

CHURCHES



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Barclay Avenue

The Rev. Walter R. Sommerfeld, Pastor

The history of Christ Church dates to 1931. The Lutheran Church Extension Society of Pittsburgh and Vicinity explored the possibility of starting a church in Forest Hills. Work was begun on March 8, 1931 with the Rev. William Dale of Trinity, Mt. Oliver preaching the sermon. After a few Sundays, work was suspended. In June of 1931 the Lutheran Church Extension Society of Pittsburgh called the Rev. Oliver E. Graebner as missionary for the Pittsburgh area. Under his efforts a complete survey was made of Forest Hills. The results warranted a church and the Ardmore Mission was reopened on August 30, 1931 in a rented store room on Sumner Avenue.

Regular worship services and Sunday School sessions were held every Sunday. The faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word, combined with the labors and prayers of the Pastor, bore fruit. An Adult Membership Group was formed for instruction in and study of the Fundamental Christian Doctrines of the Bible. It was a happy day in the history of the Ardmore Mission when on April 1, 1933, twenty-eight adults were received and became charter members. On April 21, 1933 in a regular congregational meeting the name Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church was adopted and the congregation formally organized.

Thought was given to a permanent church site. With the help of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Schaffer the property on Atlantic Avenue was acquired. The added loan from the Eastern District Church Extension Board made it possible to begin the erection of the first unit of the church in 1934. The cornerstone was laid November 4, 1934. The church was dedicated January 6, 1935 by the Rev. Graebner. The afternoon and evening services were highlighted by the preaching of Rev. Albert Merckens of First Trinity Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh and Rev. Theodore Martens of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of North Side. The basement addition to the Church unit was dedicated February 27, 1938. With additional gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Schaffer a parsonage was built adjoining the church. It was dedicated March 31, 1940.

In February, 1945, Pastor Graebner left Christ Church to accept a call as Director of Camp Pioneer, Angola, New York. The Rev. Walter R. Sommerfeld, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, New Castle, Pa., was called to Forest Hills. He was installed as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church of Forest Hills on May 6, 1945, by the Rev. Eric C. Malte, President of our Eastern District. Pastor and Mrs. Sommerfeld have three children, Wayne, Karen and Ardith.

With the advent of the new pastor activities were resumed with the hope that the congregation might ascend to ever greater heights under his leadership. The first step forward was to elect a Church Expansion Committee which consisted of Mr. P. G. Lessmann, Mr. A. P. Baker and Mr. C. M. Brinsley. After a careful survey of the property and needs of the congregation, the committee recommended the purchase of additional property. In November of 1946 land was purchased on Greensburg Pike and later sold because it was felt to be inadequate for the expanding needs of the church. In October, 1949, two and a half acres of ground on Barclay Avenue was purchased from the Freehold Realty Company for \$6000.00. The location was felt to be very desirable. Mr. Frank Linder was engaged as architect.

The congregation passed a resolution to build a new church March 26, 1950. Mr. Arthur Stroshine, a member of the congregation, was the general contractor. The ground-breaking ceremony was held on April 22, 1951, with the Rev. E. C. Malte preaching the sermon. The cornerstone was laid August 5, 1951, with the Rev. F. E. Schumann of First Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, as the guest speaker. The new church was dedicated to the glory of the Triune God on May 4, 1952, with the pastor, Walter R. Sommerfeld, officiating. Guest speakers were the Rev. William Gerdes, Grace Lutheran Church, Dormont, Pa. and the Rev. Charles A. Behnke, D.D., President of the Eastern District. Many gifts and memorials helped to beautify the present church building. The Baldwin Organ was dedicated in March, 1956 and the Carillons in April, 1957.

In 1955 the congregation resolved to proceed with plans to build a new parsonage adjacent to the church. Mr. P. G. Lessmann, Mr. A. Stroshine and Mr. A. Johnson were elected to the Building Committee. The new parsonage was dedicated April 14, 1957.

The first church building and parsonage on Atlantic Avenue were sold in September, 1955.

In April, 1958 the congregation celebrated the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the organization of Christ Lutheran Church.

