United Churches History
History of the United Churches

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
Preface

This is the history of three churches: the Olympia First Presbyterian, the Olympia First Congregational, and the United Churches of Olympia.

Churches are people. Literally thousands of people are part of the histories of these churches. Many of their names will not appear in this account for several reasons. First, church records are not complete. There are gaps in the histories of the two older churches. Also, it is difficult to weigh the significance of events and the importance of individual efforts from the perspective of today. Therefore, as much as possible, this history will list the names of church members chronologically and according to their responsibilities. This account should explain how this federation was born.

Special acknowledgment must be made to the following persons whose recollections and research have served as background for this history: Mrs. A. N. Steele (Hannah Hooper Blackler), Mrs. C. J. Lord, Mrs. Henry Kaffenger (Faith Yantis), Mrs. Chester Kirsoo (Frances), Miss Sigrun Simonarson, Tim Hamilton, Alma Bratton (Mrs. Robert), Ruth Stackhouse (Mrs. John), and Evelyn Finnell (Mrs. James)

Those who helped research and edit include Erma Pinson (Mrs. Lawrence), Maude Bennett (Mrs. W. G.), Evelyn Finnell (Mrs. James), Margaret McCullock (Mrs. Ed), Don Heym, Janet Tolman (Mrs. Glen) and David Webster. The Washington State Capitol Museum Archives and church files provided old photographs.
Introduction

EVERY congregation has a unique history and character — a composite of the persons, decisions and historical events comprising its life and growth. Congregations, like persons, deserve to have their biographies preserved for posterity, as well as for their own amazement!

This historical overview of the life and ministry of the United Churches of Olympia is a labor of love, undertaken under the auspices of our Historical Committee. The principal author, Julie Cushman, has devoted uncounted hours to research and writing, with the assistance of committee members and local historical sources and libraries.

It is hoped that those who read this document will be reminded of persons and events whose contributions and meanings continue to be a significant part of their life today. Who can measure the impact and influence of a Christian congregation over the years — particularly over a century or more of time? Surely the pastors, teachers, lay leaders and friends who have comprised the United Churches family over these years have all contributed in important ways to the lives of individual members and to the community.

History, of course, is three-dimensional. It consists of past achievements, present actions, and future hopes. The ministry and mission of the United Churches continues, in the conviction that we have a role to play in the coming of God’s Kingdom. In that connection, it is appropriate to cite our current Statement of Mission:

“We proclaim the Church alive!”

We respond to God’s love in Christ, through acts of caring for ourselves and others, as one loving community embracing our broken world.

We are a communion of the Spirit, ministering to the needs of the whole person.

We dedicate our time, talents, and resources to presenting the Christian message and to promoting personal development and family life.

We are committed to the historical traditions from which we come, our common humanity, and our belief in the future.”

As we plan for and move toward the future, we pause to honor the past, and all those whose commitment to Christ and his Kingdom has enriched our church’s life and work.

It is our sincere and prayerful hope that this record of our history will serve that end.

Rev. Paul F. McCann
April 17, 1981
It was a dreary dark December day. It had rained considerably. The road from Tumwater to Olympia was ankle deep in mud and thriddled [sic] a dense forest with a narrow track. With expectations raised at the idea of seeing the capital and chief town of the Territory, the weary travelers toiled up a small hill in the edge of the timber, reached the summit and eagerly looked to see the new metropolis. Their hearts sank with bitter disappointment as they surveyed the dismal and forlorn scene before them. A low, flat neck of land, running into the bay, down it stretched the narrow, muddy track, winding among the stumps, which stood thickly on either side twenty small wooden houses bordered the road, while back of them on the left and next the shore were a number of Indian lodges with canoes drawn up on the beach, and Indians and dogs lounging about.

So wrote Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens, describing the arrival of his family in Olympia on September 20, 1854.

The Washington Territory had been officially separated from the Oregon Territory on March 2, 1853. At this time there were fewer than 4,000 persons living in Western Washington and fewer than 1,000 living in Thurston County. Only 260 votes were cast in the precinct of Olympia in the election of 1855.

Indeed, Olympia was the frontier and its inhabitants were pioneers.

J. R. Wood’s cooperage at Fifth and Columbia was the meeting place for the first Presbyterian service north of the Columbia River. Wood was in business with his father Isaac, who operated Olympia’s first brewery in an adjacent building. For two years before it closed, the cooperage made fish barrels.
The First Presbyterian Church

In 1852 the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions commissioned George Whitworth a missionary to Puget Sound, thus making him the first Presbyterian clergyman to be sent north of the Columbia River. Born in England March 15, 1816, Whitworth was 12 when he came to the United States with his parents. They settled in Ohio. He had been a harnessmaker, a businessman, a high school teacher, and an attorney before entering seminary in 1843. His first ministerial assignments were in Indiana and Kentucky.

In the spring of 1853, he started with a party of 30 others by oxcart across the plains for Oregon Territory where they intended to form a Presbyterian colony and start a church school. After nearly six months, the travelers reached Portland, where the Whitworth party was forced to spend the winter.

In February of 1854, leaving his family behind in Portland, Whitworth traveled to Olympia where, on March 4, he conducted the first Presbyterian worship service north of the Columbia River. He took a donation land claim that adjoined the Oblate Fathers' mission (today's Priest Point Park). There he built a "split-board" shanty. His family joined him in May. On July 1 he opened Olympia's first Sunday School in the Hall of Representatives. Later that year, Whitworth placed a notice in the Pioneer and Democrat which read:

"Rev. G. P. Whitworth (Presbyterian Church) will preach regularly on the second and fourth Sabbaths of every month, at 11 o'clock A.M. and 6 o'clock P.M. On Sabbath next, the 13th inst., the preliminary steps will be taken for the organization of a Presbyterian Church and the services of the day will have references thereto."

On the appointed day, seven persons gathered to form Olympia's first Presbyterian church, the third denomination to have a church in the territorial capital. The Olympia church is recognized as the first Presbyterian church organized by settlers west of the Rocky Mountains and north of the Columbia River. Its official date of organization is November 12, 1854. The seven persons in the new congregation were David Crane Beatty (carpenter), R. L. Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Putnam Hays, Mary Thomson (later to marry Beatty), Mrs. Sarah Thomson, and Mrs. Mary Eliza (Thomson) Whitworth, the missionary's wife.

The little congregation gathered in James R. Wood's cooper shop on the northeast corner of Fifth and Columbia streets, next door to Isaac Wood's brewery. The text for this meeting (and for all of the church organizational meetings that Whitworth held elsewhere in the Puget Sound country) was "For who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:10) The seven met twice again on that first Sunday, in afternoon and evening services.

The first elected church officers were deacons B. F. Yantis, D. C. Beatty, and R. L. Doyle. The church soon moved its worship services to the school house. In 1857 William C. Kincaid was elected the first ruling elder and subsequently represented the Olympia Church when the Presbytery of Puget Sound was organized in September 1858. Shortly thereafter, A. Williamson Stewart was elected second ruling elder and George F. Boynton was elected the third. Dr. A. G. Henry and D. C. Beatty were the next chosen.

On April 10, 1860, the church paid $475 to George and Mary Whitworth for two lots on the southeast corner of Legion Way and Franklin Street. The money for the purchase of the lots was raised by the Ladies' Aid Society. In 1862 the "Little White Church" was built there.

Also that same year, a young minister, Rev. R. J. Evans came to organize a church at Chambers Prairie (about five miles southeast of Olympia) and was called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Olympia. He served until his death in 1863 at the age of 28. He was the first settled pastor of the Olympia group.

Until his arrival the church had been served by The Rev. Mr. Whitworth, but Whitworth's responsibilities to the Board of Home Missions necessitated his serving a larger geographical area. In order to support his family, Whitworth augmented his salary from the Board of Home Missions by holding many public posts including school superintendencies in Thurston and King counties, United States Deputy Surveyor, King County Surveyor, and Deputy Collector of Customs for the Puget Sound District. In 1860 because the church did not approve of its ministers holding secular positions, Whitworth gave up the pastoral ministry although historical records show that he was active in many church activities throughout the Puget Sound area.

