

# 'TIS GRACE

A HISTORY OF

*Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church*

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BOOK I: THE TURBULENT 60'S



To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known

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*'Tis Grace has brought us safe*

*thus far;*

*And Grace will lead us on.*

Taken from "*Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound*"

**A History of  
Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church**

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**BOOK I: THE TURBULENT 60'S**

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## Foreword

Genesis 16 tells the story of Hagar, a handmaiden of Sarai. During a time of crisis, Hagar fled into the wilderness to a spring on the road to Shur. There, the angel of the Lord confronted her with two very important questions, “*Where have you come from, and where are you going?*” These questions are so intertwined that they cannot be separated and they are as relevant today as they were then. The answer to the questions posed to Hagar must ultimately and continually find their way

back to our understanding of our past and thus in our future.

Beginning in 1962, under the leadership of Reverend Jack L. Moore and continuing through the pastoral guidance of Dr. Donald Gordon Lewis Jr., this church has an inspiring story to be absorbed by its members and to be shared with others. Enjoy this rich heritage.

There are few eyewitnesses left to tell the story of the beginnings of CCPC, some 41 years ago. However, there are several anecdotal stories of the early years of establishing the church that have been included here. But for most of our history, there are only basic church records, articles from *The Clarion* and session minutes from which to draw conclusions about the spirit of the people involved. Finally, there are events such as wars, financial crises and cultural trends that impact the community, the state, the nation and the world – and thus the church. Some of these events have been included to help establish the social atmosphere in which the church was built.

As you read this record of the early history of CCPC, never forget that this earthly history belongs to a greater heritage of God’s work in this world. This church has not existed in a vacuum. It is simply, yet significantly, another part of the history that quietly began with the life and ministry of a carpenter from Nazareth who taught us and showed us how to live and who sacrificially gave His life that those who believe in

Him might have eternal life. The answer to the questions posed to Hagar must ultimately and continually find their way back to our understanding of the place of Jesus in our past and in our future.



## Notes From The Author

Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church was officially organized on September 8, 1963 with 35 families totaling 80 communicant members. During the eight years from 1963 through 1970, CCPC's communicant membership grew to 592. This is the story of how this church was founded and grew during the turbulent era of the 1960's.

In the fall of 2002, the *Celebrate Our Heritage* committee led by Tonny and Ron Tabor, approached me – or rather had Dr. Lewis approach me – about writing the history of CCPC. I naively accepted the challenge and quickly established my goal of starting the effort in early 2003. I did some initial research and planned to write a 50-75 page document spanning the years from

1962-2003. I projected two or three editorial cycles and the result would be a complete history of CCPC in a format ready to be published in the summer of 2003 prior to the move to our new facility on North Star Road. After all, Lee Blair and Bill Pool would be doing all the research and would feed me all the information. All I had to do was put the information down in some logical order. What was I thinking? I soon realized that this was a major undertaking and that I had grossly underestimated the effort. At the same time that I began to scale down the scope of this work, I became fascinated with the history of Richardson, with the history of this church and with the devoted founders of CCPC. Now, as I drive around Richardson, I am reminded of the city's past and of the oil well which once stood at Floyd and Arapaho. Greenville Avenue takes me back to memories of what the founders of CCPC had to go through just to hold a worship service on Sunday mornings, especially during the rainy season. As I visit the construction site of our new facility on North Star Road, it is easy for me to visualize the construction of our current facility on West Campbell Road and the little shed which served as office, library and meeting place.

As I walk the halls of our present church building, the walls seem to whisper the sounds of the past. Construction noise from years past echo as different parts were erected or remodeled. Voices lift in song. Laughter and tears ring out from weddings, baptisms, memorial services, luncheons, mystery dinners, socials

and pancake breakfasts. It doesn't take much of an imagination to walk down the halls of John Knox School and hear children laughing and learning about God's presence in their world. Prayer resounds from every corner. The work of His Spirit is evident. I hope I have conveyed some of these experiences to the reader.

An effort has been made to include as many members and ministries as possible within the confines of these pages. No doubt many worthy and talented people and ministries have not been mentioned or have been recorded very briefly and for this I ask your forgiveness. I firmly believe that each personality that has been part of this congregation has played a significant role in its history. Perhaps a future work might include those people and events which may come to your mind. It is my hope that this work will continue until it is indeed complete.

A number of quotes taken from sources such as old *Clarion* articles, minutes of session meetings and newspaper articles will be found throughout this work. I chose to leave them simply as they were originally communicated and did not attempt to correct the spelling, punctuation, sentence structure or even mathematical errors.

The history of any organization cannot be fully experienced or appreciated until it is put in context of what is happening in the environment in which it exists. While reflecting on the events and people

involved with Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church from the time of its inception to the present, it is important to recognize the influential forces of local, state, federal and world politics; the economy; popular icons in sports; and even the influence that popular music, films and television have had on our families and thus our society. I have attempted to relate some of the highlights of each year of the decade, trying not to filter data through the lens of the present. Rather than attempting to write a brief narrative of topical secular events of the decade and risking any bias of mine showing through, I have taken these events from a series that ran in the Dallas Morning News during 1999 in which the people, places and events of the twentieth century were celebrated.

A word of gratitude goes out to all those who served as historians of this church. Of special mention should be Mona Robinson, Alyne Smith and Dorothy Blount who were the first historians of CCPC. Their work is the basis of this work. Without their detailed yearly reports, this work would not be possible. To everyone on the *Celebrate Our Heritage* committee, a special heartfelt thanks. This document is a direct result of all the memories, anecdotes and pictures they gathered from founding members still alive. All of these mentioned have proven the thesis that it does indeed take a village to accomplish anything.

I would be remiss if I did not specifically thank Bill Pool for his long hours of research. His focus on accurate details and the meticulous notes he compiled

will remain a legacy in and of themselves. He answered my questions or did further research to clarify a point within hours of when the question was asked. I'm sure I sent Bill to the Richardson library more often than he will admit. Without his encouragement, determination and his faithfulness to details, this work would not exist.

It is my hope that each one who takes the time to read the story that follows will be encouraged to dream big dreams for the future of CCPC. The most important contribution of this brief history may well be a renewed commitment of the congregation to write its own pages of history for the generations that follow – to play a significant role in determining where Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church is going.

*Kathy J. Greenough*



# Celebrate Our Heritage

As the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church of Richardson, Texas reaches yet another milestone in its history by moving to a new facility in East Richardson, the answers to the questions posed by the angel of the Lord to Hagar, *“Where have you come from, and where are you going?”* are intertwined within the work of the *Celebrate Our Heritage* committee chaired by Tonny and Ron Tabor. By reminding us of our past, they have reminded us of those who built the foundation upon which we are now building for the future generations of CCPC. Without their insistence and passion for His church, this history would not exist. They are to be commended for their dedication and effort in reminding us of our past:

- ✦ Lee and Jim Blair
- ✦ Kitty and Ralph Graves
- ✦ Elaine Johnson
- ✦ Jean and Will Lenhardt
- ✦ Bunny and Bill Pool
- ✦ Ann and Bob Steves
- ✦ Caryl and George Swenson
- ✦ Tonny and Ron Tabor
- ✦ LaVonne Wesley
- ✦ Sue and Dick Worth





# Charter Members of CCPC

Chet and Alyce Amend  
Don and Laverne Beckman  
Perry and Louise Bruton  
Tom and Joline Carey  
Kathleen Carey  
Todd and Kathryn Clark  
Margaret, Sally, Toby, Mark Davies  
Dale and Mary Alice DeWerff  
Joe and Ila Finley  
Brice and Vivian Evon Gamble  
Arthur and Catherine Griffin  
Arthur and Sandra Griffin  
Bob and Betty Harper  
John Duke and Jane Kilgore  
James and Leri Lawrence  
Wauldron and Mary Leach  
Tom and Jeanne Leslie  
Jennie Leslie, II  
Thomas Leslie, IV  
Bob and Annot Littlepage  
Laddie and Faye Long  
Agustin and Beatriz Martinez  
Jim and Toby McCrary  
Winston and Emily Means  
Tom and Thelma Minatrea  
George and Mildred Moon

