

The
Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

1927-1952

of

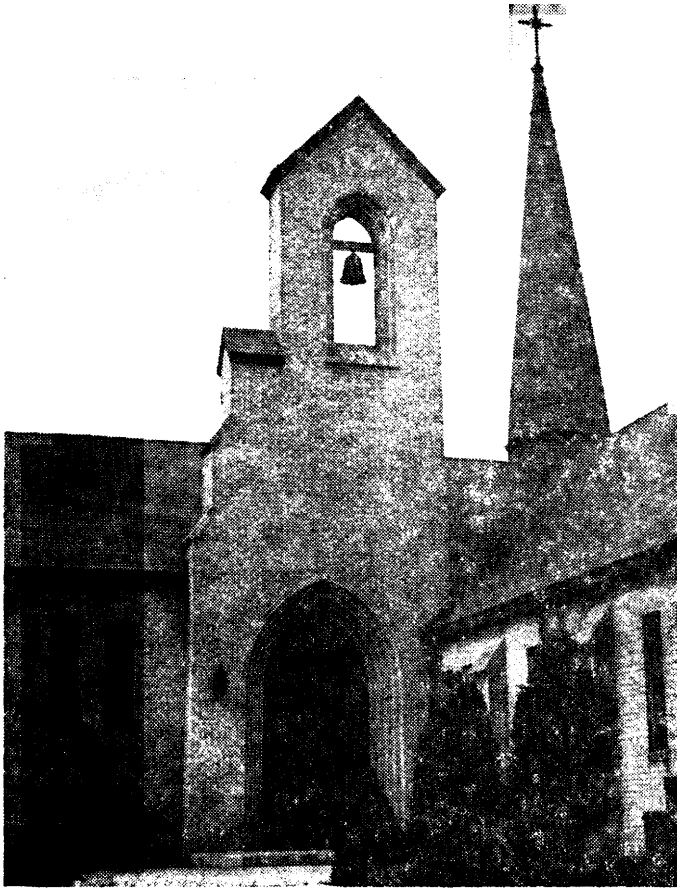
The First
Presbyterian Church



BORGER, TEXAS

Special Observance Week

JUNE 8-15 inclusive 1952



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



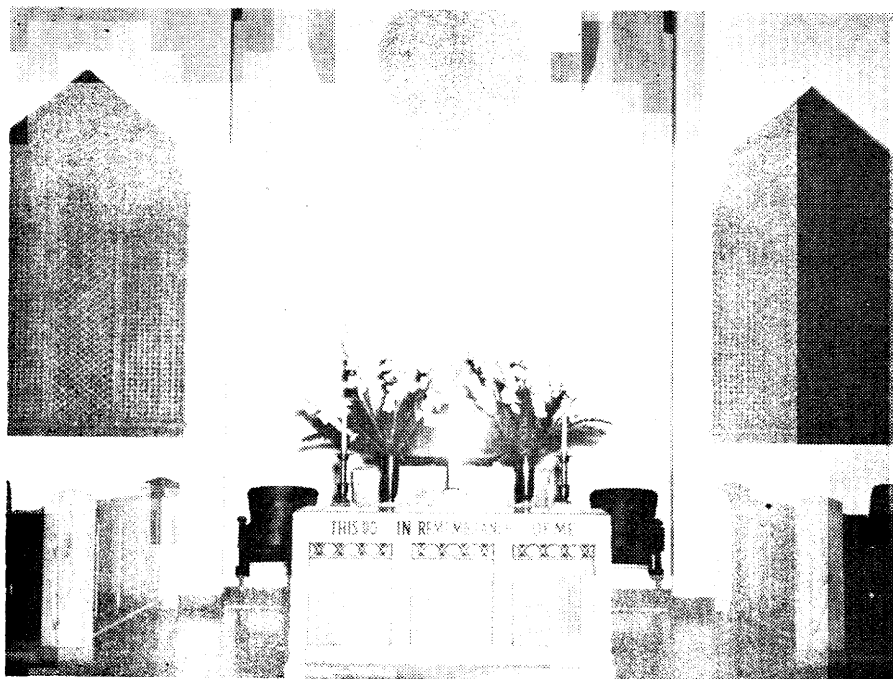
REV. JAMES G. GLENN, Pastor

PROGRAM

Special Observance Week

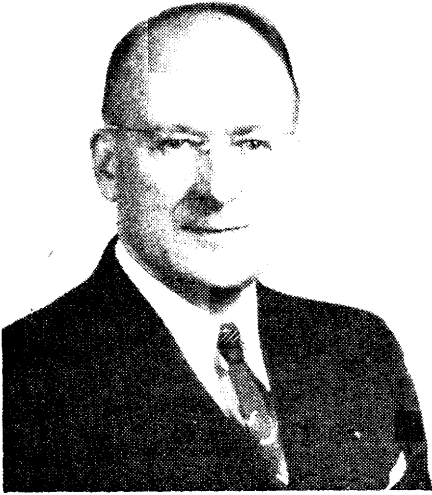
THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BORGER, TEXAS