By 1864 the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Olympia had grown to 40 members. From 1863 until 1869 the church was served by supply pastors, among them The Revs. Anthony Simpson, Sanderson, and Elder.
In 1870 The Rev. John Roddick Thompson, D.D. accepted a call to the Olympia church but continued to serve as supply until his installation in 1875. He was the second full-time minister and served until 1884 when he went to Eastern Washington to establish missions. He was Thurston County’s Superintendent of Schools for six years, he died in the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American War.

See the following table for the names of the pastors of the First Presbyterian Church, their terms of service, and events during their ministries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Ministers of the First Presbyterian Church of Olympia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1854-1860</td>
<td>GEORGE F. WHITWORTH</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organizer Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861-1863</td>
<td>R. J. EVANS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Started church at Chambers Prairie. Built “Little White Church” at Sixth and Franklin.</td>
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<td>1863-1869</td>
<td>ANTHONY SIMPSON</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supply Pastor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>-1870</td>
<td>ELDOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supply Pastor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1870-1874</td>
<td>JOHN RODDICK THOMPSON, D.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supply Pastor to seven churches in area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1875-1884</td>
<td>JOHN RODDICK THOMPSON, D.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full time minister.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1884-1890</td>
<td>WILLIAM B. LEE, D.D.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Salary $600; parsonage enlarged and renovated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890-1896</td>
<td>T. J. LAMONT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Salary $1200 with manse and month’s vacation. Discussion with Congregational Church concerning joint service.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897-1899</td>
<td>J. L. THOMPSON</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supply Pastor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900-1911</td>
<td>R. M. HAYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salary $900, manse, and month’s vacation; dedicated new church at Sixth and Franklin; celebrated church’s 50th anniversary; installed memorial windows and pipe organ.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911-1916</td>
<td>D. A. THOMPSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Young Ladies Club organized; Sunset Club started; church membership 235 (1912); manse completed next door to church ($3,815); membership 312 (1914); Sunday services conducted in outlying areas (Pleasant Glade and Eastside).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The “Little White Church” was built by the Presbyterians in 1862 at Sixth (Legion Way) and Franklin Streets. In 1907 when the new church was built, the old church was bought by the YMCA and moved north one-half block. The “Y” built a gymnasium, showers, and social halls in the remodeled structure. The building was moved again across the block to Fifth and Adams streets in 1918 to house the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. In 1951 the Salvation Army bought the 90-year-old frame building and used it until its new quarters were built in 1968. The building was razed in 1972.
The First Congregational Church

IN 1871 Deacon Alfred Walker of New Haven, Connecticut, while visiting Olympia, became interested in establishing a Congregational church. Learning that the old Catholic church building and lot on Tenth and Main streets (Capitol Way) were for sale, he returned to New England and raised the $750 necessary for the American Congregational Union to purchase the property.

Two Olympia women, Mrs. Hannah H. Steele and Mrs. O. B. Manning, were also instrumental in organizing the church. Mrs. Steele, wife of Dr. A. H. Steele, had come to Oregon from Marblehead, Massachusetts, as a Congregational missionary and teacher. Mrs. Manning had been one of the famed Mercer Girls brought to Seattle in 1864 to become wives of pioneer men.

In 1873 the Congregational Union urged the Congregationalists of Olympia to proceed with the organization and building of a church lest the property be sold and the funds applied elsewhere. For several years, Olympia Congregationalists had been attending the First Presbyterian Church and other churches, some as full members and others as only financial supporters and participants in the other churches' activities. From this group of fifteen persons (eleven men and four women), the new church was formed. The Special Covenant of Organization and other public services were held April 26, 1873, at the First Presbyterian Church. The Council Called to Advise included six pastors and delegates from Congregational churches of the Washington and Oregon territories.

Ten of the charter members are known: Mrs. A. H. Steele, Mrs. C. P. Taylor, Mrs. C. A. Huntington, Miss Nellie Huntington, Mrs. R. A. White, Mrs. O. B. Manning, Mrs. A. J. Littlejohn, Mrs. B. W. Hewitt, Mrs. A. P. Corts, and Miss Jane Parker.

For a year services were held in the Masonic Hall and a rented schoolroom while the old building, which had been used as a carpenter's shop, was repaired and converted into a church. The congregation raised $3,000 for this project. In September of 1874, the renovated building was dedicated. The Rev. C. A. Huntington had served the church without salary for a full year and presided at the dedication of the church building.

When Huntington was called to the Indian Agency at Neah Bay, the church was supplied by The Rev. G. H. Atkinson for a year and one-half. The Rev. Cushing Eells, then over 80 years of age, came often by horseback from Skokomish to preach as did several clergy from Oregon. In 1876 The Rev. G. W. Skinner served the church for six months. He was the first regular pastor.

In 1880 the First Congregational Church, then seven years old, had 22 members.

See the following table for the names of the ministers of the First Congregational Church, their terms of service, and the events during their pastorates in Olympia.

![The First Congregational Church at Tenth and Main streets (Capitol Way) was remodeled in 1873 from a building that had been purchased by the American Congregational Union from the Catholic Church. This building served the First Congregational Church for 43 years until 1916 when the First Congregational and First Presbyterian churches federated. The trees, which later shaded the churchyard, are cork elms. With $143 collected originally to build a parsonage, the church purchased a 500-pound bell, built a belfry, and hung the bell in 1886. This bell now hangs in the Gull Harbor Lutheran Church on the Boston Harbor Roads.](image)
Ministers of the First Congregational Church

Dates Minister & Significant Events of Ministry

1873-1874 C. A. HUNTINGTON
Church building renovated and decorated; Ladies Aid Society formed.
G. H. ATKINSON, D.D.
Filled pulpit one-third of the time; sermons read by lay leader G. F. Boynton and others on remaining Sundays.
CUSHING ELLS
Filled pulpit one-third of the time; sermons read by lay leader G. F. Boynton and others on remaining Sundays.

May-Nov. 1876
G. W. SKINNER
Returns to Kansas after six months.

1878-1879 DAVID THOMAS

1879 G. H. ATKINSON, D.D.
Supply Pastor about one-fourth of the time. Lay services at other times.
J. A. BANFIELD
Supply Pastor from Tacoma.

1879-1881 C. A. HUNTINGTON
Supply; twenty-two in congregation.

1883-1887 J. CAMPBELL
Served Kamische also; organized first missionary society; new constitution adopted; belfry built and bell hung.
LEONARD J. GARVER

Jan.-Apr. 1890
J. R. CHAPLAIN
Resigned to build a college

1890-1897 CLARENCE L. DIVEN
ATLING
REMELEE

1902-1907 E. R. LOOMIS
1907-1908 KINGSLEY F. NORRIS
1909-1916 R. H. EDMONDS

The United Churches of Olympia, Washington

The TWO congregations which comprise the Federation called The United Churches are among the oldest in Washington State. The First Presbyterian Church was organized by Dr. George F. Whitworth November 12, 1854. The First Congregational Church was organized April 26, 1873 and worshipped in the Presbyterian building until their own was built. The Federation of the two denominations did not occur until December 6, 1916.

The Presbyterian Church building at Franklin and Legion Way served the congregation until severely damaged by the 1949 earthquake. A 1931 building program, delayed by depression and war, was implemented and ground broken for the present structure June 4, 1950. Stained glass windows from the old building were placed in the new chapel.

The present sanctuary was dedicated in 1955, the stained glass windows in 1959 and the mortgage burned in 1965. Renovation and construction of an addition to the building were begun in 1978 and dedicated May 20, 1979.

The Presbyterian Church nationally became the United Presbyterian Church in 1958. The Congregational Church became the United Church of Christ upon union with the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1957.

Property for a West Side church was purchased in 1973. While no building has been erected on the land to date, the Community for Christian Celebration has come into being and is currently using the United Churches building for Sunday evening services during the school year.

Church Organization

The United Churches is governed by the church council which is composed of 21 members—15 United Presbyterian elders and six United Church of Christ deacons.

For denominational decisions or functions, the appropriate council members comprise a Session or Board of Deacons.

The congregation elects one third of the members annually for a term of three years. They may serve no more than two terms consecutively.

A Moderator and Clerk of the Council are elected by the council for a term of one year.
The United Churches of Olympia

By June of 1914, the members of the First Congregational Church were discussing the need for a new church building. Their original building at Tenth and Capitol Way had served 43 years. Because the church property was still owned by their original Congregational body, the Olympia church could not sell it without getting title to the church and lot.