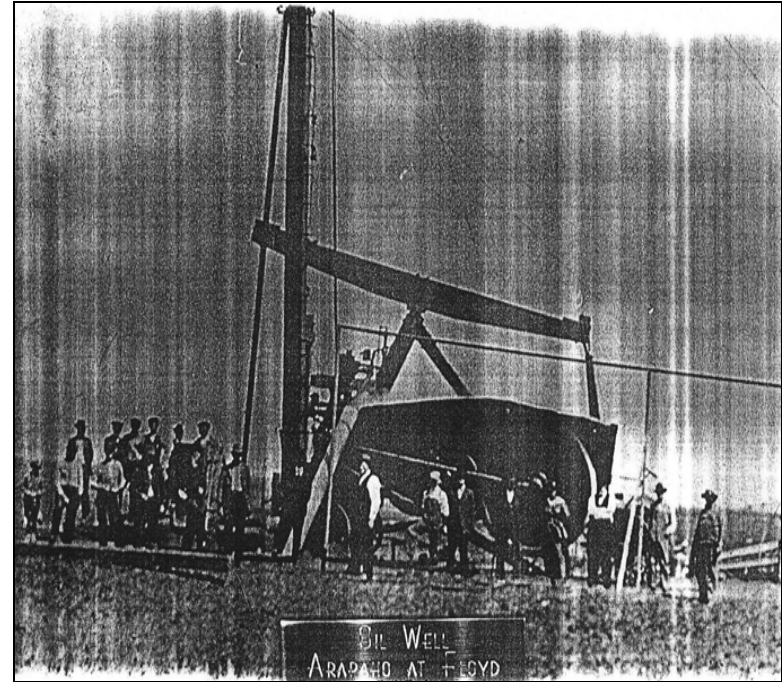
Melanie Moon  
Peggy Moore  
Michael Moore  
William Stephen Moore  
Windell and Martha Moore  
Andie Pfaff  
Paul and Dorothy Morrison  
Samuel and Mona Robinson  
Stuart and June Rodgers  
Blair Shepard  
Claudia M. Shepard  
Doug and Ruth Wadsworth  
Jack and Bebe Wilker  
Roland and Lou Windecker  
William Bruton  
Robert Bruton  
Ward and Margaret Redshaw  
Neil Redshaw  
Barbara Redshaw

## Chapter I

# Richardson, Texas

In the 1840s, settlers from Tennessee and Kentucky began arriving in the Richardson area which was then inhabited by Comanche and Caddo Indian tribes. Richardson was chartered in 1873 with an economic base of farming and three essential businesses: a general store, a post office and a drug store. The arrival of the Interurban railroad after the Civil War began to attract more people. In 1908 the railway began service north to Denison, south to Waco, southeast to Corsicana and west to Fort Worth and the town was named for railroad contractor E.H. Richardson. By 1910 the 600

residents saw their first telephone, electric light and gravel street.



*Oil well at Arapaho and Floyd Streets, Richardson 1914*

In 1924, the Red Brick Road (now Greenville Avenue) was completed, bringing an increase in traffic, population and property values. By 1925 a total of 15 businesses were in operation. In 1926, waterworks were completed so homes could be furnished with indoor water. A sewage treatment plant was constructed, the volunteer fire department began operating and utility franchises were awarded to Lone Star Gas and TP&L. After World War II the city experienced a surge in

population. By 1950, Richardson boasted a population of approximately 1,300. Additional municipal services, such as emergency ambulance, police protection, and parks and recreation facilities became available to residents.

In 1951, Collins Radio opened a Richardson office, ushering the city into the electronic era and providing the beginning for what is now known as the Telecom Corridor. Central Expressway opened in 1954 and the agricultural city of the past became a community of shopping centers and homes. In 1955, Richardson's first Police Department was organized, consisting of a chief and two officers. In 1956, door-to-door mail delivery became available to the 5,000 residents and Texas Instruments opened its offices just south of the Richardson border.

Belt Line and Arapaho were narrow roads and Campbell Road was considered a drive in the country. If you really wanted to get adventurous, you went as far as Renner Road. The landmark of Richardson was the Sun Drugstore sign; everyone ate at the Golden Eagle Restaurant and spent their Friday evenings at the Greenville Avenue Stadium supporting the Richardson Eagles. But a population explosion was on the horizon for Richardson, Texas. More than 500,000 people moved into the Dallas area in the period between 1940 and 1960 and land values began to increase dramatically.

It was during this period of rapid economic and population growth of the early 1960's that three families, all members of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Dallas, began to yearn for a Southern Presbyterian church in Richardson.



## 1960-1962

### *A Historical Perspective:*

#### 1960

- Kennedy narrowly defeats Richard Nixon
- Soviets down a U.S. spy plane and capture Francis Gary Powers
- Chubby Checker's hot recording hit was "The Twist"
- *The Andy Griffith Show*, *The Flintstones*, *My Three Sons*, *Rawhide* and *Route 66* premier
- Films include Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*

#### 1961

- The Dallas school district begins desegregation as 18 black students enter eight previously all-white schools
- The Texas Legislature passes the state's first general sales tax
- House Speaker Sam Rayburn dies
- Berlin Wall goes up
- Roger Maris breaks Babe Ruth's single-season home run record of 60
- Alan Shepard Jr. flies 116.5 miles above the Earth to become the first American in outer space.

#### 1962

- The Cuban missile crisis brings the U.S. and the Soviet Union to the brink of war
- John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the Earth
- The National Farm Workers Association is founded by Cesar Chavez
- Accompanied by U.S. marshals, James Meredith becomes the first black student to enter the University of Mississippi
- Rod Laver wins the "grand slam" in tennis
- Sam Walton opens the first Wal-Mart store in Rogers, Arkansas
- K-Mart discount stores open
- Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* is published
- Fiction includes *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- Andy Warhol's *100 Cans* is exhibited
- At the movies: *Lawrence of Arabia*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*
- Marilyn Monroe dies of an overdose of sleeping pills at the age of 36
- Popular songs include Tony Bennett's *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*

## Chapter II

### The Gathering

*He who is not with me is against me, and he who does  
not gather with me scatters.  
Matthew 12:30*

It was 1962. The population of Richardson Texas had grown to 27,746 and the city council was wrestling with a variety of building ordinances which would effect the building explosion of the future. As more and more families moved into the area, the subject of establishing a Southern Presbyterian Church in Richardson was the subject of many conversations between three families who were members of Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) in Dallas (Mr. and Mrs. Chester

Amend, Mr. and Mrs. Brice Gamble, and Mr. and Mrs. Duke Kilgore). WPC was located just southwest of U.S. Highway 75 and Northwest Highway. As they made the ten mile trip several times a week to attend meetings and worship services, they became determined to establish a church closer to their neighborhood. Eventually, Alyce Amend consulted the Executive Secretary of the Presbytery of Northeast Texas, Reverend Jeff Garrison, to find out what steps could be taken to form a church for the families of the rapidly expanding Richardson community.

The Lord was working behind the scenes as usual. The Presbytery had recently added the Reverend Jack Moore to its staff as Evangelistic Minister whose purpose it was to assist new churches organizing in the Presbytery. He happened to be in Richardson trying to find a home for his family so he attended this first important meeting with Reverend Garrison at the Amend's home. The Presbytery agreed that the timing was right for a church in the area and appointed Reverend Moore as the organizing minister for this new church. Thus the work of this handful of faithful men and women began in earnest.

Reverend Moore was in the Dallas area because of a dramatic change in his life. In the mid 1950's, Jack was 37 years old, married with four children, two cars, one mortgage and a responsible job as the Director of Public Relations at Mississippi Southern University in Hattiesburg when he was suddenly overwhelmed by the knowledge that he must become a minister. This

meant that he must start all over in life and that he would have to go back to school for three more years. How did he feel? “*Wonderful, mostly, and a little scared too,*” is how Moore commented on this new direction in his life.

As an avid sports fan, Moore began his career as a sports writer on daily papers in Jackson, Mississippi and worked for a time as editor of the McComb Mississippi Daily Journal. He entered Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to begin his divinity studies in 1957. Following completion of his seminary training, he served as pastor of the Alpine Presbyterian Church in Longview, Texas before he accepted his call as Evangelistic Minister for the Presbytery of Northeast Texas. He was serving as organizing minister for the Ridgeview Presbyterian Church on Marsh Lane in Dallas when he was assigned to the small group of men and women in Richardson Texas, eager to charter a Southern Presbyterian church.

In June of 1962, this determined group gathered for a family hamburger fry and planning session. They continued to plan and visit prospective members throughout the summer. Led by Reverend Moore, the small group worked with even greater focus toward their goal. Candidates of possible members were gathered from several of the large downtown churches and notices were distributed.