Sunday — June 8	Morning Evening	Sunday School Day Evening Service
Monday — June 9	Evening	Pageant— “25 Years of Progress” Formal Installation of Officers of Senior Westminster Fellowship Ice Cream Social
Tuesday — June 10	Evening	Open House, New Manse
Wednesday — June 11	Evening	Mid-week Service
Thursday — June 12	Evening	A Sacred Concert in the Sanctuary
Friday—June 13	Evening	Banquet — Hotel Borger Rev. J. Hoytt Boles, Speaker
Sunday—June 15	Morning Afternoon Evening	Home Cornering Service Rev. David Rees-Jones in Pulpit Open House Re-dedication Service Rev. Victor K. Aubrey in Pulpit



THE CHANCEL

History



REV. DAVIS REES-JONES
1928 - 1931

We, being many, are all one body in Christ, and every one members, one of another—Rom. 12:5.

In 1926 Borger was an Over-night city of tents, shanties and mud, thousands of people coming from all over the country seeking fame and fortune from "black gold".

Early in 1927, a group of Presbyterians, who felt the need for a Presbyterian Church in the new city, invited Dr. George Fender, and Dr. W. M. Baker to visit Borger and survey the situation.

A week's service was held in order to gather together those wishing to organize a Church. Rev. A. K. Price of Waurika, Oklahoma, was invited to assist in these services, which were held during the last week of August 1927.

Assisted by Rev. J. E. Disch, a Presbyterian Minister living in Borger at the time, a formal organization of the First Presbyterian Church, Borger, Texas, was declared—August 26, 1927, with 69 Charter Members. John R. McGowan, Will Orrick and Loren Grieb were elected Elders. Will Orrick, J. D. Miller and Herman Morseman were elected Trustees. Deacons chosen were A. Alexander and L. W. Lozer.

At a meeting of Amarillo Presbytery held in Electra, Texas, September 21, 1927, a petition was presented requesting that the organization of the church be approved. After due consideration by Presbytery, the First Presbyterian Church of Borger was placed on the roll of churches in Amarillo Presbytery, on October 2, 1927, a call was extended by the congregation to Rev. A. K. Price of Waurika, Oklahoma, to become the Pastor. After several months, due to ill health, he was forced to resign. Later he died in Oklahoma.

In the Spring of 1928 arrangements were made with Rev. J. E. Disch, probably the first minister to be a resident of Borger, to become Stated Supply. He served the church as Pastor until the last of October, 1928.

Sunday School and Church Services were held in various buildings in Borger, before lots and a building were obtained. In April 1928 the Trustees were authorized to purchase three lots in the Isom Addition at the corner of South Hedgecoke and Coolidge Streets. The purchase included a building 24x28 Ft., all for a consideration of \$1,000.00, with a down payment of \$400.00. The building was too small, so in the summer of 1928 lumber and materials were secured for an addition that would double the floor space. Rev. J. E. Disch supervised the work and did much of the actual labor, assisted by Elder Lee Harvey. Someone gave a small two room building which served the Beginner-Primary Department of the the Sunday School.

In November of 1928, Rev. David Rees-Jones was called to be Pastor of the church. He accepted the call and began his pastorate the first Sunday in December 1928.

The Borger Church in its beginning, as is true of most newly organized churches, received building loans and grants, and aid on the Pastor's salary. For the year 1929-30 the Board of National Missions granted \$50.00 a month on the salary, which was a reduction of \$15.00 per month over the previous year.

The Church had 120 active members in April 1929. Here is an interesting quote from the minutes of the congregational meeting of that year—"The First Presbyterian Church has the best church building in the city, a town three years old. Substantially built, the building is much neater in appearance than are other churches. There is but one brick Church in Borger, only a basement. The rest are frame. However, in none of the churches, except ours, are there pews. In the others only benches and chairs are used."

"The Sunday School has made good strides, with a substantial increase in attendance and members. The Young People are engaged in the process of forming

a Christian Endeavor Society. Women of the Church are doing an outstanding work along Church Aid and Mission Study Lines. A society of 40 members is "in existence. During the past year a pure food show and merchants' carnival was held which netted between \$400.00 and \$500.00."