When The Rev. D. A. Thompson accepted a call to Oregon in September of 1916, the First Presbyterian Church was without a pastor. At this juncture, conversations began again between the members of the two churches concerning the possibility of federating. Millard Lemon from the First Presbyterian and P. M. Troy from the First Congregational led the discussions. In December of 1916, the two churches became one - The United Churches of Olympia - a federation, worshipping in the Presbyterian Church at Legion Way and Franklin.

This bond was formalized by “Articles of Agreement”, refreshing in their simplicity:

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

II. To emphasize our unity we will call ourselves the United Churches of Olympia, Washington.

III. The Name United Churches does not imply any dissolution or breaking of denominational ties. On the contrary, it is desired to encourage fellowship and missionary enterprises through the denominational organizations, and to conserve what is best in the denominational life and ideals. The local denominational organizations shall therefore be maintained to care for and receive members, to act as custodians of the property and as channels of communication with the denominational interests at large.

IV. Anyone may join the United Churches by becoming a member of either of the Churches under the rules and regulations governing it.”

Thus with neither the burden of legalese nor interminable “shall’s” and “shall not’s,” the two churches became one. The union has lasted for over 60 years. Such a federation, though not uncommon today, was “ahead of its time” in 1916.

The first minister of the new church was The Rev. Harry S. Templeton. The church had 325 members, 100 of whom were Congregationalists.

In 1923, having gained title to their property and sold it, the Congregational Church purchased a garage across the street which is now Legion Way north from the United Churches. The garage was remodeled to house Sunday school classes and meeting rooms. It was called “Community House.”

In 1928 the United Churches had grown so large that The Rev. T. S. Simpson, after serving the church for seven years, resigned so that the church could call a new minister to lead a drive for expansion. When the two churches were incorporated in 1937, the spiritual union became a fiscal union as well. “Community House” was sold for $15,000. Classrooms were added to the church. In 1939 the Millard Lemon family gave the United Churches property on Eleventh and Washington streets. The Congregational Church bought an adjoining lot with their $15,000. A new church building was being discussed when World War II started.

It was not until after the war that enough money had accumulated for plans to be drawn. The earthquake of 1949 damaged the old church. Subsequently the property was sold and the congregation had to find another meeting place. Through the generosity of W. B. McDonald, theater owner, the church held services in the Liberty (Olympic) Theater for over a year. Sunday school classes met at the YMCA and YWCA.

The old property at Legion Way and Franklin was sold for $40,500 and plans for the new building were approved. The sale did not include the stained glass memorial windows, church fixtures, organ, or other furnishings. In April of 1950 the church bought a manse on Carlyon Avenue. There was another year’s delay and finally in February of 1951, a contract was signed for the new church building, less the sanctuary. The first services were held in the new church September 23, 1951. Later, when the sanctuary was completed, the organ from the old building was installed, after being rebuilt and new pipes added.
Biographical Sketch of Cushing Eells

CUSHING EELLS was born February 16, 1810, in Blandford, Massachusetts. He was graduated from Williams College in 1834 and from the East Windsor Theological Seminary in 1837. In 1838 the American Board of Missions sent Eells and his bride to Oregon Territory, a 3,000-mile journey that would take a year. In April, 1839, they built a log cabin in Tshimakain, and he began his work among the Spokane Indians.

For nine years the young couple lived in hardship and deprivation. Two children were born to them at their remote outpost. In 1847, following the Whitman massacre, Eells and his family fled to the Willamette Valley.

In 1908 the 245 members of the First Presbyterian Church built a new church on their property at Legion Way and Franklin streets. This church building was to serve for 40 years. The reinforced concrete and heavy timber construction project took 15 months. The sanctuary sat 400, and seven classrooms accommodated 150. Seven stained glass windows were memorials. In 1916 this church became the home of the newly-federated First Presbyterian and First Congregational churches. The earthquake of 1949 severely damaged the structure. A last service was conducted in the church May 28, 1950. The building was sold and razed in March of 1951. The congregation met in the Liberty (Olympic) Theater on June 2, 1950 and thereafter until the new building was ready in September of 1951.

Eells spent twelve years in Oregon, where he founded Pacific University at Forest Grove. He then returned north, settling at Walla Walla. He formed during the week to support his Sabbath responsibilities. In December, 1859, at his urging, the Washington Territorial Legislature granted a charter for Whitman Seminary, later Whitman College. Its first building was erected in 1866.

When he was in his sixties, Eells spent his time preaching among the scattered settlers of the Pacific Northwest. He rode horseback through the forests and across the prairies, subsisting on dried salmon and water. He personally served Congregational churches at The Dalles, Walla Walla, Colfax, Chehalis, Cheney, Medical Lake, Spokane, Sprague, Dayton, Pleasant Prairie, Tacoma, Olympia, Seattle, Lone Pine, Union City, Pullman and Skokomish.

In 1872, Cushing Eells went to live with his son Edwin Eells, who had been appointed Indian Agent on the Skokomish Indian Reservation. Cushing Eells was nearly eighty years of age when he rode horseback to Olympia to serve the fledgling Congregational Church. He died on his eighty-third birthday and is remembered as "the father of Congregationalism in Washington State."

His sons Edwin and Myron, raised among the Indian tribes of Washington, were fluent in various Native American languages. Edwin served as an Indian Agent, and Myron was appointed by the American Missionary Association to serve the tribes of the Olympic Peninsula. Myron also is the author of many anthropological studies of Northwest culture.

Biographical Sketch of George F. Whitworth

GEORGE F. WHITWORTH, the first Presbyterian minister north of the Columbia River and the founder of the First Presbyterian Church in Olympia, was born in Boston, England, in 1816. Boston is on the Witheram River near its mouth on the North Sea.

The Whitworth family came to the United States in 1828 on a sailing ship. They stayed briefly at Rochester, New York, then moved to Mansfield, Ohio, where young George served as apprentice to his father, a harnessmaker.

Whitworth completed public school in Terre Haute, Indiana, and subsequently enrolled in the classical course at Hanover College, from which he was graduated in 1838. He married Mary Elizabeth Thomson and began his teaching career in a high school in Lancaster, Ohio. They
moved to Greenburg, Ohio, where he studied law, passed the bar examination, and became county attorney in Montgomery County, Ohio. Subsequently they moved to Dayton, Ohio.

In 1844, when he was 27 years old, he entered New Albany Seminary in Indiana. He was graduated three years later and worked for one year as financial secretary to the Seminary. He was ordained by the Presbytery of New Albany in 1848. His first church assignment was in Corydon, Indiana.

Inspired by Washington Irving's Astoria and the letters of the Whittmans and the Spaldings, he decided to emigrate to the Northwest. Subsequently he placed advertisements in the April 1852 edition of The Presbyterian Magazine urging readers to join his wagon train to the Oregon Territory where they would form a Presbyterian colony and start a parochial school. In May of 1853, the would-be colonists gathered at St. Joseph, Missouri, and forming a wagon train, started their 2,000-mile trek to Oregon. The Whitworths had four children by then. They took with them three wagons, work horses, steers, cows, and one riding horse. Two nieces of Mrs. Whitworth and her mother were in the party. They arrived in The Dalles six months later, November 8, 1854. In describing the long journey in letters to friends, Whitworth called it uneventful. They met no hostility from the Indians and suffered no memorable hardships. The wagon train observed the Sabbath, resting all day each Sunday and holding services.

The Whitworth family spent the winter of 1853-54 in Portland. During that period Whitworth assisted in founding the First Presbyterian Church of Portland. In February of 1854, leaving his family behind, he traveled to Olympia. When he arrived, the legislature of the newly-created Washington Territory was in session. His first sermon delivered in Olympia was heard by the legislators in the legislative hall.

He took a donation land claim of 320 acres next to the Oblate Father's mission (Priest Point Park). In the spring he brought his family from Portland, and they lived in a "split board" shanty and a tent until permanent quarters could be erected. He established the First Presbyterian Church of Olympia in November of 1854. On October 6, 1855, he started the Presbyterian Church at Grand Mound and another at Claquato, serving these congregations twice a month by riding the 40 miles on horseback.