The church organizations include the Woman's Service Guild, affiliated with the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League; The Men's Club, affiliated with the International Lutheran Laymen's League and sponsors of the International Lutheran Hour; the Youth League for High School Students; the Choir, directed by Mr. Henry Bohl, Jr. Mrs. C. Brinsley and Mrs. M. McIntire serve as organists. The Woman's Service Guild completely equipped the modern kitchen in the present building. They also furnished the Mothers' Room. The members sew and make articles for Kane Hospital and other hospitals, collect clothing for the World Relief Drives, provide birthday and Christmas gifts and treats for the Lutheran Home for the Aged in Cabot, Pa. For several years dinners were served to the Lion's Club which regularly met at the church. The active Youth Group, under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gueck, have bi-weekly meetings, attend seasonal Rallies and Retreats.

The Educational building is used by Brownie and Girl Scout Troops, and as a polling place for elections. It has also been used as local chest X-ray center.

The Pastor also preaches at the Protestant Home for Aged Women in Wilkinsburg. The choir often accompanies him at these monthly services.

The present membership is 500. The Sunday School and Bible Classes for all ages is staffed by 24 teachers and officers with Mr. William D. Peterson, the Superintendent. The very successful Vacation Bible School draws many community children, the pupil registration being approximately 250, with a staff of 40 teachers.

For several years it has been necessary to hold two services each Sunday. A building program of expansion is planned for the future.

One of our members and a talented musician, is Mr. Roland Leich of Forest Hills and Professor of Music at Carnegie Mellon University. He has composed numerous orchestral, choral and chamber works and songs, some of which have been performed by the Pittsburgh and other symphony orchestras. He is choral director of the "United We Sing" Christmas Carol Festival. He formerly worked with the Carnegie Mellon Student Chorus, the Tuesday Musical Club Chorale, and the Mendelssohn Choir. Since 1964 Mr. Leich has been program annotator for the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society. Another member, Mrs. Blanche Rupprecht of Forest Hills, is a very gifted artist.



FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1840 Ardmore Boulevard

The Rev. Robert L. Lanning, Minister

The Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, incorporated in 1922 was the out-growth of several efforts early in the 20th Century to found a work in this Community.

In 1904, Rev. William A. Reed, then minister of Beulah Presbyterian Church, began a Sunday School in the Portable School House located on Atlantic Ave.

Rev. John C. McCracken followed him in this venture. Beulah and the land which later became Forest Hills, was then in Blairsville Presbytery.

Believing that the area was in Pittsburgh Presbytery, in 1912 the Presbytery began another Sunday School in Ardmore. They soon found that they were outside the Presbytery limits, and after an apology to Blairsville Presbytery, withdrew from the Area.

Blairsville immediately took up the work and established a Mission which soon became the Ardmore Memorial Presbyterian Church.

In October, 1915, this Church petitioned to become a part of Pittsburgh Presbytery and the petition was granted and announced to Presbytery December 14, 1915.

On April 2, 1916, at its own request, the Church was dis-organized, and on May 9, 1916, it again became a Mission, under the care of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkesburg. Sixty-one members were transferred to the First Presbyterian Church as members of the Ardmore Mission or Ardmore Chapel. In 1921-22 the present building on Atlantic Ave., beside the school, was built at a cost of \$30,000.00, after an earlier portable structure has burned in 1920. It was dedicated on April 16, 1923 and 155 members were transferred from the roll of the First Presbyterian Church to the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

Back in the early Mission period, under the First Presbyterian Church, Mr. R. M. Van Orsdell, an Elder, took charge of the Sunday School of the Mission. In June, 1916, Rev. A. A. Schwarz was appointed to serve the Mission at \$75.00 a month. On Oct. 1, 1916, Rev. Clyde R. Wheeland was appointed and served until Jan. 1917 at the same salary. In Feb. 1917, Rev. Arnold H. Lowe took over and served until he enlisted in the U. S. Army on May 21, 1918. His salary was increased to \$1,350 a year. On July 15, 1917, in order that the Mission might be represented on the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Mr. A. S. Napier was appointed by the Mission, as the first representative to that office. On May 24, 1918, Rev. James Mayne became the Congregation's leader

and served until Jan. 19, 1919 at \$2,000 a year. At that time Rev. Howard L. Olewiler was appointed to serve as pastor. By 1922 the congregation, which now numbers 192 members, listed on the roll of the First Presbyterian Church, had increased to the place where it could be independent, and on April 8, 1923, 155 members were transferred to become the congregation of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of Rev. Howard L. Olewiler.