As they began to grow in numbers, the Lord prepared the way for the future of CCPC. At this point, it is

significant to note what *Exodus 13:21* tells us, “*By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way,*” because in early November of 1962, they were notified that the Dallas Extension Commission of the Presbytery had purchased a five acre site on the corner of Campbell Road and Canyon Creek Drive, to be used as a building site in the future. They were overjoyed.

The Richardson Community House at 526 Lockwood Drive (which later became the Masonic Lodge of Richardson) was rented for Sunday morning worship. The Community House consisted of one large room and a kitchen; the latter was used as the nursery for a short time, but as their numbers increased, the Boy Scouts were kind enough to let them use its cabin on the Community House property for a nursery. Reverend Moore agreed to hold services at 9:00 a.m. prior to his service for the Ridgeview Church.

On November 25 1962, the first worship service was held and three families worshiped the Lord with “vigor in spirit if not in numbers”. The heading on the first bulletin simply read, *Presbyterian Church* and the first Hymn of Praise sung by this enthusiastic group was “Holy, Holy, Holy.”



*Site of the first worship service, November 25, 1962*

On January 24, 1963 the first edition of *The Clarion* was printed and Reverend Moore began the first edition by writing the following:

**A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME**

*Naming a church is difficult – to put it mildly. And it is urgent. You can't go on indefinitely saying "the new, etc.". The name for our new church has occupied some of the best minds in the community for several months. But, at last, we have a name – **Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church**. Maybe you like it, maybe you*

*don't – more important is whether you are giving prayerful consideration to becoming part of this new work.*

*Canyon Creek presents you with a new challenge, a new opportunity, a new responsibility – will you consider what your role is to be in this expansion of God's earthly Church?*

*Ours is a fast-growing community. There are many of us who, though nominal Church members, are now "unchurched". There are many of us who have dropped out of active Church life for many reasons. There are yet those who have not professed a faith in Jesus Christ. This adds up to a need for Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church – and a need for you to join us in the work that lies ahead. May God grant each of us the desire and the power to serve Him in His Church!*



1963

*A Historical Perspective:*

- Barbra Streisand cuts her first album
- President Kennedy federalizes Alabama's National Guard and orders Governor George Wallace to allow two black students to be enrolled at the University of Alabama
- Four young black girls are killed when a bomb explodes at a Baptist church in Birmingham, Alabama
- Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the civil rights march on Washington
- The U.S. Supreme Court, strikes down school prayer
- Houston surgeon Michael DeBakey uses an artificial heart for the first time to take over the functions of blood circulation during open heart surgery
- Valium is introduced
- Betty Friedan's The Feminine Mystique ignites the women's movement
- At the movies: *Hud*, *Tom Jones*, *Charade*, *The Birds*
- Weight Watchers is founded
- Civil rights leader Medgar Evers is assassinated
- New TV shows include The Fugitive, The Patty Duke Show, General Hospital, Let's Make a Deal and My Favorite Martian.

Chapter III

**A Sacred Assembly**

*On the first day hold a sacred assembly.  
Exodus 12:16*

In 1963, Richardson, Texas had a reputation for being anti-business and, in fact, there was a move underfoot to make Richardson a total residential city somewhat akin to the Park Cities area. The ineffective actions of the Richardson Planning Commission began to attract the efforts of business leaders who went about learning the basics of land planning, zoning and development. It wasn't until the mid-60's that a concept of balanced development was cultivated by the city.



During February of 1963, attendance at the little congregation's Sunday worship services at the Richardson Community House reached 30 people – including adults and children. For the first few months at the Lockwood site, the piano belonging to the Community House was used but after just four months, they were notified that the piano was broken by one of the other groups that used the Community House and would not be replaced. With this news, Reverend Moore borrowed an electric organ from the Wadley Piano and Organ Company. Richard Robinson (who was called Rush), only 18 years old, but with more than two years experience as a pipe organist in Pennsylvania, volunteered his services to play at the worship services. The organ was kept in the Moore's living room and every Sunday from February through June, four stalwart men loaded the organ onto a trailer and unloaded it at the Community House. Then after the worship service was over, it was moved back to the Moore's living room. Those privileged to begin this new work for the Lord also remember loading cars and station wagons with chairs, cribs, playpens, blackboards, flannel boards and hymnals.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> was a memorable day when Reverend Moore began his work with the small group on a full time basis. Up until this time, he had been splitting his time between the CCPC group and Ridgeview Presbyterian Church. On this day they “sang a little louder, prayed with humility and thankfulness and a deeper conviction in their hearts that they were really on their way.”

Although there were no set number of petitioners required by the Presbytery to sign a Petition to Organize, their goal was to secure 30 families before seeking Presbytery approval. Ten families signed the petition that day and eventually 143 people would sign the Petition to Organize which was submitted to the Presbytery for approval just a few months later. The signatures on the original petition were from these families:

Mr. and Mrs. Brice Gamble,  
Mrs. Edwin Shepard and Blair Shepard  
Dr. and Mrs. Agustin Martinez and  
Olga Martinez  
Mr. and Mrs. Wauldron Leach  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carey and Cathy Carey  
Mr. and Mrs. Chet Amend  
Mr. and Mrs. Duke Kilgore  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Robinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCrary  
Mrs. Peggy Moore, Mike Moore and  
Bill Steve Moore

The Richardson Echo, ran the following article on Sunday, March 3, 1963:

*The latest addition to the ever growing family of churches in Richardson the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, a branch of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.*

*Formal announcement of plans for the organization and development of the new church were announced this week by the Rev. P.J. Garrison , Jr., Executive Secretary of the Presbytery of Northeast Texas.*

*The Church Extension committee of our denomination for several years, has desired to establish a church in Richardson and we are happy to announce the beginning of this new work, the Presbyterian executive stated.*

*Garrison revealed that the Rev. Jack L. Moore, Presbyterian evangelist, would direct the organization of the Canyon Creek Church. He will assume his duties with the Sunday worship of March 3.*

*Both the worship services and the Church School program are being conducted temporarily at the Richardson Community House, 526 Lockwood. Sunday School, with instruction for all age groups, starts at 9:45 a.m. Worship begins at 11 a.m. A nursery is provided for both sessions.*

*A permanent site for the Canyon Creek Church has already been purchased. The site is located on the north side of Campbell Road, west of the planned intersection of Canyon Creek Drive and Campbell.*

*The five-acre building site is provided the new congregation by the Dallas Extension Committee, a group of more than eighty laymen representing the 28 Presbyterian, U.S., churches in Dallas County, Garrison said.*

*Richardson residents who have accepted assignment to the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church planning committee are Duke Kilgore, Mrs. Jim McCrary, Mrs. Brice Gamble, Tom Carey and Chet Amend.*

As the basic infrastructure of the church began to form and the number of interested Christians grew, the facilities at the Community House quickly became inadequate. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, an article in *The Clarion* announced a new home for the church:

#### **NEW TEMPORARY HOME FOR CHURCH**

*The Canyon Creek congregation will move into a new temporary home the latter part of this month. Our new place of worship is a house located at 314 S. Greenville Road (across the street from the First Baptist). Now occupied by the St. Margaret Episcopal Church, the new quarters offers adequate space for worship and church school.*

*Our first worship in the new location will be held on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Announcing the move, the Planning Committee pointed out that having available facilities for week-day and evening activities as well as Sunday will enable the Church to enlarge its program. The move will also mean that the Church will need additional equipment and it is hoped that some of it will be donated by members and friends. Items needed include window-unit air conditioners; tables; baby beds; play pens; toys; chalk boards; cups and saucers and spoons. Call Mr. Moore if you would like to furnish any these items – or anything else!*



*314 South Greenville Avenue, 1963*

The actual buildings they were to utilize for Sunday School and worship were an old house and a garage. A subsequent *Clarion* article reported that “*there is much need for volunteer workers to clean windows and floors, to paint, to cut grass and trim hedges!!*”

Then on June 13<sup>th</sup>, the following article ran in *The Clarion*:

*Despite an unavoidable delay in the delivery of our tile, it is hoped that when you come to worship this Sunday, you’ll find the floor of the sanctuary attractively tiled. If you do, the credit will belong to Charles King and an able crew of helpers. If you don’t you can blame the preacher. Our organ, borrowed for so long, has been purchased from the Wadley Piano and Organ Co. The same company has made us a present of the Sunday School piano – they’re nice people! The Wynnewood Pres. Church donated to you the chancel furniture and pews that have added so much to the appearance of our sanctuary. Westminster Presbyterian Church provided several of our SS tables and small chairs. Other chairs, tables, and blackboards were salvaged from St. Paul Presbyterian Church.*