Included in his dream of a Presbyterian colony in the Northwest were plans to establish a school. In 1855 he and his wife opened a school in their home. Some of the students boarded with the Whitworths. The school operated from 1855 until 1860, closing for a time during the Indian Wars. The children of Isaac Ingalls Stevens, the Territorial Governor, attended. Whitworth served also as Thurston County Superintendent of Schools.

In 1860 Whitworth gave up the active ministry because he could not support his family on his income. The church had stated that it did not want its ministers involved in secular affairs. Whitworth had held and would hold in the future a variety of appointive and elective posts: School superintendencies in Thurston and King Counties, United States Deputy Surveyor, King County Surveyor, Seattle Surveyor, Deputy Collector of Customs for Puget Sound, President of the Territorial University (later the University of Washington), Chief Clerk to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Secretary of the Lapwai Treaty Commission. He moved to Seattle when he was elected President of the University.

Whitworth was an authority on coal and mineral deposits, and with the Rev. Daniel Bagley was instrumental in development of the coal fields at Newcastle, Renton and South Prairie.

In 1860 he went to Whidbey Island where he preached, taught, farmed and surveyed for one year. In 1865, Whitworth was elected to the Board of Regents of the Territorial University. In 1866 he assumed the presidency of the faltering institution, serving for five months. He was preaching with The Rev. Daniel Bagley (Methodist) at a union church in Seattle, the Brown Church. He participated in the founding of the First Presbyterian Church in Seattle and was pastor of the churches in Newcastle, White River, Sumner and Renton. In October of 1870, he was elected Moderator of the Presbytery of Oregon.

In August, 1874, Whitworth was again appointed President of the Territorial University. He served for a year and one-half, until the University was closed for lack of funds. While president, Whitworth published the University's first catalog, reorganized the curriculum, and supported legislation that affirmed the dependency of the University upon the state government for financial support.

Whitworth was elected first Moderator of the Synod of Washington in 1890.

In December of 1883, Whitworth founded the Sumner Academy. In 1887 he went east to raise funds to support the new school. In 1890 the school was renamed Whitworth College and adopted by the Synod of Washington as Synodical college. It was moved to Tacoma in 1897. In 1914 Whitworth College was relocated near Spokane and built on a 150-acre campus, a gift from Jay P. Graves, pioneer mining man.

Whitworth died in Seattle in 1907 at the age of 91. He was to have dedicated the new Presbyterian Church in Olympia which was under construction at that time. He is remembered as "the father of Presbyterianism in Washington."
Chronology of United Churches — Significant Events

1848 Oregon Territory created.

1852 The Rev. George Whitworth commissioned as missionary to Puget Sound.

1853 Washington Territory created and Olympia named temporary capital.

1854 Whitworth conducts first Presbyterian service north of Columbia River, March 4; Whitworth opens first Sunday School, July 1; Olympia’s First Presbyterian Church organized, November 12.

1857 “Patriarchal” Elder William Kincaid and Ezra Meeker vote “not guilty” in Leschi murder trial.

1858 Presbytery of Puget Sound organized.

9/14/1860 Census shows Thurston County population 1,504.

1862 First Presbyterian Church is built on the corner of Legion Way and Franklin Street; church designed by T. M. Reed.

1871 Alfred Walker raises $750 for American Congregational Union to buy property for an Olympia church.

1873 First Congregational Church organized April 26.

1874 Congregationalists dedicate renovated church building at Tenth and Main (Capital Way) Streets.

10/12/1879 The Rev. John Roddick Thompson, D.D., installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

1/28/1884 The Rev. W. B. Lee accepts call by First Presbyterian Church at annual salary of $600. Parsonage enlarged and renovated.

1886 Congregationalists purchase and install bell.

1889 President William Henry Harrison proclaims Washington a state.

11/12/1893 The Rev. T. J. Lamont from Spokane Falls becomes pastor of First Presbyterian. Salary, $1,200 with manse and four-week summer vacation.

10/28/1893 Thirteen members leave First Presbyterian to join United Presbyterian Church of Olympia (now Westminster).

2/9/1894 Boys’ Brigade organized at First Presbyterian; Charles Garfield, leader.

1/3/1896 Both First Presbyterian and First Congregational are without pastors. Renewed discussion of joint services.

3/24/1899 The Rev. J. L. Thompson, Pasadena, California, assigned by Presbytery as stated supply pastor at First Presbyterian for coming year.

1/4/1900 The Rev. Richard M. Hayes, LaGrande, Oregon, called to become pastor of First Presbyterian. Annual salary $900, manse, and four-week vacation.

1905 Semi-centennial souvenir booklet printed by First Presbyterian; 183 members in congregation.

9/6/1908 New church dedicated by First Presbyterian at Legion Way and Franklin Street.

1910 Memorial windows installed in new church. Sunday School enrollment, 90. Minister’s salary $1200.

9/26/1911 The Rev. D. A. Thompson, Portland, Oregon, accepts call to become pastor; membership of First Presbyterian, 235; Sunday School, 157.

10/27/1911 First Presbyterian begins publishing weekly church bulletin.

11/27/1911 Young Ladies’ Circle formed.

2/18/1912 Men’s Brotherhood formed.

1913 Manse completed next to church at Franklin and Legion Way; cost, $3,813.

1914 Membership, 312; Sunday school, 197; second largest membership in Presbytery.

5/21/1914 Several Olympia churches join in summer union mid-week and Sabbath services at YMCA following union Easter services.

1914 The Rev. D. A. Thompson, Presbyterian pastor, chairs library board that builds Olympia’s Carnegie Library at Seventh and Franklin.

1915 First Presbyterian membership, 314; Sunday school, 214. Sunday services held in nine outlying areas including Pleasant Glade, Eastside, Lacey and McKinley.

11/8/1915 After Washington approves prohibition, Presbyterian Church appoints committee to care for habitue’s of saloons after January 1, 1916, when the law will take effect.

1916 THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN AND THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES FEDERATE.

1/1/1917 The Rev. H. S. Templeton is named first minister of United Churches.
Women's League of the United Churches is formed with fourteen circles organized geographically.


Congregational Church purchases garage across the street from the church at Legion Way and Franklin to be used for classes and meetings. Building is called "Community House."

"Community House" is dedicated.

The Rev. T. W. Simpson called to Ravenna Presbyterian Church, Seattle.

The Rev. Frank E. Carlson is installed as new minister.

Congregational bell, purchased in 1886, is given to German Congregational Church at Boston Harbor.


New pipes added to organ (gift of Stanley Starr). Mr. and Mrs. Millard Lemon give church a lot on Washington between Tenth and Eleventh for site of new church.

"Community House" rented to Washington State Welfare Department.

Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, Henry and Eliza Spalding Centennial observed.

Men's Brotherhood meets in Mills & Mills chapel.

Minister asks Union Pacific Railroad to not blow train whistle near the station during worship service. Request granted.

"Community House" sold for $15,000.

Stanley Starr directs massed choir as KGY broadcasts Easter service nationwide from Capitol steps.

The Rev. L. Wendell Taylor resigns; called to church in Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Dwight Smith (Congregational) becomes pastor, and building committee is active again. Smith begins series of popular book reviews on Sunday evenings.

Congregation will build new church at Eleventh and Washington as soon as $80,000 is raised.

Sunrise Easter service, Capitol steps, broadcast nationwide Dr. Smith delivers sermon.

Silver Jubilee Celebration; 193 attend banquet; 251 take communion at Sunday service. Fifty attending have been members since the churches federated.

Church services broadcast weekly over KGY.

Presbytery passes ruling that allows a minister of a federated church to become a participating member of Presbytery and the moderator of his own church even though he is a member of another denomination.

Evelyn Finnell becomes church secretary; serves for 25 years.

The Rev. Jackson Webster, retired Presbyterian minister living in Olympia, becomes instructor for Philathea Bible study class. Webster formerly served churches in Oregon, California and Alaska.

Dr. Dwight Smith resigns to accept call to Mount Vernon Church, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Rev. J. Edgar Pearson Jr. is called to Olympia from Oconto, Wisconsin.

Kam Dubl Club organized.

New building committee formed.

Earthquake damages church; subsequent Easter services attended by 1,017 persons.