Alloted space in this brochure prohibits telling of many interesting activities and accomplishments of the people who organized our church. Neither can one make a list of names of the workers during the first three or four years of the Church's History. If such a list could be made, the names of Mrs. J. D. Miller, Mrs. E. O. Sheets, Mrs. R. E. Andrews, Mrs. W. A. Bullock, Mrs. H. S. Sublett, Mrs. Price, Mrs. Will Orrick, Mrs. L. W. Lozer, would certainly appear among the women. These are given as evidence of the many faithful women who loved their church and worked for its growth and welfare.

Rev. David Rees-Jones resigned as Pastor in October 1931 to accept a call to another church. Reluctantly the church concurred in his request to dissolve the Pastoral relationship between him and the Borger Church. The church made real growth and progress during his pastorate. Not only did he serve the church but he was a loved and respected leader in the community. It was during his Pastorate that the church became self-supporting. The late Rev. George Fender wrote a letter to Rev. David Rees-Jones in which he said — "Please accept my thanks and congratulations on the fact that your church is to go to full self-support on April 1, 1931. It would be an easy matter to administer National Missions Funds if all the fields could be developed as rapidly as Borger has developed."

The next Pastor of the church was the Rev. W. H. W. Rees who began his service in February of 1932. In December of that year the church received 28 new members. The effect of the depression was being felt by the church at this time, and the auxiliary contributed \$175.00 to the general church treasury. The Budget for 1933 was reduced from the figure of 1932. Rev. Mr. Rees resigned in the Spring of 1933.

Rev. Victor K. Aubrey was the next Pastor, beginning his pastorate in September 1933. He came to Borger from the Presbyterian Church of Mexia, Texas. It was in the first year of his ministry in Borger that the church purchased a Manse and placed it on the corner of the property on Hedgecoke Street. The women of the Auxiliary accepted the indebtedness of \$125.00 that was incurred in the purchase of the Manse. The Manse was small and was enlarged at a later time. It was also during the Pastorate of Rev. Victor K. Aubrey that an Educational Addition was added to the Church Building.

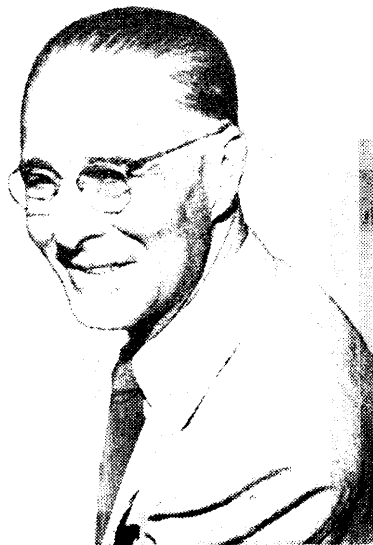
Mr. Aubrey was Pastor during the depression years of the thirties. The church frequently had a hard time making ends meet. Time and again the women came to the rescue of the church by paying bills that were due or over-due.

Despite financial difficulties the church made definite progress during the ministry of Rev. Mr. Aubrey. Both he and his wife were highly esteemed in the Church and in the Community. It was Rev. Victor K. Aubrey who organized and directed the first Junior High Camp at Ceta Glen. A large number of members were added to the church membership during an Evangelistic Meeting conducted by Rev. Guy Green. The Youth Budget System was adopted in the Sunday School.

In November of 1939, Mr. Aubrey asked the congregation to concur with him in asking the Presbytery to dissolve the Pastoral relation between him and the Borger Church, as he desired to accept a call to become Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Breckenridge, Texas. The Aubreys left Borger and moved to Breckenridge in December of 1939.

Rev. James G. Glenn, was asked by the Borger Church to preach in Borger the first Sunday in January 1940. Mr. Glenn was then Pastor of the Presbyterian Churches in Morenci and Clifton, Arizona. After preaching in Borger, a call was extended by the Church and Mr. Glenn accepted the call. Mr. Glenn, his wife, June, and three year old son, Jimmy, moved to Borger in mid-February, 1940.

The new pastor found himself with a big job, but also with a friendly, cooperative, willing congregation. The people felt the need of a larger, more adequate church building program immediately. The recession was still a reality in 1940. Borger's



REV, VICTOR K. AUBREY
1933-1939

future seemed in doubt. The annual turn-over in membership due to the people being transferred to other towns was a factor to be reckoned with in planning a building program. As a temporary expediency to secure more seating space in the Sanctuary, a partition was removed in 1943 which added the kitchen space to the Sanctuary. A lean-to kitchen was then built to the north side of the Church Building.