*Sanctuary entrance of Greenville Avenue site - 1963.*

During July and August of 1963, they were beginning to quickly realize the fruits of their labor. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, their Petition to Organize was approved by the Northeast Texas Presbytery. They were on the move. An article announcing the formal organization service was announced in the Richardson Daily News on September 3, 1963:

## CANYON CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO DEDICATE NEW CHURCH

*The formal organization of the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church of Richardson will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, it was announced this week.*

*The worship and organizational service will be held in the church's temporary facilities at 314 South Greenville. A reception, open to all who are interested, will be held following the program of organization.*

*A branch of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern), the new church has been organized under the joint sponsorship of the Dallas Extension Committee and the Extension Committee of Northeast Texas Presbytery.*

*The permanent building site of the church is a five-acre lot located on the north side of Campbell Road at the intersection of Canyon Creek Drive, now under construction. Plans for construction of the church's first permanent unit are not yet complete.*

*Richardson residents who have served as members of the Planning Council of the new church are Duke Kilgore, Chet Amend, Laddie Long, Jack Wilder, Mrs. Jim McCrary, Mrs. Brice Gamble and Tom Carey.*

*The Rev. Jack L. Moore, organizing minister, said today that the 'charter membership roll' of the church now includes 135 people from 34 families.*

*'The growth of this congregation since March 1 has been consistent and is indicative of a continuing need for church extension, not only in Richardson, but in all areas of rapid population increase' the Rev. Moore commented....*

Sunday, September 8th was a warm, sunny day and the small congregation was delighted that their dreams were becoming a reality. As one who was privileged to be present at this service, Mona Robinson (the first CCPC Historian), wrote that she *"shall never forget the happy smiles of those present when we were called upon to stand up and acknowledge our presence and so be received into our new church."* And so the first sacred assembly of Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church was held in a small garage on Greenville Avenue.

The September 19<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Clarion* carried this editorial:

### **GROWING PAINS**

*"Officially" only a week old last Sunday, we're already hurting with growing pains. A total of 111 persons were present for worship with more than 30 children in the nursery. If our prayers are answered and we have a similar congregation*

*this week, the new officers will have to act quickly to provide some relief. Isn't it wonderful to be part of a young work that is being carried on in His Name and to have His Holy Spirit so active in our midst.*

At the first official congregational meeting of CCPC, on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the Sunday morning worship service, the congregation elected six ruling Elders and six Deacons to serve on a limited term or rotary plan basis. In the absence of a ruling session, Reverend Moore was assisted in the laying on of hands by ruling Elders from sister churches. Shortly afterwards on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, a second worship service was inaugurated. The new service was an 8:30 a.m. service and was expected to relieve the overcrowded situation during the 11:00 o'clock worship. Making the decision to have the two services, the elected officers pointed out that the addition of an early worship hour *"would enable some to attend who are unable to come at 11 a.m."* The new Sunday morning schedule:

<i>Worship</i>	<i>8:30</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>9:25</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>9:30</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>10:40</i>
<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>10:40</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>11:00</i>
<i>Worship</i>	<i>11:00</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>12:00</i>

The attendance on the following Sunday justified the addition of the early service as there were about 60 people at the 8:30 service and 72 at the 11:00 service.

At the congregational meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>, the recommendation to hire the architectural firm of Brown & Keller, headquartered in Richardson, for the purpose of developing a Master Plan for a basic fee of \$600 was approved. Also at this meeting, a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, U.S., promoting the ordination of women was rejected by a vote of 19-20. This amendment was subsequently passed by the Presbytery in December.

On Christmas morning a special worship service was held and was “*indeed blessed by God*” with more than 130 people crowding into the small garage sanctuary. In the last *Clarion* of 1963, Reverend Moore wrote,

*Let me offer a thought: sit down with someone else tonight and spend 30 minutes (or more) TALKING ABOUT what Jesus Christ DID for you --- on Calvary AND in your heart. Think in terms of what HE did in 1963 and then what HE did before that! The end of a year offers us a reason to spend a little time in reflection; it doesn't offer us an excuse to forfeit the future because of past failures, tho!! Despite all of its heartaches and its turmoil; despite its anxieties and its waywardness; 1963 was a good year, a year in which Jesus Christ DID much for you and me and the world! Thank God*

*for 1963 – and may HE be praised for 1964!*

The little church ended 1963 with receipts totally \$6,847; disbursements of \$4,641 (\$1,118 went to Benevolences); year end bank balance of \$2,206; indebtedness of \$912 for the organ and chairs; and an average Sunday School attendance of 108.





**OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 1963:**

There were many significant *firsts* for CCPC during 1963 and it seems fitting to include them here:

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>First</i></u>
January 24	Planning Council appointed
April 13	Women's Circle meeting
June 27	CCPC Telephone Directory
September 22	Official congregational meeting Election of Elders and Deacons
September 29	Session meeting
August	Pulpit Nominating Committee
October 6	Second worship service
October 20	Senior High Fellowship
October 26	Youth Social
November 1	Men of the Church meeting
December 21	Communicants class
December 25	Sacrament of Baptism Joy Offering = \$131

First Pianist: Yvonne Gamble

First Sunday School Superintendent: Laddie Long

First member to petition the Session to be approved as a candidate for ministry: Duke Kilgore

First Slate of Ruling Elders:

Class of '64	Laddie Long Jim McCrary
Class of '65	Augustin Martinez Chester Amend
Class of '66	Jack Wilder Duke Kilgore

First Slate of Deacons:

Class of '64	Bob Littlepage
Class of '65	Tom Carey Dale DeWerff
Class of '66	Dale Griffin Douglas Wadsworth



*Senior High Fellowship October 1963*



*Pioneer Class on Greenville Avenue, 1963*



*Primary Department, 1963*

**1963 YEAR END STATISTICS:**

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<i>Membership:</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>Approved Budget for 1964:</i>	<i>\$26,700</i>



1964

*A Historical Perspective*

- The Beatles take the U.S. by storm after their debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*
- Jack Ruby is sentenced to death in the electric chair for killing Lee Harvey Oswald
- Congress passes the Civil Rights Act
- Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, authorizing presidential action in North Vietnam
- President Lyndon Johnson initiates the War On Poverty
- Three civil rights workers are murdered in Mississippi
- Ford introduces the sporty Mustang
- Permanent press clothing is introduced
- New products include Pop-Tarts, Lucky Charms cereal and Carnation Instant Breakfast.
- Cassius Clay knocks out Sonny Liston
- New on TV: *Gilligans Island*, *Bewitched*, *The Addams Family*

Chapter IV

It Is No Secret What God  
Can Do

*I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13*

The 1964 New Year and growing membership presented new challenges for the dedicated congregation. Since they were just beginning, they did not have even the basic elements for serving the sacraments. This meant that a great deal of time was spent at session meetings just establishing the infrastructure of the new church. For example, at the first session meeting in early January, elders voted to buy a brass communion set for \$135 and two offertory plates for \$42.

Although the members must have been expecting it, the January 24<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Clarion* was read with mixed emotions as Reverend Moore announced that it was time for him to move on to another group within the Presbytery trying to organize a church. Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> was the last day Reverend Moore was the official pastor of the little church. He had these final words of encouragement to the congregation in *The Clarion*:

*A year ago today we wrote: 'Canyon Creek presents you with a new challenge, a new opportunity, a new responsibility – will you consider what your role is to be in this expansion of God's earthly Church?*

*....In the novel, 'Naked Came I,' which deals with the life of sculptor Auguste Rodin, the time required for a great human artist to create a masterpiece seems exhaustingly, even tragically long. 'The Thinker,' for example, required more than 20 years to produce. The point is – we must not fret when the work of the church seems to move slowly, Be impatient, yes – but let this spur you to greater effort – don't let it make you hypercritical and willing to sacrifice quality in order to achieve a tangible records of progress!*

In addition to all the organizing minutiae which had to be dealt with, the dual focus of 1964 must have been daunting for the founders of CCPC: build a new church facility and find a permanent pastor. They moved forward with determination. A congregational meeting was called for February 16<sup>th</sup> in the new Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Richardson. The business meeting was preceded by a family supper to encourage as many families as possible to attend. The major items on the agenda were the election of a new member to the Pulpit Nominating Committee (PNC); a report from the Building Committee; and a presentation and discussion on possible master building plans with an emphasis on a study of exterior architectural styling led by architect John Hall Brown.