Blizzard makes church-going impossible; services are broadcast on KGY.

Ground broken for new church at Eleventh and Washington.

The Rev. J. Edgar Pearson serves as Chaplain in State Senate.

Contract for new church building signed.

Congregational Church transfers title for its share of property to United Churches Corporation.

New church dedicated; building includes Christian Education facilities, the north wing, the Memorial Chapel and first floor of the south wing.

Olympia Council of Churches organized.

Congregation votes to complete church (sanctuary, parlor, and youth room).

Old organ sent to Seattle for renovation.

Completed sanctuary dedicated.
9/1956  Sunday school enrollment, 250.
10/1956  Stained glass windows installed in chancel.
5/26/1957  Phyllis Johnson appointed Christian Education Director.
6/25/1957  Congregational, Christian and Evangelical-Reformed denominations merge to become The United Church of Christ.
1958  Alcoholics Anonymous begins using United Churches as a meeting place.
1958  Men's Fellowship becomes United Churchmen.
2/1959  Six stained glass memorial windows depicting the life of Christ are installed in sanctuary. Windows were made in Portland by Bert Willemse Studios.
1959  Church classrooms are used on weekdays as schoolrooms for young people being held in Juvenile Detention at County Courthouse across the street.
9/18/1960  Early Sunday service in Chapel at 9:45; regular service in Sanctuary at 11:00.
1960  Property just north of The United Churches purchased for additional parking.
1962  Dr. William P. McCormick, Pastor Emeritus of the Little Church on the Prairie, Lakewood, fills the pulpit during summer while the church seeks a pastor. Dr. Vere V. Loper, Pastor Emeritus of First Congregational Church, Berkeley, California, serves during August.
12/16/1962  Congregation calls Dr. Maurice Haehlen, pastor of the English-speaking church in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The Haehlens have spent five years in Brazil where he previously served the English-speaking church in Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Haehlen also served in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and for eight years was a member of the Home Board of the United Church of Christ, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
1/15/1963  Membership 1,130.
1/1963  Dr. Paul Davies, Portland United Church of Christ, supplies pulpit.
8/4/1963  Dr. Haehlen is installed August 4.
11/24/1963  Several hundred attend memorial services at United Churches for slain President John F. Kennedy.
12/11/1963  Session reaffirms civil rights stand in a statement that urges congregation to support "Racial Justice."
5/1965  Major earthquake does not damage church, but the bell rings violently. Statehouse workers seek prayerful sanctuary in church.
6/1965  Church seeking assistant pastor to work with youth.
1/21/1966  Churches' names changed to The First United Presbyterian Church of Olympia and The First United Church of Christ of Olympia; together they become The United Churches of Olympia, Washington.
2/1966  The Council of Church Women of Thurston County becomes Church Women United.
3/20/1966  Phyllis Johnson resigns; accepts position with Millwood Presbyterian in Spokane; honored at church picnic.
5/4/1966  Dr. Haehlen appoints committee to study establishment of church near new state college west of Olympia.
12/6/1966  The United Churches celebrates its Golden Anniversary; Louis Bruno presides over banquet at Tyee.
2/1/1967  Committee formed to consider feasibility of saving old church building from being razed (First Presbyterian, built in 1861). Found unfeasible.
3/1/1967  Discussion in Session about paying city for essential services in lieu of taxes.
12/10/1967  The Rev. Robert Van Nest called from Edmonds Presbyterian Church.
9/1968  Church pays $200 to City of Olympia in lieu of taxes.
1/22/1969  Audrey Click (Mrs. James) and Peggy Knox (Mrs. Jerry) elected elders, the first women on session.
4/27/1969  Congregation votes to give Presbytery $6,000 saved for "Christian Witness" near the site of the new state college.
10/5/1969  Session approves continuing financial support for new church near college.

2/4/1970  Session votes to include a youth member.

5/20/1970  Walter McKibben represents Olympia Presbytery as delegate to General Assembly.

11/13/1970  Session votes to query all church families regarding their interest in being part of the new church being started near Evergreen College.

12/2/1970  First Christian Church asks for representatives from The United Churches to meet and discuss union.

12/1970  Board of managers approves $10,000 expenditure for repair and expansion of pipe organ.

1/19/1971  Dr. Maurice Haehlen resigns, saying church needs new leadership. Serves as interim pastor in churches throughout area; also serves as chaplain on the Ship of Hope in 1972 and 1973.


1/13/1972  Church has 1,157 members; 900 Presbyterian and 257 United Church of Christ.

5/11/1972  The United Churches calls David Kratz to be Assistant Minister. He previously served at Alki Congregational Church.


9/27/1973  The United Churches reiterates its relationship of cooperation and financial support for the newly-formed Community for Christian Celebration.

10/1/1973  The Rev. David Kratz ordained and installed as Assistant Minister.

10/28/1973  The Community for Christian Celebration is dedicated as a union church affiliated with The United Presbyterian and The United Church of Christ. The Rev. James Symons is installed as pastor.

11/29/1973  Patricia Hamilton, who attended Sunday School at The United Churches, is completing her ministerial training at Princeton Theological Seminary with the aid of the Washington-Idaho Conference of the United Church of Christ.

6/25/1974  The United Churches celebrates Congregational Church Centennial with a banquet.

9/1974  Holly Nursery School moves to The United Churches.


5/20/1975  By-laws revised to establish Church Council, which consolidates Board of Managers, Session and Christian Education Board.

6/15/1975  The Rev. Patricia Hamilton is ordained into UCC ministry and given pulpit robe by The United Churches congregation.

8/14/1975  Church sponsors first Vietnamese family, the Dungs.

1/20/1976  Sixty-year celebration of the Federation is observed at the annual meeting. Marguerite Coulter, Arleta Coulter, Faith Kaffenberger, Merle Junk, Carrie Meyer, Florence Briggs, Margaret Brownlee, Marion Lemon, Mildred Lemon, Gladys Johnson and Elsie Cles are honored; all members at the time of federation.


12/9/1976  Long range planning committee proposes remodeling and expansion of existing church building. Chan Sogge is designer.


2/27/1977  Congregation votes to begin financial campaign for renovation and remodeling.

5/14/1977  Jon Hubbell is elected chairperson and Allen Madison, vice-chairperson of Building Committee.

8/21/1977  Parish zones established.

3/13/1978  The Church Council votes to support Pastor Paul McCann’s doctoral studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary, approving released time and educational funding.

3/18/1979  Four prayer chains formed.


5/20/1979  Lu Mills retires as office manager; honored for service to church.


1979  The Rev. L. D. McNall serves as part-time pulpit and visitation pastor.

1/17/1980  Elder David Webster is installed as Moderator of Olympia Presbytery.
Membership Roll of the First Presbyterian Church 1920

Abbott, W. J.
Abbott, Mrs. Eva F.
Abel, Mrs. H. V.
Alger, Mrs. Emily J.
Alger, Charlotte
Alger, Addie M.
Allen, Mrs. James C.
Allen, Laura (Mrs. H. F.)
Allen, Tom Payne
Aiken, Colleen
Anderson, Mrs. Margaret
Anderson, Magnus G.
Anderson, Bertha E. (Mrs. M. G.)
Aspinwall, George D.
Axtell, Mrs. Rachel J.
Axtell, Mrs. Ella J.
Bateson, John James
Bateson, Dorathia (Mrs. J. J.)
Bailey, Dorothy
Baker, Mrs. H. E.
Baron, Mrs. W. E.
Ball, Mrs. Maude
Ball, Rollin J.
Ball, Ardis
Barbour, Charles H.
Barbour, Sarah (Mrs. C. H.)
Barnes, F. C.
Barnes, Mrs. F. C.
Bateman, Mrs. Margaret E.
Bateman, Ella V.
Bateman, Vera Amy
Bateman, Gladys Margaret
Beatty, Mrs. Mary J.
Beatty, Adelaide
Beeline, Elsie Evera
Bigelow, Mrs. Ray L.
Billing, Mrs. Jeannette M.
Bixler, Mrs. Elizabeth M.
Brazel, Linda M. (Mrs. B. P.)
Brazel, Ethel May
Brazel, Walter Charles
Brownlee, Charles F.
Brownlee, Viola A. (Mrs. C. F.)
Brownlee, Evelyn
Brownlee, Margaret
Brownlee, Charles F., Jr.
Brownlee, Archibald