In 1944 a Building Committee was appointed with John F. Kiekbusch as Chairman. In January of 1945 the Building Committee and the Pastor visited the churches in Elk City, Clinton, El Reno, Norman, Ardmore and Denton to get some ideas about Church Structure and room arrangement. In the Fall of 1945 following Mr. Kiekbusch's death, Mr. C. S. Goldsmith was appointed Chairman of the Building Committee. C. L. Mannot of Oklahoma City was chosen as Architect. His first plans were turned down because of the astronomical figures involved in carrying them out. Revised plans were finally adopted by the congregation.

To make a long story short, ground was broken for the New Church (which now stands at the corner of Coolidge and McGee Streets) on Tuesday, April 6, 1948. The building was completed in April 1949 with the first service held in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949. This beautiful place of worship was a big undertaking for a congregation numbering about 300 persons. The cost, counting the lots, the building and the furniture was in excess of \$131,000.00 A loan of \$40,000.00 was secured from the Great National Life Insurance Company of Dallas, Texas. This loan is being paid off at the rate of \$5,092.80 per year.

The New Church was made possible by a capable Building Committee; an able, and untiring Finance Chairman, Mr. R. L. Grimes; and generous members who saw a need and made a dream a reality.

This history may seem to be just one building after another, but this is a growing community, where Church building, home building and school building are necessary.

Before leaving the matter of building it must be reported that on May 1st of this year, the Church purchased a New Manse on Austin Street in the city of Borger. It is a well constructed brick-veneer house of 3 bedrooms, a living room, dining room, kitchen, bath and attached garage. This project was started just a little over a year ago. Today the church owns a New Manse and the old Manse will be used for additional Sunday School rooms. Mr. Murray Leshner and all the members of the Manse Committee are deserving of a vote of thanks for a big undertaking accomplished. The members of the church can take justifiable pride in the achievement which they have made possible.

Let it be said in conclusion that progress of a church is not to be measured first or last in the number of its buildings. The things that abide are faith, hope and Love.

Teaching boys and girls about Jesus Christ and leading them into true discipleship in our Sunday School and in our homes is one of our purposes. Worshiping together, witnessing together—that is our job as church members. While we have devoted so much of this history to matters of building, let it be said that we also have been busy with the Master's business. Visitation Evangelism, Leadership Training, Scouting, these and many more have been a part of our life and work. We do not claim to have reached our goal, but we keep pressing on. God forgive us for leaving undone what we ought to have done.

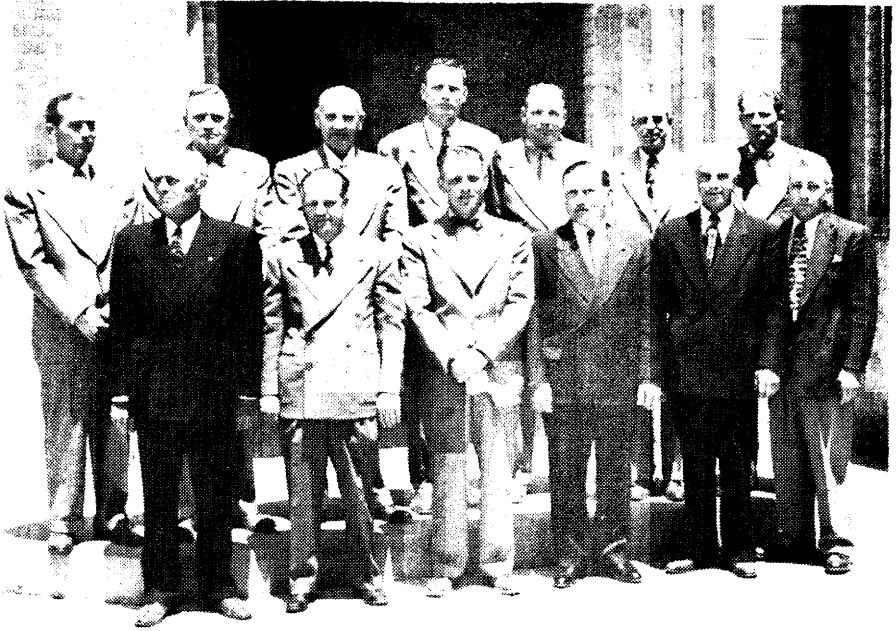
Since 1927 the First Presbyterian Church, Borger, Texas has grown from 69 Charter Members to a membership of approximately 530. The Sunday School has an enrollment of 334 members. Mrs. L. P. Day now serves as part time Church Secretary. Elsewhere in this brochure you will note a large number of organizations which carry on varied and worthwhile activities in the life of the church. Our motto for the 25th Anniversary Year is — "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus-Christ."



