months after the organization of the Church, in the parlor of Mrs. James Morrow, and afterwards was given the above name. The first President was Mrs. James Morrow and she held that office until her death which occurred in 1897. Mrs. Harry Holt was then elected President, but resigned after one year. In 1898, Mrs. Harry A. Brown was chosen President and fills the office most efficiently at the present time. The amount of work accomplished and the good resulting therefrom, are beyond computation. In our days of trial when struggling with a heavy burden of debt, this society proved to be a tower of strength, and it has been ever ready with willing hands and untiring efforts, to be what its name implies. Through the efforts of the Ladies' Aid money has been raised for cleansing, repairing, and refurnishing the Church. The first carpets and furnishings for the new Church were given by this society, and from time to time they have raised large sums of money for the liquidation of the church debt. The society has about 200 members, and during the last ten years has raised and paid more than \$4,000 for Church improvement.

Mrs. Jennie Capelle Bryer was first Secretary and continued until her death, February 17th, 1907. Miss Delilah Brown is present Secretary.

THE MACEDONIA CIRCLE OF KING'S DAUGHTERS.

This Circle was organized in April, 1896, with ten members, Mrs. A. N. Keigwin being the first President. At first they became actively engaged in behalf of the Baird Memorial Mission, where, for eleven years, they conducted a weekly sewing class in connection with the Mission, besides ministering to the sick, the poor, and destitute. As the Circle grew larger, and new fields of labor and other opportunities presented themselves, the sewing class was given up and their efforts were made to include many other benevolent objects. The Circle has now a membership of 71, and following are some of the objects for which they are now working: Providing nurses for the sick, finding homes for the homeless, furnishing coal, provisions and clothing for the poor, flowers for the sick, contributing somewhat to the Church Calendar and to the Baird Memorial Mission, and also giving aid to the Italian Mission. This circle has given \$10 to each of the eight payments which have just cancelled our Church debt. They also conduct a gospel meeting once each month on Sabbath afternoons at the following places: The Minquadale Home, the Crittenden Home, Girls' Industrial School and the Home for Aged Women. In these services they are assisted by a delegation of men from the Church.

There are two other Circles of King's Daughters in our Church, the Clover Leaf Circle and the Hope Circle, whose work is practically along the same lines as those above mentioned.

LADIES' SEWING CIRCLE.

This Circle was the offspring and outgrowth of the Ladies' Mite Society and was organized on May 28th, 1883. Mrs. Holden was chosen President, and still fills that office. Mrs. M. D. Crossan was Secretary and

Treasurer during the first year. Mrs. John Kates is Secretary at the present time, and Mrs. S. McKee is Treasurer. The work that has been accomplished by this society is truly wonderful. They meet twice each month at the homes of the members to make aprons and such articles as find a ready sale, and from time to time hold bazaars to dispose of their work. Since their organization they have raised and paid \$2,118, and this in addition to the work they have been doing in the other societies of the Church. Of the above amount \$1,285 was for the Church Debt Fund, \$100 for the Building Fund of the Baird Memorial Mission, \$600 toward carpeting the church, and the balance for church furnishings.

MISSIONARY SOCIETIES OF THE CHURCH.

In the year 1880 there was a revival of missionary zeal in the Church. This led to the formation of several societies for the advancement of the Master's Kingdom, and the cultivation of the missionary spirit. These included the Women's Home Missionary Society, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, the Young People's Missionary Association, the Brainerd Society, and the Happy Workers' Missionary Band. For a number of years these societies were successfully and profitably conducted under the supervision of Dr. and Mrs. A. N. Keigwin, our former Pastor and his wife. Having served their purpose the Brainerd and Young People's societies have been disbanded. Our societies at the present time are: The Woman's Missionary Society and the Happy Workers' Band, which includes the younger people. Thus our people are taking a deep interest in the great subject of missions, and by their prayers, their contributions, and their personal efforts, are striving to hasten the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord, who has said: "For I, the


Lord thy God, will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, 'Fear not, I will help thee.' ''

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION CUPS.

On May 28th, 1906, the Ladies' Aid Society of the Church, presented to the session a beautiful individual cup communion service, comprising eight nickel silver trays holding 72 cups each, one filler, thirty-five dozen glasses (extra), and two walnut racks for each pew.

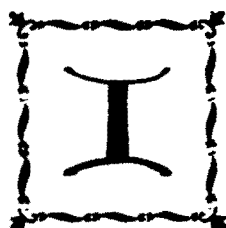
This generous act is highly appreciated by the officers and members of the Church, and is a reminder that the ladies are always foremost in every good work.

The Church and Her Music

OON after occupying our new church building, Mr. Bradley James was engaged as organist and leader of the choir, and held that position until his death, which occurred on September 14th, 1877. Mr. Lewis T. Wilson, was given his place as organist, and for thirty-one years has faithfully performed the duties of the position, holding it at the present time. After the death of Mr. James, the choir for several years was without a regular leader, when Mr. Samuel K. Anderson was engaged to take charge of the singing. He acted as chorister for about four years, when he resigned. In 1886 he was succeeded by our present efficient chorister, Prof. Jacob T. Clymer, who has led our singing for twenty-two years. The choir at present numbers forty including chorister and organist. West Church choir enjoys the distinction of being popularly regarded as the best volunteer choir in the city of Wilmington.