Beall, Bevis
Brewer, Harold T.
Baker, Opal (Mrs. A. C.)
Baker, Kenneth
Burnstead, Mrs. Olive

Calderhead, O. O.
Calderhead, Alice (Mrs. O.O.)
Cameron, Mrs. Mary Ann
Campbell, Mrs. George R.
Chandler, Mrs. Susan M.
Chesser, Anna (Mrs. W. A.)
Chesser, Marie
Christensen, Mrs. Thomas C.
Coggswell, Frances (Mrs. F. P.)
Coggswell, Frances Lucile
Coggswell, Pearl Theta
Conant, Ernest Elton
Cornell, Mrs. Clarissa C.
Cornell, Marian Elizabeth
Cotter, F. P.
Cotter, Mary A.
Cotter, Waldo Walter
Cotter, Leo L.
Cotter, Avita
Cotter, Margaret
Crane, Mrs. Agnes L.
Croll, Mrs. Samantha
Crook, Ralph Earl
Chilson, Leila
Chilson, Doris
Churchill, Berdie
Colman, Ruth
Collier, Mrs. Effie M.
Coller, Ira Leonurd
Collier, Olive Irene
Copeland, H. L.
Copeland, Mrs. H. L.
Copeland, Paul W.
Coppermagne, Margaret (Mrs. J. W.)

Davis, H. E.
Delbridge, Anna Bell (Mrs. E. J.)
Delbridge, Doris Isabel
Devlin, Gressel
Devlin, Sarah Ann

Dill, Mrs. Lilian M.
Dill, Roy B.
Dill, Francis Ross
Dinsmore, Mrs. Sarah E.
Dinsmore, Charles B.
Dinsmore, Arminta (Mrs. C. B.)
Dittman, Amelia G.
 Docherty, Emily (Mrs. H. F.)
Douglas, G. H.
Douglas, Jessie Louise (Mrs. A. J.)
Dunning, Roy Guy

Eastman, Mrs. Isabel
Egbert, Dana (Mrs. Dr. C.)
Elder, Una Lee Fay
Elwell, Robert W.
Elwell, Eve E. (Mrs. R. W.)
Elwell, Miriam Stewart
Elwell, Margaret

Faria, Naif P.
Fishback, Herbert O.
Fishback, Sallie (Mrs. H. O.)
Fishback, George Fletcher
Fisher, Ella
French, Mrs. C. Viola
Fry, Robert H.
Fry, Cora May (Mrs. R. H.)
Fry, Harvey
Fry, Roberta Frances
Field, Ella
Fixtch, Edward P.

Gardner, Edward P.
Gardner, Natlie (Mrs. E. P.)
Gaston, George
Gaston, Isabel (Mrs. G.)
Gaston, Anna B.
Garsang, Dorothy
Gray, Ruth E.
Grady, Helen
Greenbank, G. Herbert
Greenbank, Adelaide (Mrs. G. H.)
Greenbank, Herbert Archer
Greenbank, Paul Raymer
Gunstone, Walter
Gunstone, Neta (Mrs. W.)
Gunstone, Allen
Gunstone, Jacob
Gunstone, Agnes (Mrs. J.)

Hall, Albert M.
Hall, Margaret (Mrs. A. M.)
Hall, Mary Newcomb
Hall, Elizabeth Jane
Hall, Mrs. John (mother)
Harrington, Lee W.
Hargraves, Mrs. John
Haycox, Arthur John
Haycox, Emma (Mrs. A. J.)
Haycox, Arthul James
Haycox, Ralph Richard

Haycox, Harris
Haycox, William
Hayes, Mrs. Elizabeth C.
Heckler, Elisa Henry
Heckler, Nelle L. (Mrs. E. H.)
Heinze, Harry C.
Heinzelman, Clara (Mrs. H. F.)
Heinzelman, Roy
Heinzelman, Henry R.
Hickman, Pearl
Hollenbeck, Esther
Hopkins, Ernest L.
Hopkins, Nettie E. (Mrs. E. L.)
Hosler, Mrs. Elmina J.
Howey, Verna Loraine
Howey, Clyde Rolland
Howell, Josie L.
Huggett, Mrs. Charlotte A.
Huggett, Mrs. Lovina J.
Huggett, Monte L.
Huggett, Ruth J.
Huggett, Faith Elizer

Inlay, Frank D.
Inlay, Edith Eliza
Jeffers, Charles
Jeffers, Helma (Mrs. C.)
Jeffers, Lila May
Jeffers, Sidney C.
Jeffers, Alice Mabel
Jeffers, Clara Bell
Jenson, Mrs. Marie
Jones, Maude A. (Mrs. F. W.)
Jones, Edward F.
Jones, Mary Adele (Mrs. E. F.)
Jones, Lacey R.
Jones, Bertha
Jones, Aline
Jones, Mrs. Mary
Johnson, Kate L. (Mrs. A. W.)
Johnson, Ruth
Johnson, Katherine
Johnson, Frederick
Johnson, Harold
Johnson, Robert
Junk, James C.
Junk, Lucretia (Mrs. J. C.)
Junk, Elva
Junk, Merle

Kegley, T. J.
Kegley, Ronald J.
Kincade, Dr. Robert
Kirendal, Mrs. Martha A.
Klein, Herman
Klein, Martha
Klumb, Ruth Carol
Kotnick, Mildred A.

Langridge, Robert
Langridge, Ellen Grace
Lawson, Mrs. Daniel E.
Leach, Elmer G.
Parr, Harry L.
Parr, Evelyn G. (Mrs. H. L.)
Plummer, Mrs. Cassie L.
Post, Roy M.
Post, Rose (Mrs. R. M.)
Rambo, Pearl M.
Redpath, Dr. N. J.
Redpath, Lucy (Mrs. Dr. N. J.)
Redpath, Katherine
Redpath, Nathaniel J., Jr.
Rogers, Charlotte
Sanderson, John
Sanderson, Annie B. (Mrs. J.)
Stents, John B.
Stents, Bertie May (Mrs. J. B.)
Stents, Waldo W.
Strachan, Ella L.
Strock, Charles E.
Strock, Clara M. (Mrs. C. E.)
Strock, Marie Elizabeth
Strock, Edgar H.
Strock, Howard H.
Strock, William T.
Sundahl, Menno S.
Sundahl, Henry R.
Sapp, Bernice A.
Sapp, Claude
Sapp, Harold
Schultz, Mrs. Barbara
Schultz, Tillie
Schooeder, William F.
Senev, Mrs. John
Straight, Besse May
Shahan, Mrs. Carl
Simpson, Maude (Mrs. T. H.)
Skaar, Mrs. Emma
Skidmore, Henry M.
Skidmore, Mary (Mrs. H. M.)
Skylabaya, Celia
Strange, Inez (Mrs. Roy)

Talbot, Levi A.
Taylor, Janette
Taylor, Helen G.
Tanner, Ruth
Thompson, Grace
Tier, Sadie Sapp (Mrs. W. F.)
Tucker, W. Frank
Tucker, Violet (Mrs. F.)
Turner, Florence
Turner, Mrs. Henry O.
Tyler, Albert Wilson
Tyler, Margaerite (Mrs. A. W.)
Tyler, Charles P.
Tyler, Wilson
Van Andale, Harry E.
Van Andale, Mrs. H. E.
Van Eaton, Albert M.
Van Eaton, Fannie
Van Dever, Mrs. Maude E.

Wolfe, Clifford J.
Wolfe, Lizzie M. (Mrs. C. J.)
Wolfe, Lennom C.
Wolfe, Mrs. Mary A.
Wolfe, Jennie G. (Mrs. L.)
Wood, Ray F.
Wood, Alice (Mrs. R. F.)
Work, William W.
Work, Muriel
Woodruff, Mrs. Julie E.
Warouts, Lillian C.
Westover, Vera Esther
Wiley, Mrs. Nancy J.
Wiley, Esther

Membership Roll of the First Congregational Church 1920

Abbott, Raymond L.
Abbott, Mrs. R. L.
Anderson, Grace E.