"O keep us building, Master,
may our hands
Ne'er falter when the dream
is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come
divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will
departs;
We build with Thee, O grant
enduring worth
Until the heavenly Kingdom
comes on earth."

THE OLD CHURCH

Hedgecoke and Coolidge



THE SESSION

Left to Right, front row: L. B. Nichols, C. A. Carlton, L. L. Wiles, Jr., Moderator James G. Glenn, K. W. Rippel, Sig C. Fauske.

Back Row: E. A. Weichert, H. D. Schmalhorst, L. P. Day, J. R. Arthur, A. W. Morgan, N. O. Bender, R. L. Black.



BOARD OF DEACONS

Front Row: W. B. Jackson, Moderator James G. Glenn, Murray Leshner, Paul R. Davis.

Back Row: Walter Cory, Jr., V. G. Fitzjarrald, E. M. Rust.
Absent was Gee. F. Robie.



THE CHOIR

Front: Mrs. J. F. Kiekbusch—Director, Mrs C. R. Berrien, Organist.

Second Row: Mrs. F. W. Listen, Mrs. H. W. Chinn, Mrs. Walter Cory, Mrs. J. S. Mitchell, Mrs. E. L. Carter, Mrs. R. M. Means, Mrs. E. M. Reuss.

Back Row: C. R. Berrien, Walter Cory, F. W. Liston, Chas S. Smith, H. D. Schmalhorst, Mrs. H. D. Schmalhorst, Mrs. G. E. Newell, It must be mentioned that several faithful choir members were unable to be present at the time picture was taken.

Organization Directory

THE SESSION

Rev. James G. Glenn, Moderator
Mr. H. D. Schmalhorst - Clerk
J. R. Arthur
N. O. Bender
C. A. Carlton
L. P. Day
Sig C. Fauske
A. W. Morgan
L. B. Nichols, Sr.
K. W. Rippel
E. A. Weichert
L. L. Wiles, Jr.
R. L. Black

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Rev. James G. Glenn, Moderator
W. B. Jackson, Secretary
Murray Leshner, Treasurer
Walter Cory, Jr.
Paul R. Davis
V. G. Fitzjarrald
W. B. Grigsby
John Mitchell
E. M. Reuss
Gee. F. Robie

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

R. L. Black, Superintendent
L. R. Sperberg, Assistant Supt.
W. P. Mauldin, Treasurer
W. T. Griffith, Secretary
R. J. Sonnenfeld, Chairman Board of
Christian Education

CHURCH

Rev. James G. Glenn, Pastor
Mrs. J. F. Kiekbusch, Choir Director
Mrs. C. R. Berrien, Organist
Mrs. L. P. Day, Secretary
Ray Davis, Custodian
Mrs. Elmer Carroll, Assistant Organist
Mr. Phil A. Spidy, Head Usher

MEN'S COUNCIL

Mr. E. M. Reuss, President
Mr. W. B. Jackson, Vice President
Mr. Dick Stewart, Treasurer

GUILD-AUXILIARY

Mrs. Galen Hay, President
Mrs. J. F. Anderson, Vice President
Mrs. L. P. Day, Secretary
Mrs. R. V. Latimer, Treasurer

MARINERS' CLUB

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Currie, Skippers
Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Polk, First Mates
Mr. and Mrs. Dick Stewart, Log Keepers
Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Reimer, Pursers

SCOUTS

Troop 7 — Bill Hoke, Scout Master
Post 7 — LeRoy Arnold, Post Advisor

WESTMINSTER FELLOWSHIP

Senior — Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Polk
Sponsors.
Miss Phillis Spidy, Moderator
Junior Hi — Mrs. Walter Cory, Jr., and
Miss Alzada Taylor, Sponsors.
Jimmy Glenn, President

Anniversary Committee

GENERAL CHAIRMAN

PHIL A. SPIDY

MEMBERS GENERAL COMM.:

BOB BLACK

N. O. BENDER

REV. J. G. GLENN

MRS. GALEN HAY

MRS. JOHN KIEKBUSH

BILL MORGAN

ERNEST REUSS

MRS. R. L. BEACH

MRS. THALIA JARVIS

MRS. R. E. WEIS

MRS. WALTER CORY, JR.

O. R. CURRIE

MRS. C. R. BERRIEN

R. M. MEANS

MRS. J. D. MILLER

MRS. CECIL RENTFROW

H. D. SCHMALHORST

MISS CAROLYN FINLEY

MRS. PHYLLIS SPIDY

MISS CYNTHIA CORY

JIMMY GLENN

WALTER CORY, JR.