Meanwhile, the social environments of the local and global communities were undergoing major changes. Not only was the Richardson community in the middle of a dynamic period of growth, the social revolution of the 1960's was influencing main stream denominations as well. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the civil rights march on Washington in 1963 and the Congress of the United States passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964. *The Clarion* of March 12<sup>th</sup> and the bulletin of March 15<sup>th</sup>, carried this resolution:

*Race or national origin is not and will not be a consideration for participation in the activities of*

*the church and all persons who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour shall be received into the full communion and fellowship of the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church.*

The PNC, which had been formed back in August of 1963, had been busy. They had received and reviewed information concerning 27 ministers recommended by both members of the congregation and the Presbytery. After a careful examination of the short and long range needs of the church and traveling almost 3500 miles to hear perspective pastors preach, the candidate recommended by Reverend Jack Moore became a focus of their attention – Edwin Sewell Cole. Jack and Ed had been friends in seminary so Jack was familiar with Ed's talent for working with people in building a new church. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the moderator of the PNC, Jim McCrary, made the recommendation to the congregation to call Ed Cole to serve as pastor based on the following Terms of Call:

*Salary:*

*\$6000/year*

*Allowances:*

*\$ 600/year manse operation*

*\$1200/year car operation*

*Vacation:*

*In 1964 – 2 week*

*Thereafter – 4 weeks per year*

*Other:*

*Manse*

*Hospital Insurance*

*Ministers Annuity Fund*

*Opportunity for participation in camps  
and conferences and study*

*Moving expenses*

The congregation unanimously approved the recommendation and Ed Cole accepted the call, agreeing to move to Richardson in June. Ed Cole was married with three children, ages 16, 13 and 4. Before entering Austin Seminary in 1959, he had been an accountant in Bay City, Texas where he served in many lay capacities at the First Presbyterian Church of Bay City. Soon after he completed the requirements for a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1959, he was called to serve as Pastor to the First Presbyterian Church in Sugar Land, Texas. Margie Cole reminisces:

*The first memory I have (of CCPC) is of the Pulpit Nominating Committee suddenly appearing in the worship service at Sugar Land, Ed's first pastorate out of Seminary (either in the fall of 1963 or just after Christmas in early 1964). The committee was Jack Wilder, Duke Kilgore, Jim McCrary, Jolene Carey and June Rodgers...if my memory serves me correctly. They presented a challenge that Ed couldn't turn down,*

*having just gone through a building program in Sugar Land.*



*Reverend Cole and family*

Church member B.B. Blount reflects:

*Margie and Ed had been neighbors of ours in Bay City, Texas, before he went to Austin Seminary in 1956. We moved to Dallas in 1964, for me to become the Director of Engineering of the*

*Presbyterian Hospital that had just begun construction. Needless to say that when we found out that Ed Cole had been called to CCPC, we knew where we belonged and didn't bother to visit any other church.*

The infrastructure of the church began to evolve and May of 1964 became a very significant month for decisions. Since Ed and Margie Cole, along with their three children, would be arriving in June, buying a manse became an immediate need. Finally, the home at 1110 Pawnee was purchased for a cost of \$26,000 with a gift of \$2,600 from the Presbytery for the down payment. This was to be the Manse of CCPC for years to come.



*The manse at 1110 Pawnee*

About this time, the congregation was notified that the Dallas Extension Committee of the Presbytery would

also offer a gift of \$25,000 for construction of the church. They were progressing quickly towards their goal when the Architectural firm of Brown and Keller, presented a design for the proposed building project:

<i>Sanctuary (Fellowship Hall)</i>	<i>2800 sq. ft.</i>
<i>264 seats</i>	
<i>10 Classrooms</i>	<i>3372 sq. ft.</i>
<i>216 people</i>	
<i>Kitchen</i>	<i>283 sq. f.,</i>
<i>(equipped with cabinets and sinks)</i>	
<i>Pantry and janitor's storage</i>	
<i>Restrooms</i>	<i>108 sq. ft.</i>
<i>( ceramic wainscot and floor)</i>	
<i>Mechanical room</i>	<i>266 sq. ft</i>
<i>(31 tons of air conditioning)</i>	
<i>Pastor's study</i>	<i>168 sq. ft.</i>

*Low bid by Sikes Construction: \$106,800*

*Additional Items for consideration:*

<i>Classroom cabinets</i>	<i>1,465</i>	
<i>Kitchen cabinets</i>	<i>1,135</i>	
<i>Asphalt paving</i>	<i>3,800</i>	
<i>Vinyl tile</i>	<i>475</i>	
<i>Spire and cross</i>	<i>1,000</i>	
<i>Sliding glass doors</i>	<u><i>200</i></u>	
		<i>8,075</i>
<i>Art glass windows, estimated</i>	<i>2,800</i>	

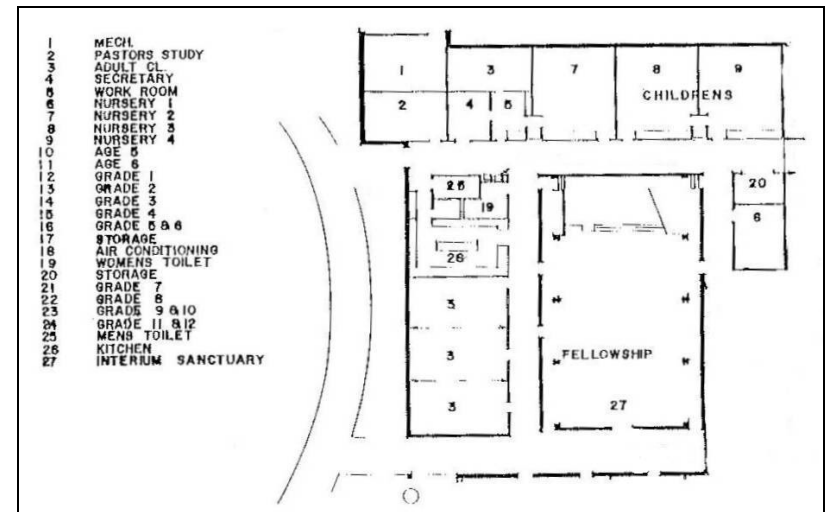
*Architect Fees*

*6,250*

*TOTAL*

*\$123,925*

*Cost per sq.ft. = \$13.30 excluding paving and Architect Fees.*



*Floor plan of first phase of construction on Campbell Road*

The proposed building was designed to minimize disruptions while future additions were being built. Fellowship Hall was designed to double as the sanctuary until the second phase of building when the formal sanctuary would be built.

After what must have been an intense period of prayerful consideration and long discussions centered on the challenges of financing and possible alternatives, the congregation met on July 26<sup>th</sup>, and

agreed to authorize the Trustees to obtain long-term financing for the purpose of “*constructing, landscaping, furnishing, and other necessities pertinent to the construction of the first unit of the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church*”. Church member B.B. Blount recalls:

*There seemed to be some difficulty in obtaining the financing for the construction and a number of members signed individual guarantees for part of the mortgage because CCPC didn't have enough for the down payment.*

Meanwhile, Reverend Cole was examined and approved by the Presbytery at the Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving. He began his term as pastor in June and was therefore a major voice in this process. His article in *The Clarion* on August 6<sup>th</sup> related his thoughts on the congregation's actions:

*It is no secret what God can do', so goes an old song. It is no secret what the congregation did last Sunday evening. At that meeting Canyon Creek Church took a giant step in its young life, --voted to accept the low bid and begin construction of our first unit. I believe all of us rejoice in that action for we see the challenge here in our city and recognize the great opportunities we have as God's people. At the same time, we also felt deeply*

*concerned about our personal commitment, not to any church building program, but to our Lord.*

*Everyone present Sunday evening realized that what we voted to do was a gigantic undertaking for a small church. Yet, as the meeting progressed, each member there felt led by the Holy Spirit to examine his own personal commitment. It then became clear that we can carry out the personal program, but only as we all seriously recommit ourselves to the Lord and the work we are called to do through Canyon Creek Church.*