Five Ministers have served the Church since its incorporation:

Rev. Howard L. Olewiler, April 16, 1923-October, 1927
Rev. James E. Fawcett, January 15, 1928-January 1, 1944
Rev. Joseph Blackburn, August, 1944-April 1950
Rev. J. Ray Thompson, November, 1950-April 1954
Rev. Robert L. Lanning, November, 1954-

During this same period three Clerks of Session have held that office:

Mr. Albert Koch, April 1923-October, 1923
Mr. Warren W. Dietrich, October 1923-1949
Mr. S. M. Dougherty, 1949-

Rev. Howard L. Olewiler, with 154 Charter Members brought the newly formed church, in four years, to a membership of 503. During that period a manse was purchased at 213 Lenox Ave. for \$10,000.00. This purchase was made by the Ladies Aid who paid for the Manse and its yearly taxes until the Manse was paid for in 1944 and the church assumed the taxes in 1956.

Under the leadership of Rev. James E. Fawcett, the Church continued its excellent course. A used pipe organ was bought at his instigation, better pews with cushioned seats were secured, and the Sunday School grew to such an extent that two sessions were started. The Adults and Childrens' Departments met at 9:30, Church at 10:30, and the Intermediate, Senior and Young Peoples' Departments met at 11:45. The depression came to this area during Mr. Fawcett's time here, and in order to meet our mortgage payments, a "Dime Campaign" was instituted among the Congregation and their friends. "A Dime A Week" inserted in a card for that purpose was the plan, and in this way, not a payment was missed during those very difficult years. In 1941 the Youth Budget was introduced into the Church School.

Because of the many changes in plant locations by Westinghouse, and because many people moved during the Depression, the membership did not show a large gain during this period, although many were added to the Congregation. In 1944, the membership was 439. In January, 1944, Mr. Fawcett resigned to become the Civilian Chaplain in Pittsburgh Presbytery.

During Rev. Joseph Blackburn's term of service, due largely to the efforts of the Congregation under Mr. Fawcett's leadership, the Mortgage on Church and Manse was burned. Mr. Blackburn, also established his study and office in the Church. The burning of the Junior High School and parts of the Atlantic Ave. School in 1946 endangered our building but aside from the lead in the stained glass windows melting and

running over the sills and the blackening of the bricks on the back wall, no damage was done. One elementary class was held in our church Social Rooms for that semester. With Mr. Blackburn's cooperation the Ladies Aid and Missionary Societies of the Church disbanded in 1947 and became the Women's Association. In 1948 the New Curriculum of the Presbyterian Church was adopted for use in our Church School. In 1950 the membership was 418.

Under the leadership of Rev. J. Ray Thompson the Church again began to grow, and the building of a new Church at a more centrally located site began to be discussed, culminating in the decision to buy the property on Ardmore Blvd. bounded by the Clark-Wright Bldg. at Braddock Road, Cascade Road, and the lots fronting on Bevington Road between Cascade and the Blvd. Presbytery, through the Church Extension Fund, gave \$40,000 toward the purchase of the ground and building the Church, In July 1953 the ground was dedicated in an appropriate service at the site. A fund raising campaign was begun.

During Mr. Thompson's pastorate a Baldwin Electronic Organ, costing \$8,600 was bought and paid for, the office equipment was replaced and renovated, the Audio-Visual equipment was added to and its use greatly enlarged, and the Community again began to become more aware of our Church. A flourishing Chapter of the Presbyterian Mens' Organization was formed in 1951 but its activities lasted for only two years. An electrically operated and lighted bulletin board was also given and installed in the church yard.