Abram, Len L.
Abram, Jessie (Mrs. L. L.)
Abram, Ethel
Abram, Gerald
Abram, Grove T.
Abram, Ethel (Mrs. G. T.)
Bell, Margaret (Mrs. G. O.)
Bales, Sarah (Mrs. F. G.)
Brewer, Florence (Mrs. J.)
Brewer, Lois
Briggs, Mrs. Martha
Briggs, Harry Perry
Briggs, Jessie (Mrs. H. P.)
Briggs, John W.
Briggs, Florence (Mrs. J. W.)
Brown, Mrs. Jacob
Brown, Theodore

Campbell, George R.
Campbell, Lona (Mrs. R. G.)
Campbell, Royal T.
Campbell, Ruth C. (Mrs. R. T.)
Chandler, Winifred (Mrs. E. M.)
Chandler, Dorathia
Chandler, Milam
Chaplain, Florence (Mrs. E. S.)
Clark, Lida (Mrs. A. W.)
Clark, Wendel
Criddle, Fred J.
Criddle, Kate (Mrs. F. J.)
Criddle, Carol
Criddle, Dora

Dalton, Effie (Mrs. R. L.)
Day, Ivy E. (Mrs. F. R.)
Davis, J. W.

Wilson, Mary (Mrs. R. J.)
Wilson, Nancy Lucile
Wilson, Irene R.
Williams, Robert Roy
Williams, Margaret May
Wright, Jean Bowman (Mrs. R. G.)

Yantis, John V.
Yantis, Margaret (Mrs. J. V.)
Yantis, Faith
Yantis, George F.
Yantis, Ruth (Mrs. G. F.)
Young, Carl L.
Young, Ruth (Mrs. C. L.)

Twenty Six

Diven, Mrs. Lou C.
Dunbar, Mrs. Clara
Duncan, Charles S.

Eads, Chester
Eads, Daphne (Mrs. C.)
Eads, Curtis
Eads, Margaret
Erskine, Laura (Mrs. W. H.)
Erskine, Ralph
Erskine, Martin

Flagg, Horatio C.
Funk, Goldie R. (Mrs. G. H.)
Funk, Clara
Filley, Mrs. Lou J.

Glidden, Arno F.
Glidden, Christine (Mrs. A. F.)
Gilbert, Percy
Gilbert, Clara (Mrs. P.)
Gibbs, Thomas E.

Hall, George A.
Hall, Ina W. (Mrs. G. A.)
Horton, Inez (Mrs. E.)
Horton, Gladys

Loomis, Ella R.
Loomis, Kate (Mrs. E. R.)
Loomis, Hazel
Loomis, Herbert D.
Loomis, Amelia (Mrs. H. D.)
Lord, Elizabeth (Mrs. C. J.)
Lord, Helen
Lewis, Fred W.
Lewis, Ada J. (Mrs. F. W.)
Leghorn, J. Malcolm
Leghorn, Helen
The United Churches of Olympia was built in two stages, in 1951 and 1955, when the completed church building was dedicated. The church had 800 members when construction began. Cost of the building and furnishings was $410,000. In the belfry hangs the 100-year-old bell first hung in the "Little White Church." Mementos from its two pioenere parent churches were included in the Memory Chapel. The mortgage was retired in 1965.
UNITED CHURCHES
Membership Directory
1980

(* DENOTES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

Ackerman, Carl & Doris
Adams, *Hattie (Mrs. Basil)
Adkins, Doris
Agnew, Margaret (Mrs. Clifford)
Ajay, Ivar & May
Akins, Wifred & Ruth
Alexander, Garry & Sally
Amy
Alexander, Gini (Mrs. Douglas)
Allen, Galen & Marie
Allen, Walker & Tresa
Buddy, Guy, Tim
Allman, *Marthena (Mrs. Major)
Almy, *Loren & *Jean
Anders, Jeff & Jayne
Anderson, *Frank & *Colleen
Anderson, Harold
Anderson, *Phyllis (Mrs. Myles T.)
Anderson, *Scott & *Kathy
Anderson, Tom & Mary Beth
Andrews, Eugene & *Marjory
*Nancy
Annen, Russell & Eva
Armstrong, Jack & *Karen
Armstrong, Leslie & *Eva
Arrowsmith, Margaret (Mrs.)
Ashburn, Laura (Mrs. E. W.)
Austin, Philip & Peggy
James, Ellen, Shelley
Barter, Jessie (Mrs. W. F.)
Batd, Jim & Sharon
Baker, *Ray & *Chris
Bals, Fred & Betty Ann
Barkley, Laurie (Mrs. Michael D.)
Barrows, Margaret
Bassett, Harold & Ruth
Baxter, Ginni (Mrs. Steve J.)
Bell, Joseph & Helen
Bennett, Mary (Mrs. W. L.)
Bennett, Marie (Mrs. G. S.)
Bennett, *Maude (Mrs. W. A. G.)
Berg, Palmer Jr. & Judith
Berta
Berg, *Thomas
Bergstrom, *Robert
Berry, Lloyd & Susan
Blythe, Keith, Glenn, Wayne
Beyer, Bertie (Mrs.)
Holly
Beyer, Beth
Bigelow, *Bob & *Betty
Black, Tom & Sharon
Blackburn, Helen
Blanchard, *Bob & *Dorothy

Clinton, *Mary (Mrs. Dave)
Cole, *Robert & *Josephine
*Deborah
Conant, Ralph & Dorothy
Conner, Margaret (Mrs. John)
Cook, Stuart & Gertrude
Coulier, Arletta & Margaret
Countryman, *Linda
Cowen, John & Jackie
Cox, Earl & Mariane
Crabb, Jack & Marlys
Cromford, Ron & Marjorie
Crook, Fred & Norma

Douglas
Crump, *Esther (Mrs. Eugene)
Cushman, Dan & Julie
*Leslie
Cutler, Dorothy
Dalal, *Esher (Mrs. Odal)
Darnell, Richard & Joanna
Davenport, Margaret (Mrs. H. L.)
Deck, David
Deck, Marjorie (Mrs.)

Delaney, Leah (Mrs.)
Dever, Ralph & Alma
Dewhurst, *Janet
Dikes, Susan
Dinsmore, Faith (Mrs. O. R.)
Dixon, Robert & Becky
Downs, *Wilma (Mrs. W. W.)
Drenthens, Harry & Joan
Laura
Dunn, Carol (Mrs. Robert)
Dunn, *Shirely (Mrs. C. R.)
Eames, Mike & Lani
Eaton, Liz (Mrs. Curtis)

Edge, Lyla (Mrs. E. L.)
Edlund, Ian & Marjorie
Edmundson, Bill & Dorothy
Paul, John, Ruth
Edwards, John & Jo
Edwards, *Marland & *Naomi
Eichler, Eda (Mrs. Fred)
Elder, Roger
Feldering, Jeanne (Mrs.)
Elliot, Nancy (Mrs. Mark P.)
Enslow, Michael & Elaine
Emerson, Van
Erickson, *Betty (Mrs. Don)
Ernst, Don & Patty

*Gretchen

Evans, *Dan & *Nancy
Everly, Jim (Mrs. Ed)
Finn, *Shirley (Mrs. Earl L.)
Finnell, Evelyn (Mrs. J. B.)
Foote, *Gary & *Liz
*Anne, *Mark
Fountain, *Pat (Mrs. Donn)
Fratlcy, Richard & Jacqueline
Friedland, Gladys (Mt. C.A.)
Froehling, Eleanor (Mrs. Kermit)
Frost, *Bryan