The Church and Her Young People

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY.



IN 1887 a Christian Endeavor Society was formed in West Church. It was a branch of the United Society, being organized at the time of the novelty and great popularity of the Christian Endeavor movement. From the first the society flourished, gaining members constantly. The President was Mr. Isaac S. Baird. What the Endeavor Society and work have done for the young people of our Church will never be estimated. Not a few of our active workers to-day received their first impetus to Christian service in this organization. Its value as a training school for workers can scarcely be too highly appraised. Particularly did the Christian Endeavor Society in West Church develop missionary interest and zeal. In this realm the bright, particular star was always Miss Harriett McLear, now Mrs. Ernest F. Hall, who left her active interest in our Young People's Society to engage in Foreign Mission work in Korea.

Growing out of the Senior Endeavor Society have come two excellent auxiliary organizations. These are the Junior Society, which was formed some ten or twelve years ago with Miss Alice McLear as superintendent, and the Intermediate Society, formed more recently under the supervision of the present Pastor, with Miss Elizabeth Kates as superintendent. Both of these organizations assist in the development of the Christian lives and talents of the boys and girls. The

Juniors at a proper age are advanced to the Intermediate grade, and the Intermediates graduate at the age of 18 into the Senior Society. For several years the Senior organization has been inactive, though the Intermediates and Juniors are leaders in such work in the city and state. The Juniors, under the excellent and talented leadership of Mrs. Charles N. Bower, who succeeded Miss McLear about seven years ago, are the banner bearers in certain respects of the state work.

THE PASTOR'S PRAYER MEETING CHOIR.

Shortly after our present Pastor came among us he felt the need of assistance in the musical department of the prayer meeting. Accordingly he gathered together a company of young people and organized them into what they chose themselves to call the "Pastor's Prayer Meeting Choir." It is composed of some forty or fifty young people, most of whom are faithful in their attendance on the mid-week meeting. Mr. Edgar M. Ocheltree was early chosen the leader and, assisted by Miss Helen Springer, the pianist, succeeded in developing a strong musical and social organization. Every few months the choir gives a social. Indeed the social element is not missing in any of the young people's societies, many of these affairs being held each winter.

The Church and Her Visitors

NAMES OF PROMINENT MEN WHO HAVE VISITED OUR CHURCH.

Rev. Dr. James McCosh, of Princeton, N. J.
Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York City.
Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., of New York.
Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D. D., of New York.
Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage, D. D., of Chicago.
Rev. William H. Roberts, D. D., of Philadelphia.
Rev. George F. Wiswell, D. D., of Philadelphia.
Rev. James A. Worden, D. D., of Philadelphia.
Rev. Henry C. McCook, D. D., of Philadelphia.
Rev. A. D. Pollock, D. D., of Virginia.
Rev. Alexander Alison, D. D., of New York City.
Rev. Richard S. Holmes, D. D., of Philadelphia.
Rev. William Aikman, D. D., of Atlantic City, N. J.
Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, Ph. D., of Washington, D. C.
Rev. Joseph T. Smith, D. D., of Baltimore, Md.
Rev. B. F. Agnew, D. D., of Philadelphia, Pa.
Rev. Francis E. Clark, D. D., of Boston, Mass.

EVANGELISTS WHO HAVE VISITED OUR CHURCH.

Mr. Dwight L. Moody.
Major Whittle.
Major Hilton.
J. Manton Smith, of England.
B. Fay Mills.

LAYMEN.

Hon. John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, Pa.
Hon. John Sparhawk, of Philadelphia, Pa.

Hon. W. R. Moody, of Northfield.
Hon. James A. Beaver, of Pennsylvania.
Robert E. Speer, of New York.

The Church and Her Ministerial Candidates

MINISTERS WHO HAVE GONE OUT FROM OUR CHURCH.

Rev. Albert Edwin Keigwin, D. D., Pastor West End Presbyterian Church, of New York.

Rev. Ernest F. Keigwin, deceased.

Rev. Harvey L. Wyatt, Pastor Calvin Presbyterian Church, of Philadelphia.

Rev. Albert C. Busch, Pastor Cold Spring Presbyterian Church, New York.

W. Crosby Ross, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., student for the ministry under care of Presbytery.

Mrs. Harriett McLear Hall, Wilmington, Del., missionary to Korea for five years.

The Church and Her Present Officers

OFFICERS OF CHURCH.

SESSION—Isaac S. Baird, *Clerk*; M. D. Crossan, W. R. Humphrey, Theodore W. Triggs, Frank Sheppard.