The Board of Deacons was reinstated in the church structure also during this period.

The Church School had returned to one session due to small enrollment in the older departments, but it became apparent in 1953 that we were too crowded. (Consequently the Women's Club on Ave. L. was rented each Sunday, and the Junior Dept. and one Adult class began to meet there.)

In January, 1952, it also became apparent that two Church Services would be necessary, and services at 8:30 and at 11:00 A.M. were started. Again, though many new members came to the Church during Mr. Thompson's pastorate, the net gain was not large due to weeding out lost members and the moving of members to other cities. The roll in 1954 numbered 480.

Under the leadership of Rev. Robert L. Lanning, the New Church Program took on new life, the Committees were reorganized, and in July, 1956, the ground was broken for the new Church. New members continued to join and take active part in the Church. In 1956 also, Mr. Lanning having bought a home in Forest Hills, the Manse was sold for \$11,500.00 and the money invested to be used when the need for building or purchasing another Manse is apparent. The Membership in May, 1957, 543. This represented a significant gain, inasmuch as the 1954 membership of 480 was reduced to 211, with 269 names being removed from the roll in 1955 due to their lack of interest in the church activities.

During all this time the Sunday School, later called the Church School, continued to provide fine leadership for the children and older members of the Church. Many teachers through the years took advantage of the Leadership Training

Schools provided in our section of the County. From the beginning of the Church a Daily Vacation Bible School was conducted, for 10 years or more of which the whole month of June was occupied. Always, the Church School has endeavored to give the best leadership, newest methods and latest teaching materials to its pupils.

On May 26, 1957 the Chapter of Presbyterian Men, under the leadership of the Deacons, will attempt to reorganize their Chapter and once again become a strong part of the Church Organization.

Since the Mission Church began an alive Young People's program was undertaken, first as a part of the Christian Endeavor Movement, and then in 1945 as the Westminster Fellowship. From 1947 to 1953, largely due to the lack of young people in our church, the program lapsed, to be revived in 1952, 1953 and 1957. A strong Westminster Fellowship for High School young people is now in operation and we are looking for a bright future for our Young People's Work.

Early in 1915 a Ladies Aid Society was established. Due to the many activities of this group of women the Manse was purchased and kept in repair, its taxes paid, the organ paid for, the kitchen equipped and many other services were rendered to the church even when it was just a Mission.

When it became a Church the need was felt for a Missionary Society, and in the Fall of 1923 such a society was organized, under the Pittsburgh Presbyterial Home and Foreign Missionary Societies. These two women's organizations in 1947 disbanded in order to form a Woman's Association of which every woman of the Church was a member. Much has been accomplished by this group both in the purchase of equipment for the kitchen and for the church, serving the Community through providing dinners for the Rotary Club each Tuesday night since Jan. 1947, initiating and contributing liberally to the Building Fund, providing the money to fully equip a modern kitchen in the new Church, and yet always keeping in mind the organization's main purpose "To Further the Work of the Kingdom of God by Uniting the Women of the Presbyterian Church in a Spiritual Fellowship, with a program of education, service, prayer and giving. The primary emphasis shall be upon the wide work of the Presbyterian Church as

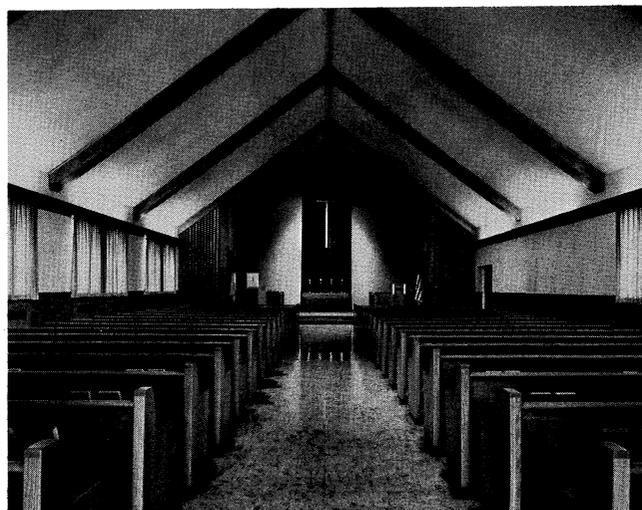
promoted through the boards of National Missions, Foreign Missions and Christian Education." The amount spent for Mission work in 1956 was \$1,061.82, given through freewill envelope giving, Thank Offering, Opportunity Gift, and a percentage of the Rotary Dinner profit for sewing, Christmas boxes, etc.