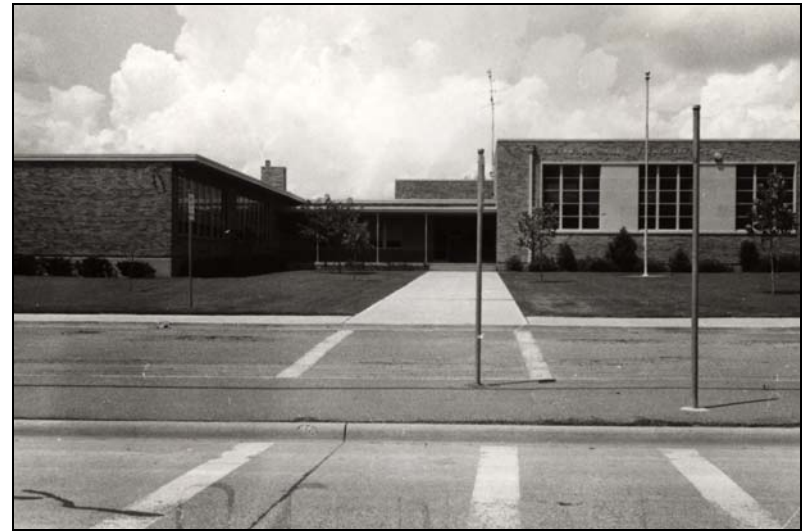
*What I am saying is this --- now, not tomorrow , - not next month, -- not six months from now, - but NOW - TODAY, -- is the time for each of us to get his house in order, which definitely includes our total stewardship. God chose us to be His stewards; He expects us to be good, honest, faithful stewards. The Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church is on the move. Let none of us drag our feet, but pick up our share of the greatest challenge of our lives.*

During August, the situation with the little house and garage on Greenville used for worship and Sunday School became untenable. Not only had the confines of the small space become a major problem, but the only access was from Greenville which was just a two-

way road with bar ditches at that time. When the heavy rains came, the yard of the church house flooded and members had to wade through the high water to get to church.

Eventually the situation became impossible. Construction work to widen Greenville had just begun when a rain storm hit the city on a Friday evening continuing throughout the day on Saturday making it virtually impossible to get to the church. A called meeting of the session was held that Saturday morning and a decision was made to request permission to use rooms in the Greenwood Hills Elementary School at 1313 Westshore Drive for Sunday School and worship services. This move enabled them to have a complete church school, nursery and hold only one worship service.

Thus, CCPC moved to a third temporary location. Although the men of the church had to go early every Sunday to move the organ in, set up chairs for worship and tables and chairs for children's Sunday School, the arrangement with RISD worked out so well, that further arrangements were made to use the school facility until the first new church building was complete.



*Third temporary location – Greenwood Hills Elementary School*

The following article in the Richardson Daily News announced the Ground Breaking ceremonies for the new church:

### **Ground Breaking Service**

*Ground breaking service for the Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, U.S. Richardson, Texas, will be Sunday, Aug. 23, 6 p.m.*

*Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, U.S., was chartered by the Northeast Presbytery of the Synod of Texas, of the Presbyterian Church, U.S., on Sept. 8, 1963. The church which has grown from fifty-nine families, will break ground for the first unit of the church Sunday evening Aug. 23, at 6 p.m.*



*The ground breaking service will take place at the building site located on the Northwest corner of Campbell Road and Canyon Creek Boulevard in Richardson.*

*Those participating in the service will be: Rev. P.J. Garrison Jr. Executive Secretary and Stated Clerk of the Northeast Presbytery; Mr. A. E. Streitmatter Member of the Presbyterian Church Extension Committee; Mr. Raymond Campbell Jr., Immediate Past President and Ex-officio member of the Dallas Extension Committee; Rev. Edwin S. Cole, Pastor of Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church.*

*The First unit of the long range building program, consisting of a fellowship hall, classrooms, kitchen, and office space will have a total of 8,500 Square feet and cost approximately \$125,000. The contemporary structure will be of masonry construction.*

*In Fellowship Hall the interior will be of laminated arches and heavy timber deck with windows of art glass. The firm of Brown, Keller, Architects, Richardson, are serving as the Architects. The contractor is Sikes Construction Co., of Dallas. The public is invited.*



*Groundbreaking on Campbell Road*

The *Unison Prayer* offered by the early members at this service evokes a strong emotion to those whose spiritual journey has reaped so much growth as a result of those early CCPC Christians:

***Grant, O Lord, that by Thy holy Word, which shall be read and preached in this place, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same.***

***Grant, O Lord, that those who shall be dedicated unto Thee in this house by baptism may be sanctified by Thy Holy Spirit, and, being made living***



*members of Christ's Church, may ever remain in the number of Thy faithful children.*

*Grant, O Lord, that those who in this place shall in their own persons renew the promises made for them at their baptism may so receive Thy Holy Spirit that they may ever be enabled to keep their vows, and grow in grace until they come to Thine everlasting kingdom.*

*Grant, O Lord, that those who shall receive in this place the blessed Sacrament of the body and blood of Christ may do so with a penitent heart, lively faith, and heavenly benediction, may be made partakers of the Living Bread, and heirs through hope of everlasting life.*

*Grant, O Lord, that those who in this place shall be joined together in marriage may faithfully perform the vow and covenant between them made, and remain in perfect love together unto their lives' end.*

*Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.*

*Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged.*

*Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort.*

*Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed.*

*Here may the aged find consolation, and the young be inspired.*

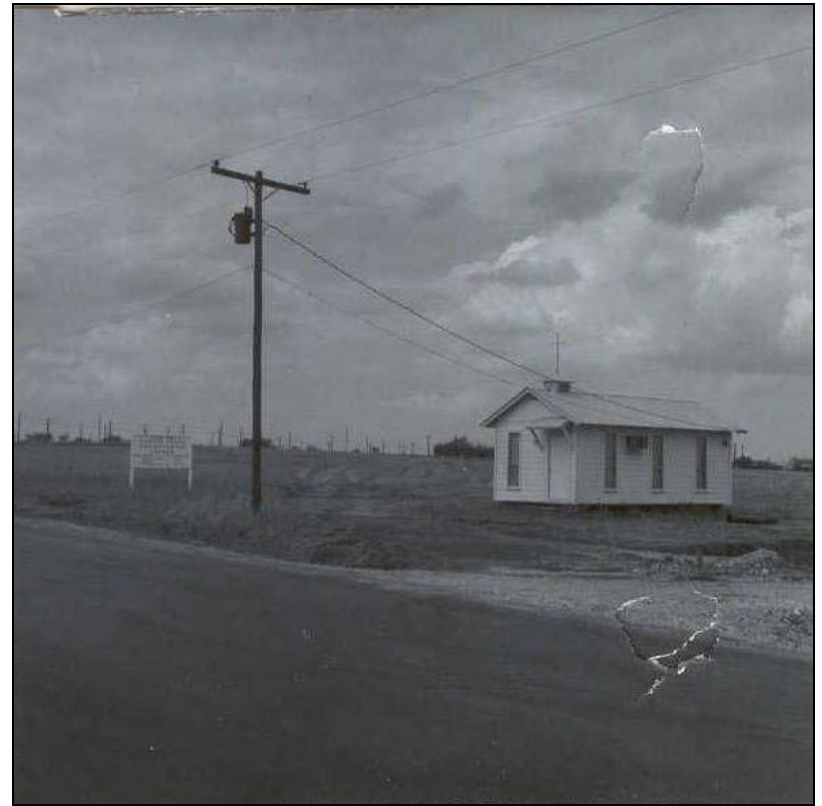
*Through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*



*Looking east, west of the rail road tracks on Campbell Road*

The land upon which the church was being built had been purchased a few years earlier by the Dallas Extension Committee of Grace Presbytery. At the ground-breaking service, the Presbytery gave the church title to the 4.5 acre property and an incentive gift of \$25,000. While the new church was under construction, a portable two-room building was moved onto the church property next to the construction site. This eventually became a multi-purpose room and served as an office for Reverend Cole and a meeting site until the new facility was complete.



*Portable building used for office space*

Earlier in the year, the adult Sunday School class agreed to sponsor a library for the church and Betty Harper agreed to be the first librarian and lead this effort. Organizing and establishing the first library was met by major challenges which were a direct result of the lack of both space and money. A small group of women began to build a resource collection, catalogue books, type library cards, order equipment, and sponsor book fairs. The grand opening was on September 5, 1964 in the temporary building at the construction site. Hours were every Saturday morning from 10:00 to 11:30. So

in addition to service as an office and meeting space, the little portable building became the site for the first library of CCPC as well.