DIACONATE—Eugene Wyatt.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES—Robert D. Morrow, A. V. Hughes, H. E. Henderer, Willard P. Chandler, Horace S. Allen, Joseph Stuart, Charles N. Bower, John H. Peach, Lynford A. Thomas.

CLERK OF CONGREGATION—Harold L. Springer, M. D. Prof. Jacob T. Clymer, *Choirmaster*.

Lewis T. Wilson, *Organist*.

SABBATH SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

Frank Sheppard, *Superintendent*.

Theodore Triggs, *Assistant Superintendent*.

A. V. Hughes, *Second Assistant Superintendent*.

H. E. Henderer, *Secretary*.

Robert O. Janvier, *Assistant Secretary*.

Myron C. Henderer, *Assistant Secretary*.

Lewis B. Morrow, *Treasurer*.

Lynford A. Thomas, *Financial Secretary*.

Mark Sweeten, *Assistant Financial Secretary*.

F. Everett Janvier, *Usher*.

Clarence Simmons, *Librarian*.

Prof. J. T. Clymer, *Precentor*.

Miss Helen Springer, *Pianist*.

TEACHERS.

Rev. Alexander Alison, Jr.,	Miss Clara Hyde,
Mr. I. S. Baird,	Miss Helen O'Connell,
Miss Mary C. Seal,	Miss Sallie Minors,
Mrs. H. C. Taylor,	Mrs. C. H. Start,
Miss Mary Lacklan,	Miss Ella Ferris,
Mrs. H. A. Brown,	Miss Elizabeth McLearn,
Miss Etta Reeves,	Miss Nellie Logan,
Miss S. M. Munda,	Mrs. Henry Grant,
Mrs. Franklin Hoopes,	Miss E. J. Patton,
Mr. H. W. Frazer,	Mrs. C. M. Banks,
Mrs. H. W. Lowe,	Dr. H. L. Springer,
Miss Clara McCowan,	Miss Alice H. Stoppard,
Mrs. W. P. Chandler,	Miss Katherine Stewart,
Mrs. J. H. Baird,	Miss Elizabeth Condit,
Mrs. L. McDonald,	Miss Mabel Morris,
Miss Harriet Klingeman,	Miss Jessie A. Brown,
Mrs. E. C. Clark,	Miss Helen Wilson,
Mrs. W. R. Humphrey,	Mr. H. L. Imler,
Mrs. C. N. Bower,	Miss Bertha Pyle,
Miss Annie Walker,	Mr. Horace Porter,
Miss Fannie Jacobs,	Miss Jessie Hay,
Mrs. C. B. Tatman,	Miss Adelaide Simpvers,
Mr. H. C. Cleaver,	Miss Grace Baird,
Mrs. L. A. Thomas,	Miss Clara Mendenhall,
Miss Martha Leach,	Mr. Robert G. Bruce,
Miss Irene Blair,	Miss Emma Beck.

PUPIL TEACHERS.

Miss Emma McIntire,	Miss Elizabeth Kates,
Mrs. Sylvania McKee,	Miss Rebecca Sparks,
Mrs. A. N. Eaton,	Mrs. Franz Sweeten,
Miss Marguerite Rolph,	Miss Louise Griffith,
Miss Edna Stuart,	Mrs. L. B. Christy,
Miss Anna Brown,	Miss Bessie Day,
Miss Carrie West,	Miss Helen Springer.

Miss Gertrude Larison,

BAIRD MISSION OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

Miss Martha White, *Assistant Superintendent.*

George Spence, *Recording Secretary.*

Miss Bertha Everett, *Financial Secretary.*

Lester Start, *Assistant Recording Secretary.*

Edgar M. Ocheltree, *Treasurer.*

TEACHERS.

Smiley King,

H. L. Cloud,

Thomas Dorman,

Charles N. Bower,

W. F. O'Keefe,

Canby May,

Miss Annie White,

Miss S. Zebley,

Miss G. Larison,

Miss Helen Springer,

Miss Bertha Everett,

Miss Ella Ferris,

Mrs. J. H. Van Horn,

Miss Mabel Frederick.

DIRECTORS AND TEACHERS ITALIAN MISSION.

Rev. Alexander Alison, Jr.

Mr. Archibald M. Main, *Superintendent of the Sabbath School.*

Miss Emily Baird, *Secretary Board of Directors.*

Mr. J. E. Fuller, *Treasurer Board of Directors.*

Mr. David A. Hay,

Mr. W. Marvin Truss,

Mr. W. R. Humphrey,

Mr. J. H. Cleaver,

Mr. Fred Ross,

Miss Sarah Belville,

Mrs. Laura McWhorter,

Mrs. G. Etta Davidson,

Miss Nellie Wyatt,

Miss Eliza Greer.

Mr. Harvey Williamson,

TEACHERS.

Miss Emily Baird,

Miss Sarah Belville,

Mrs. Thomas De Pamphilis,

Rev. Thomas De Pamphilis,

Miss Leila Brereton,

Mrs. John Lofland,

Miss Lillie Thorpe.