Our Church through the years has been a **strong** Church, a Spiritually minded Church, a cooperative Church and a friendly Church. In the years to come may we continue to nurture these Christian traits for the benefit of our members, our community, our Country, and our fellow-men through Faith in God and the practice of the Way of life taught by Christ.

The present membership of the Church is 965-November 1, 1968. Also, as of Jan. 1, 1967, the Rev. Robert L. Read became a part of our Church Staff.

The Presbyterian Church has always been a community center for civic activities. Among typical activities are the following:

- Boy Scout Troops 90 & 42
- Cub Packs 90 & 42
- Girl Scout Troops 240, 266 & 1532
- Brownie Troop 657
- Forest Hills Rotary Club
- Forest Hills Nursery School (Daily)
- Forest Hills Garden Club
- Forest Hills Assembly No.23 Rainbow Girls
- Forest Hills Youth Council Meetings
- Forest Hills Area Blood Bank
- Girl Scout Neighborhood Association Meetings
- Girl Scout Westinghouse District Committee Meetings
- Forest Hills entry in the Church League Basketball Association
- Rehearsal hall for the Forest Hills "Big Band"
- Rehearsal hall for the Forest Hills String Group
- Our own Youth Groups (40% non-members)
- Parking for July 4th celebration, together with the use of the lower lot for the July 4th water battle
- Reunion Headquarters, Golden Jubilee, 1969
- Numerous other civic and group meetings.





RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

716 Atlantic Avenue

The Rev. Gabriel Sokoloff, Pastor

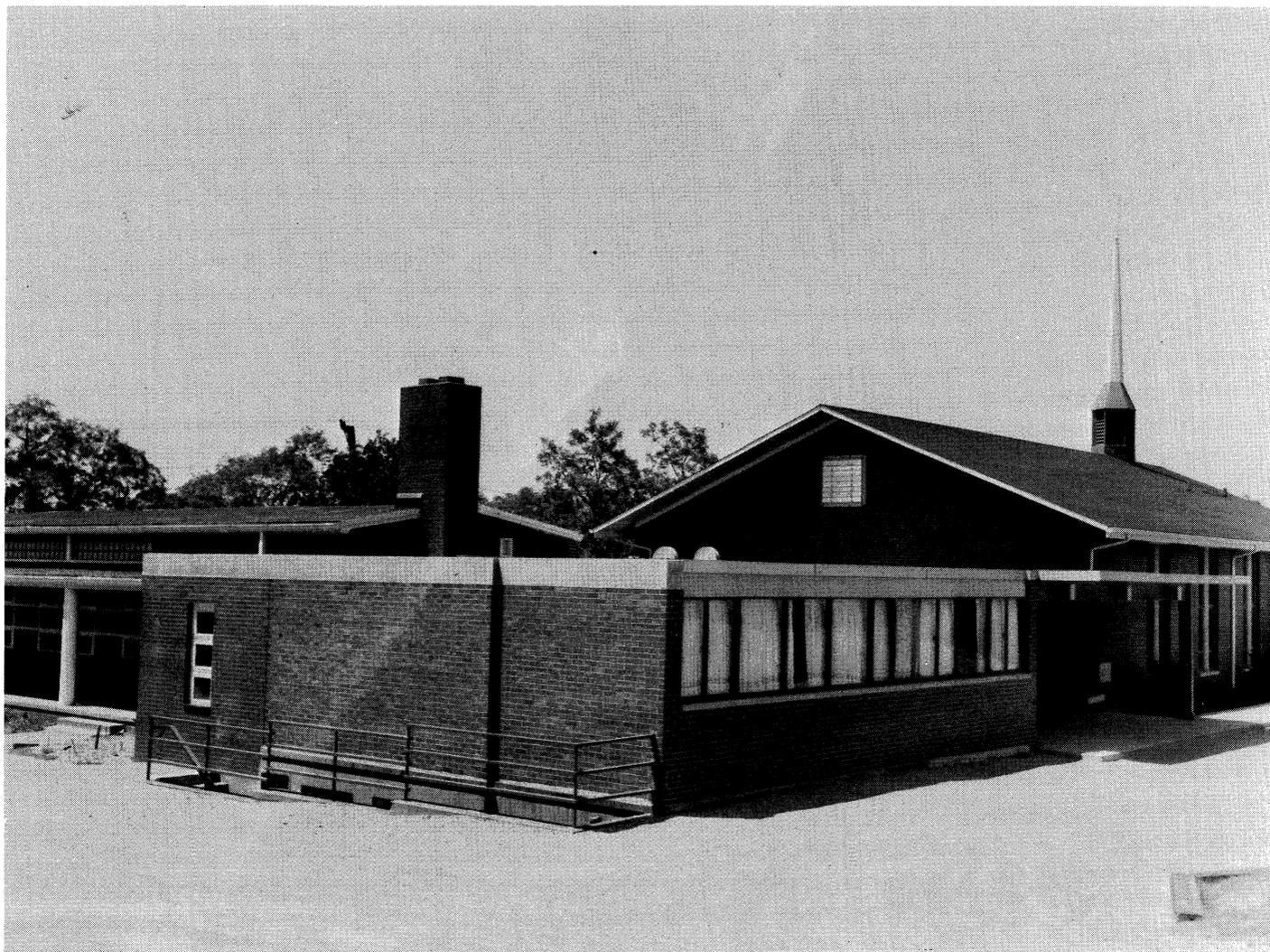
A Church building and land for a Parish home was purchased in April, 1958 from the Presbyterian group at 716 Atlantic Avenue, Forest Hills for a Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of the Holy Resurrection. This Church was organized May, 1916 in Braddock. The old Church and Parish home in Braddock was sold December, 1958. The following year, the construction of a new Parish home was started in Forest Hills, which was completed in November, 1959. A new Cupola was installed on the Church in July, 1964.

In June, 1966, the brick exterior of the Church was steam cleaned and pointed. Also new glass and metal doors were installed. There was interior deco-

rating, painting new Ikons, installing a new Ikonostas, a new Altar and Oblation Table, Tetrapod and other needed church items done and completed March, 1967.

The newly redecorated Church and Altar were consecrated at a Pontifical Divine Liturgy on September 24, 1967 by His Eminence, The Most Reverend IRENEY, Archbishop of New York, Primate of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America and Canada and His Grace, Bishop Amvrossy, Bishop of Pittsburgh and West Virginia.

** As history marches on, many old-timers will recall the above edifice as the former church of the Presbyterian Church*



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Braddock and Ridge Roads

The Rev. Ellwood L. Hauser, Pastor

The congregation of Hope Lutheran Church at Forest Hills was organized on **November 19, 1950** by the first pastor, the Rev. Frederick Stueber, under the auspices of the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America and the Pittsburgh Synod. The charter membership was 67. Dr. Donald Hauser, then Missionary Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod, conducted the Organization Service, while the sermon was preached by Dr. Robert Stackel, then Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Downtown Pittsburgh.

The congregation met for nearly two years in the Woman's Club Building in Forest Hills. Meanwhile many "firsts" took place. The first Sunday School, the first choir, the first Women's Missionary Society, the first council, the first Luther League, all came about as pastor and people kept molding a growing church for Forest Hills. The need for a church building became urgent, and during 1951 and early 1952 constant planning for the first church building took place. Then on **September 7, 1952** the present church building was dedicated. It is the first unit of the total plant and will serve as the educational unit in the future. Dr. G. L. Himmelman,

President of the Pittsburgh Synod, conducted the dedication, while the Dr. G. Arthur Fry, Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Northside Pittsburgh preached the sermon.