Although the structure was far from finished, members of CCPC stood together for the first worship service in the new building on Christmas Day. Members were notified that the brief service “... *will be held in the hull of our new building, if the weather permits. There will be no chairs, so come prepared to stand for about 20-30 minutes*”. It was a beautiful clear sunny morning, but cold and blustery. The picture clearly shows everyone in overcoats. The service was held on the open concrete slab under steel arches with lumber and construction materials all around. This was remembered afterwards as the *Standing* or *Stand-Up* service. Margie Cole, remembers:

*Christmas Morning Worship in 1964 is a memory that none of us who attended can ever forget. Standing under the massive steel beams, amidst a mound of construction materials and equipment, hearing the Word, praying, singing hymns led by the choir director as she played on the portable electronic organ which had to be ‘carted and coddled’ where we worshipped. 1964 was The Year of the Cowboy, and all the 4, 5, and 6 year olds came to worship in their boots, cowboy hats, and guns – their Christmas presents from Santa. The adults took the distractions in stride on that very special day!*



*Stand-up service on Christmas Day, 1964*



## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 1964:**

- ✦ In October, the first meeting of the Canyon Creek Pioneer Fellowship (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students) was held at the manse. Officers were elected and they agreed to work on the scenery for the Christmas Joy Gift program that was sponsored by the Women of the Church.
- ✦ Many of the early members spent their Sunday afternoons canvassing door-to-door in the North Richardson-Canyon Creek-Plano area, inviting people to become a part of the new church and providing literature about the growing congregation. The Every Member Canvass was launched on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ✦ The choir of CCPC was organized in January. Mrs. Shirley Morton was officially appointed Choir Director soon after Ed Cole's installation as Pastor of CCPC. The choir participated in almost every Sunday service, but Shirley Morton felt that the choir had given their first "real program" at the Joy Gift Service held by the Women of the Church in December. Since there was no available place to practice during the week once the church moved to the Greenwood Hills Elementary School for Sunday services, they began to meet in the homes of choir members.

- ✦ An Andrews Club was organized for the purpose of visiting prospective members.

- ✦ The first Trustees were elected:

Joe F. Finley  
O. Blanchard Renegour  
Samuel A. Robinson.

- ✦ Robbie Amend was the first baby baptized.

- ✦ Pulpit Supply during 1964 included:

Rev. Faries McDaniel  
Rev. James Mosley  
Rev. Arthur V. Board  
Rev. Walter Johnson  
Rev. Excell Coon  
Rev. Earl Price  
Rev. John McCoy  
Rev. Jack L. Moore  
Rev. W. A. Dealey  
Rev. Wm. Childs Robinson, Jr.  
Rev. Wm. H. Tiaan  
Rev. George M. Sullivan  
Rev. Edward A. Mohns  
Elder Duke Kilgore  
Mr. Andrew Short  
Elder Frank Lord  
Rev. P.J. Garrison



*Nursery Class, 1964*



***1964 YEAR END STATISTICS:***

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<b>Membership:</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Christian Education Enrollment:</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Approved budget for 1965:</b>	<b>\$30,694</b>

# 1965

## *A Historical Perspective*

- U.S. planes bomb North Vietnam
- Anti-war rallies continue
- Allen Ginsburg introduces the term "*flower power*"
- Congress passes the Voting Rights Act, outlawing measures used to suppress minority votes
- Race riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles leave 34 people dead and \$200 million in property damage
- NorthPark shopping center opens
- Soft contact lenses are invented
- The U.S. Supreme Court rules bans on birth control unconstitutional
- Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed* is published.
- Congress orders that cigarette packages be labeled, "Caution: cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health"
- Malcom X is killed
- Houston's Astrodome opens
- New products include Shake 'n Bake, Cool Whip and Tang
- Popular songs include Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe" and the Rolling Stones "I Can't Get No Satisfaction"
- Films include *The Sound of Music*, *Cat Ballou*

## CHAPTER V

# Blessed To Be a Blessing

*'I will bless you,' said the Lord to Abraham, 'so that you will be a blessing.'*

*Genesis 12:1-3*



Like most major construction projects, the cost of building the first phase of CCPC's new church on Campbell Road was running over budget. So, on February 27<sup>th</sup>, the session called a congregational meeting. At this meeting, it was reported that the building was 90% complete. In order to install stained glass windows for the little sanctuary, however, meant that the congregation would have to increase the amount of the loan from \$125,000 to \$128,500. This was approved along with a recommendation to borrow \$5000 from the Presbytery of Northeast Texas Jubilee Memorial Fund for new furniture and equipment.

At the congregational meeting of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1965 the building committee presented the financial status of the construction:

CANYON CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 Congregational Meeting  
 February 17, 1965

Base Bid		\$ 106,800
Alternates:		
Class room cabinets	\$ 1,465	
Cabinets, sinks in kitchen	\$ 1,135	
Parking area and driveway	\$ 3,800	
Vinyl asbestos floor covering	\$ 475	
Spire and cross	\$ 1,000	
Sliding glass doors	\$ 200	<u>\$ 8,075</u>
Total Original Bid		\$ 114,875
Changes to original bid:		
Deduct:		
Stainless steel counter top	\$ 350	
Second coat of paint on sheetrock	\$ 200	
Carton forms under grade beams	\$ 200	
20 year roof bond	<u>\$ 100</u>	
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS		<u>\$ (850)</u>
Add:		
Raise floor in office and extend roof overhang	\$ 300	
Base cabinet in storage room	\$ 50	
Tack boards w/picture rail	\$ 100	
Bulletin board	\$ 65	
Disposal	<u>\$ 65</u>	
TOTAL ADDITIONS		<u>\$ 580</u>
CREDIT ON CHANGES		<u>\$ (270)</u>
TOTAL ORIGINAL CONTRACT		\$ 114,605

Additions to original contract:		
Extension of brick wall	\$ 150	
Upgrade floor covering	\$ 254	
Additional door into nursery	\$ 90	
Paint/install 2 window a/c	<u>\$ 10</u>	\$ 504
Glass for Narthex and Fellowship Hall		
Art Glass	\$ 1,800	
Templates	\$ 125	
Freight	\$ 120	
Installation	\$ 421	
Colored plastic panels	\$ 190	
Install plastic panels	<u>\$ 67</u>	\$ 2,723
Items to be added:		
Organ tone chamber	\$ 300	
Carpet chancel and office	<u>\$ 428</u>	\$ 728
Total Contract including additions		\$ 118,560
Architects fees		<u>\$ 8,278</u>
Total Cost of Building		\$ 126,838
Recommendations		
From Building Committee		
1. Extend parking area and driveway to alley	\$ 1,200	
2. Landscaping (shrubs, trees and grass seed)	\$ 295	
3. Hood and exhaust fan over dishwasher	\$ 65	
4. Cutting and polishing marble	\$ 65	
5. Book shelves - office and library	<u>\$ 85</u>	\$ 1,710
From Board of Deacons		
1. 100 metal folding chairs	\$ 400	
2. 20 folding tables	\$ 600	
3. Refrigerator	\$ 130	
4. Retire installment notes on organ, mimeograph	<u>\$ 320</u>	<u>\$ 1,450</u>
TOTAL COST OF BUILDING		\$ 130,000





*Building progress on Campbell Road.*

Coincidentally, Highland Park Presbyterian was remodeling and purchasing new furniture and kitchen equipment for their facility and they generously gave CCPC almost enough chairs, tables and other miscellaneous furniture to equip the Sunday School rooms. Part of this generous donation was several small, medium and large wooden chairs which could be used for the Sunday School classrooms. Most were a very dark finish and in great need of being refinished. On Saturdays, the men would load the furniture into a pick up truck and take it to a furniture refinishing company where they were dipped in a stripping vat. Then they were taken to an old house behind Presbyterian Hospital where members spent many hours sanding and refinishing. The women pitched in too. Margie Cole remembers a bunch of the children's

chairs in the Manse garage. The women would gather and sand all day long, *"taking time out to eat Toby McCrary's popular Chicken Enchilada Casserole."*



*Building progress on Campbell Road*

Used kitchen equipment was repaired and installed in the kitchen under the supervision of Elder B.B. Blount, who happened to be the Chief Engineer for Presbyterian Hospital. By far the most memorable piece of donated equipment was the old commercial dishwasher from a dormitory of the old Reynolds Presbyterian Home. Since B.B. Blount was the first and only one to figure out how it worked, he was the designated dishwasher for a very long time. Margie Cole remembers:

*I remember the monstrous dishwasher that we inherited and only B.B. Blount could operate it so he got to wash all the dishes and if you were standing in or near the kitchen, you got wet too!*

By the time April of 1965 rolled around the first unit of the new facility - 8,500 square feet consisting of a fellowship hall/sanctuary, ten classrooms, kitchen, office and restroom facilities - were completed and on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1965, the first worship service was held. Ed Cole wrote in anticipation:

*Sunday, April 4, 1965 will be another milestone reached by CCPC. We now have a most beautiful and worshipful building. We can be proud, but far beyond this, we should be most grateful. Many hours of planning, numerous days of hard labor, and week after week of sanding and painting have gone into the building we will occupy and the equipment we will use. Everyone has been faithful to the task and given freely of his time. Sunday will surely be a memorable day for us and I trust all our members and many friends will be with us on this joyous occasion. The first service in the new Church will be a Communion service. How appropriate it is that Communion Sunday should come the day we begin occupying the Church. Most of us are physically tired because of the work done in preparation for Sunday, but we*

*shall come together as God's own people to receive spiritual nourishment and communion with Christ in this high and holy hour. Do take some time to examine and prepare yourself so that you may worthily share in the supper of our Lord.*

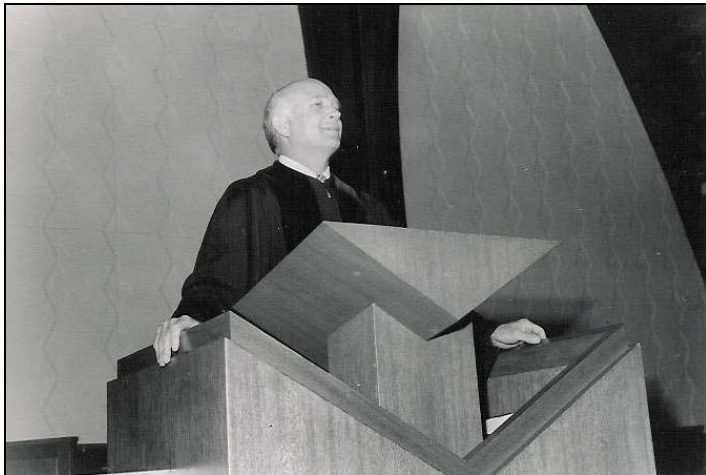


*Finished Phase One facility on Campbell Road*

May 2, 1965 was Dedication Sunday for the new facility. Members were filled with joy and thankfulness on this long awaited-for-day. The following week, this article by Reverend Cole ran in *The Clarion*:

*On this Monday morning following our Dedication Service, many things have gone through my mind. I have reflected on many things that have taken place in the life of this church over the*

*past eleven months. The one thing that keeps coming back to me is how much the church and all of us have been greatly blessed. Then, I began to think of the word 'Blessing' as it is used in the Scriptures. Each time it is used it always entailed an obligation. When God's blessing is upon you it is in order that we may be a blessing to others. 'I will bless you,' said the Lord to Abraham, 'so that you will be a blessing'. The Lord promises to bless all of us who call upon Him in the name of Christ. But the blessing is never to be kept for ourselves – to attempt to do so is to lose it. We are to be a blessing. In so doing we fulfill God's purpose in our lives. "Blessed to be a blessing" is an important obligation but it is even a greater privilege.*



*Reverend Cole in the new Fellowship Hall/ Sanctuary*

One of the reports in *The Clarion* the following week:

*Make a Joyful Noise – That's what they did Sunday at 10:30. Wasn't it wonderful to see 26 in the choir and hear such excellent voices make a joyful noise unto the Lord? Indeed, we are thankful for their contribution in worship, and look forward to an ever increasing choir! The organist Rush Robinson, performed like a pro, as usual, and he made sounds and volume come from the organ as never heard before. Rush composed the offertory he played, and entitled it 'Inspiration'. The choir sang the anthem, 'Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing.'*

They had borrowed \$100,000 from Exchange Savings and Loan to pay off the construction loan with \$500 to be used as a cash advance to CCPC. Interest rate on the loan was 6% with monthly payments of \$649. Now that they had moved into the new facility, the realities of making monthly mortgage payments moved Ed Cole to write to the congregation in June of 1965:

*We've just made our first payment of \$649 on the church. These payments come due the first of each month and you can be assured they will come ever so regularly and sometimes sooner than what we expect. All of us have committed ourselves to the support of the church so at this time, let's be sure*

*that our pledges are up to date, and, if we have not made a commitment, let's do so with haste.*

The congregation had completed an enormous task in the 25 months since their charter had been approved by the Presbytery and now were settling in to their new space for worship and study.

Meanwhile, the Richardson Planning Commission spent a day walking the area which is now known as Prairie Creek. Planning Commission member Howard Hern remembers:

*"...We got there by a little road that was Alma Road, we had to cross a bridge, which is now a historic bridge in the Prairie Creek Park. We had to go by a little house and then onto the big house that was located on what is now Lookout Drive. We looked at that land, and those two houses which were the only thing out there. We looked at that land; we looked at the creek that ran through it and said, 'Wouldn't this be (s)well if we could develop a residential district where we had a street down each side of this creek and a park in the middle'? From that trip, the concept of Prairie Creek Park and that whole development came to be."*

The church continued to grow at a rapid pace throughout the year. Two worship services were being held each Sunday and Sunday School classes were meeting in hallways. Three services were held on Christmas Eve, 1965. At two of the services some would-be worshippers left because there was no room to sit.

Having experienced a continued rapid rate of growth, the session re-activated the Building Committee and set plans in motion to make the first addition to the existing facilities. The Presbytery Extension Committee was approached regarding the approval of an additional loan with Southwestern Life Insurance Company. The Committee approved the application for the loan and also made a \$15,000 grant toward the new addition. Eighteen months later, the new addition was completed which consisted of eleven more classrooms and even more restrooms.

Choir participation had dropped rather low during the winter months of 1965. Early in the year, a re-organizational dinner was held at the manse and later in the year, they presented the first cantata.

*"One of the finest and most inspiring things happened last Sunday evening at the church. The choir presented its first cantata. It was an inspiration and thrill to all who heard the choir present 'The Music of Christmas.'*



*in preparation. Especially do we thank Shirley Morton, the Director – and Rush Robinson, the Organist. Now we look for even greater things from each one of you. We do sincerely thank all of you for your work, presentation and helping us enter into the Christmas spirit.”*

Reverend Cole wrote in *The Clarion*, December 15, 1965:

*“Christmas means many things to many people. To the child it means receiving that long awaited gift. To youth it means getting that special dress or jacket or watch. To Mom it means work – cooking, shopping, wrapping, decorating, -- a host of other things. To Dad it means mounting bills which must be paid – maybe not all next month or the next, but surely the next. But Christmas is so much more than that. In its deepest and most significant meaning - - Christmas means that God has broken the bounds of heaven, swept in upon us in the person of one whom we all Christ, that God wholly and totally identifies Himself with us, that is Christmas -- God with us and He is still with us today as we prepare to celebrate the Saviours birth once more. Let us be careful to remember what we are doing and why we’re doing*

*it as we approach the event which became the watershed of history.”*



### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF 1965:**

- ✦ A smoking policy was approved which allowed smoking in the Fellowship Room and the kitchen.
- ✦ The fee for weddings of non-church members held at the church was established at \$30 (\$15 janitor and \$15 utilities).
- ✦ Tonny Tabor was recognized for her voluntary secretarial work. Ed Cole relates that she was the best secretary he ever had.
- ✦ The first meeting of the Pioneer Fellowship was held at the manse. The young people in the new group were 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- ✦ The Senior High Fellowship met every Sunday evening and conducted the first Youth Sunday worship service.
- ✦ The brass chalice on the communion table was given by Mrs. Eric McCarty, and Mrs. J. W. McCrary.
- ✦ The congregation responded to the plea of the Moderator of the General Assembly for a love offering to the people of hurricane stricken Louisiana to the tune of \$241.05.

- ✦ The Youth Fellowship supported two families during the Christmas season with the help of Kroger Food Store.

### **1965 YEAR END STATISTICS:**

<i>Membership:</i>	<i>248</i>
<i>Christian Education Enrollment:</i>	<i>246</i>
<i>Approved budget for 1966:</i>	<i>\$36,783</i>

*To be continued.....*