On Thanksgiving Day, **November 23, 1967** ground-breaking services were held for the building of a new sanctuary. On Sunday, **November 17, 1968**, a beautiful new sanctuary was dedicated with Dr. William C. Hankey, President of the Western Pennsylvania-West Virginia Synod preaching the sermon.

Pastor Stueber resigned in November 1954 and the Rev. Alva A. Jordan was called, beginning his pastorate in January 1955. Pastor Jordan resigned in April, 1956. The Rev. Paul H. Sampsell, Jr., was called, his pastorate starting June 1, 1956 and continued until April 30, 1960. Mr. Charles R. Wertz, a student of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was student intern until the present Pastor, the Rev. Ellwood L. Hauser assumed his duties on October 1, 1960. The present membership is 189 confirmed members.



ST. MAURICE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2140 Ardmore Boulevard

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Paul R. Coyle, Pastor

Sunday, July 3, 1949 First Mass, Memory Lane Skating Rink. Rev. Coleman F. Carroll was appointed pastor.

Week of Oct. 9, 1949 Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Atlanta, Georgia placed at the disposal of the members of St. Maurice Parish, the use of the first floor of the Coca-Cola Building.

Oct. 31, 1949 First daily Mass in the Coca-Cola Building. *

Nov. 27 to Dec. 11, 1949 First Mission.

November 20, 1949 Pews made by the men of the parish under the direction of Mr. Roy Heinz were put into place in the Chapel in the Coca-Cola Building.

Week of April 16, 1950 St. Maurice Church purchased the Coca-Cola Building.

April 30, 1950 Moving day. After the last Mass the men of the parish moved all our things from the Skating Rink to the new Church. After 10 months we had a new home.

Week of April 30, 1950 Permanent site for all parish buildings was obtained. It consists of a plot of ground bounded by Filmore Road, Ardmore Blvd., and the Borough Park.

April 5, 1951 Rev. Coleman F. Carroll was transferred to Sacred Heart Church, East End and now is the First Bishop of Miami, Fla. Rev. James A. Davin was the new Pastor.

Week of Sept. 16, 1951 Rectory above the Church was completed.

Week of June 22, 1952 Rev. George J. Bock was appointed to St. Maurice as the first assistant Pastor.

Week of Sept. 1, 1952 The contract was signed by the Ira C. Wilcox, Inc. for the construction of the School.

September 7, 1953 St. Maurice School was Dedicated.

September 8, 1953 School opened with 5 grades, 9 Mercy sisters and one lay teacher. St. M. Norberta was principal.

June 13, 1957 Rev. George J. Bock was transferred. Rev. Jerome A. Dixon was appointed to his place. The first 8th grade graduation.

Aug. 1, 1957 Rev. Clair F. Maroney, Ordained in Rome was assigned to St. Maurice as our 2nd assistant.

Sept. 1, 1957 The new addition of 8 rooms was dedicated.

Sept. 1, 1957 Rev. Jerome A. Dixon left St. Maurice to go to the Catholic University to further his studies. He was again reassigned as an Assistant to St. Maurice in June of 1958. Later Rev. J. A. Dixon was appointed full-time Secretary of the Diocesan Matrimonial Court, May 27, 1959.

June 10, 1959 Rev. Joseph W. Miller was assigned to St. Maurice.

Sept. 29, 1959 Rev. Clair F. Maroney was transferred and Rev. Thomas C. O'Connell was appointed.

March 1960 Ground was broken for St. Maurice Convent.

Nov. 7, 1960 Sisters moved into the Convent.

*In the early 30's, the building today housing the St. Maurice Church was originally the Oldsmobile Sales & Service garage of pioneer citizen, Frank L. P. Kelley, whose son sold to the Coca-Cola Company.

Jan. 20, 1961 Msgr. James Davin was transferred to St. Bernard Parish and Msgr. Paul R. Coyle, our present pastor, was appointed.

March 1963 Rev. Joseph W. Miller was transferred.

Sept. 1963 Rev. Bernard O'Brien was appointed assistant, transferred May 1965.

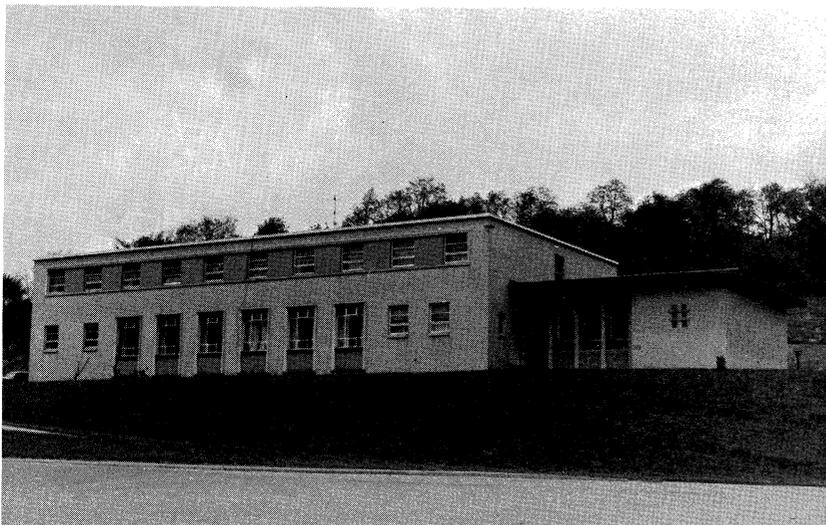
May 1965 Rev. H. Michael Kernan was appointed assistant, transferred December 1968.

June 1966 Rev. Thomas C. O'Connell was transferred. Rev. Edward J. Trzeciakowski was appointed assistant pastor.

Dec. 1968 Rev. Mario Del Signore was appointed assistant pastor.

March 29, 1968 Rev. Edward J. Trzeciakowski was transferred.

From July to December 1949, our first 6 months, we had the total of 1008 families. Our total now is approximately 1639.





THE CEMETERY: 1902

One of the oldest landmarks in the Forest Hills confines is the little-known Jewish Cemetery running off Sherwood Road. An interesting aspect is how the cemetery is divided as to entrances and perpetuation by three different congregations. The oldest section was founded in 1902 by the Sixth Street congregation of Braddock (Agudath Achim). Another section

is maintained by the Eleventh Street congregation, and the newest division is a burial ground for Rankin citizens.

One can reflect rather somberly in seeing one special section of the cemetery with many children's graves—the casualties of the terrible flue epidemic of 1918.

B'NAI B'RITH IN FOREST HILLS

B'nai B'rith is an international Jewish Organization, dedicated to unison, peace and humanitarian progress. In 1946, a group of thirty women received a charter for a chapter in Forest Hills. Mrs. Samuel Roth was its first President. The membership grew, and one of its most successful projects was the assistance in creating the first kindergarten in Forest Hills Schools. The "Ardmore Chapter" drew its members from a wide area, which proved to be its downfall. The members found it difficult to find a central meeting place, and disbanded after about fifteen years. The members then affiliated with outside groups, some of which were in the city, and Four Freedoms, Citadel and Eastern Parkway chapters. Mrs. Alan Scheffler, then Minnie Greenbaum, was its second president. Mrs. William Rapport, Mrs. Kenneth Steinberg, Mrs. Martin Lewinter and Mrs. Herbert Liss also served as successive presidents.

B'nai B'rith is active in the Educational Field, exposing and fighting against the invasion of human rights for all people.

Its Youth Organization helps our youth to achieve personal growth that they may lead satisfying and useful lives. Its Community Service and Civic Affairs aids in community projects, promotes good citizenship, and builds good will through inter-faith activities. B'nai B'rith maintains the Four Freedoms Library, a unique research center in the B'nai B'rith Building in Washington, D. C. and a living memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Among the philanthropic projects it supports, are the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, which is non-sectarian, and aid those with respiratory and lung diseases, the Leo N. Levi Hospital in Arkansas, and Mayview.

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