Frost, Sandra (Mrs.)
Fuller, *Jeanne (Mrs. R. L.)
Fulwiler, Agnes (Mrs. Q. R.)
Funkhouser, Robert & Colle
Susan, Karen
Fusco, Steven & Marie
Gadd, *Erma (Mrs.)
Gale, Wilma (Mrs. George)
Gallagher, James & Dorothy
Gardner, Mabel (Mrs. A. R.)
Gassman, William & Marilyn
Mullen, Joe Box
Gault, Roseanna (Mrs. G. A.)
Geister, Richard & Sue
Wendy
Gentry, Wayne
Gilby, Phyllly (Mrs. Ralph)
Gildow, *Florence (Mrs. Elton M.)
Giles, Allen & Betty
Giovannini, Roberta (Mrs. James)
Glenn, George & Helen
Glover, Edith (Mrs. S. L.)
Goosen, Daphne (Mrs. Phillip)
Gould, Joel & Linda
Graham, Eleanor
Grant, Richard & June
Linda, Karen, Pamela
Gray, Dennis & Karen
Gregory, *Margaret
Grenoncort, Goldie (Mrs.)
Griffith, Chauncy & Marion
Grindstaff, Mark & Pam
Grindstaff, William & Joanna
Groeschel, Robert & *Wilma
*Roger
Gunthner, Louise
Gunstone, George & Kathryn
Haddad, Dale & Kay
Haeflen, *Maurice & *Dorothy
Haight, James & Barbara
Haight, Elizabeth & Corrie
Halbur, *Canrad & *Sandy
*Tamara, Jodi
Halbur, *Margaret (Mrs. Garry)
Hall, Michael & Ginny
Hamilton, Lucy (Mrs. John)
Hamilton (Tricia – see Sanford)
Hammer, Erwin & Catherine
Hanna, Clifford & Muriel
Hardenbrook, *Jes
Hardin, Ralph & Elise
Harding, Roger & Betty
Joan, Janice
Harlan, Melvin & Skip
*Clay
Harson, Rebecca (Mrs. Ben)
Hart, *Jeanette (Mrs.)
Hartley, William & Virginia
Hattersleay, Joseph & Elsie
Hayas, *Atlee (Mrs.)
Hayes, *Charles & Helen*
Hayes, Craigton & Florence
Hays, Kathy (Mrs. Mark)
Heath, Sharon (Mrs. Richard)
Krause, *Jon & *Ann
Krause, *Lorena (Mrs. K. H.)
Kreidler, *Mike & *Lea
Kuhrt, *Connie (Mrs. Roger)
LaFors, Dale & Allie
LaMoresca, Lola (Mrs. Paul)
Lapham, *Helen & *Grace
Lapp, *Shirley (Mrs. Orville)
Lassen, Gerald & Cinny
Lattin, Victor & Carolyn
Lawrence, Lorr
LeClair, Roger & Mig
Leenhouts, Louise (Mrs. H. P.)
Lennon, *Marion (Mrs. Gerry)
Leonard, James & Judith
Kelly
Leonard, *William & *Lorene
Lewis, *Art & *Alice
Lewis, Melvin & Marion
Lewis, Nick & Judy
Leslie
Lienkemper, *Gertrude
Lin, Peter & May
Longmire, Gary & Nancy
Lowell, Nancy (Mrs. Douglas)
Joan
Loyd, Juanita (Mrs. L. J.)
Lundberg, *Dan
Lundberg, *Margaret (Mrs. Marvin)
Lundgaard, Robert & Laura
*Mindy, Jeff
Lyon, Marion (Mrs. D. D.)
MacDonald, *Leona (Mrs. D. A.)
MacDonald, *Louse (Mrs. Donald)
MacGregor, Gretchen (Mrs. Alex)
MacInnis, Waldo & *Betty
Madison, *Allen & *Mozell
Mailman, William & Janet
Marcile, *Walter & *Jessie
Markich, Lois (Mrs. George)
Richard
Martin, Pine (Mrs. Don)
Martin, Tom
Martin, Ellen (Mrs. H. T.)
Mason, Milton & Dorothy
Masse, Neva (Mrs. E. L.)
Massey, Ruth (Mrs. Martin)
Douglas
Masson, Mary (Mrs. Donald)
Matchette, Dwaine
Donna
Mathes, Miriam (Mrs. H. B.)
Mattheis, Linda (Mrs.)
McArthur, Laver (Mrs.)
McCann, Patricia (Mrs. Paul F.)
Brent, Melinda, Joey
McCarty, Helen
McCarty, LeeRoy & Gloria
McCauley, Cary
McCauley, Karen (Mrs.)
McCormick, Lucile (Mrs. F. A.)
McCoy, Bob & Lois
McCrow, Wendell & Leona
McKillop, Edward & Margaret
McDonald, Edward & Evelyn
McDonald, *Wesley & *Clare
McDougall, Don & Ferne
Heather
McDowell, Jeanie
McElroy, Pat & Roberta
McEvoy, Lloyd & Helen
McKibben, Walter & Alice
McMurray, Lucretia (Mrs. L. D.)
McNeil, Mary Lee (Mrs. L. D.)
McPherson, Barbara (Mrs. J. B.)
Heather
Medsky, Beverly (Mrs. Henry)
Meeker, *Gertrude (Mrs. O. J.)
Messer, Lucille (Miss)
McMillan, Barbara (Mrs. Fred)
Meyer, Edith (Mrs. Gus)
Mickey, *Art & *Rosemary
Miesse, *Helen (Mrs. A. W.)
Miles, Orville & Theresa
Miller, *Elizabeth (Mrs. M. S.)
Miller, *Helen (Mrs. Charles)
Miller, John & Margaret
David, Liz
Miller, Lesley (Mrs. Glen)
Mills, Lu (Mrs. Robert A.)
Minns, Ann (Mrs. Gary)
Mitchell, Kenneth & Dore
Monahan, *Frank & *Christy
Morris, Alice
Naden, Don & Irene
Neely, Malcolm & Barbara
Nelson, Elmer & Myrtle
Neff, Catherine (Mrs. Paul)
Newborg, Ruth (Mrs.)
Newman, Edna (Mrs. Albert)
Nelson, Harold & Nancy
Noltein, Edna (Mrs. E. J.)
Offer, Clara (Mrs. Alfred)
Olsen, *Frances (Mrs. Alfred)
Oliver, *Elbert & Helen
Oliver, R. T. *Terry & Judy
Olsen, *Myrtle (Mrs. Roy)
Olsen, May (Mrs. Ernie)
Olsen, Sid & Ann
Oren, Del & Joanne
Osberg, Mildred (Mrs. A. L.)
Ostleander, *Grace (Mrs. Ray)
Parrott, O. D. & Ethel
Parsons, Alfred & Christine
Parsons, William & Lyla
Patterson, Helen (Mrs. Chris)
Peck, Fred & Lucille
Peck, Lola (Mrs. L. F.)
Peeters, Anne (Mrs. Neil)
Pinson, Lawrence & Erma
Hammond, Helen (Mrs. George)
Price, Cecil & Jimmie
Prince, *Lois & *Barbara
Query, Jack & Edith
Radcliffe, *Bill & *Mary Ann
*Kerry, *Kimmery
Ramius, Margaret (Mrs. Joseph)
Ramey, *Maudie
Rasp, *Alfred & *Betty
Ray, Weldon & Jane
Reas, *Leola (Mrs.)
Reeves, *Irene (Mrs. W. L.)
Reiley, Robert & Helen
Reynard, David & Barbara
Clerc
Reser, Everett & Letia
Rhinehart, Dorothy (Mrs. Ken)
Robb, *Stephen & Eunice
Roberson, Robert & Florence
Robinson, Elsworth & Florence
Rose, *Charles & Marilyn
Sharon
Rogers, Herb
Rogers, Janet (Mrs.)
Robbeck, Marion (Mrs. A. L.)
Rowley, Ruth (Mrs. Glenn)
Rudgren, Ralph & Jacqueline
Jeffrey, Marcie, Terry
Rush, Vern & Sandy
Russell, Mary
Russell, Robert & Virginia
Rutledge, Raymond & Vera
Sainsbury, *James & *Shirley
*Chris
Salisbury, Lois (Mrs. George)
Sanford, Tom & *Tricia (Hamilton)
Schertler, Vera (Mrs. Clarence)
Schorrman, *Martha (Mrs. Reinhold)
Scheeder, Rebecca (Mrs. A. A.)
Schultze, *Ronald & *Judy
Schuster, William & Julia
Schurke, *Loren & *Alice
Scott, Doug
Scott, Stanley & Roberta
Terry
Seaman, Dick & Sharon
Shamburg, Neil & Lillian
Shanafelt, *Craig & *Kristy
Shansafelt, George & June
Shank, Helen (Mrs.)
Sheid, *Viola (Mrs. Loren)
Sherrell, *Carol (Mrs. Chad)
Shields, *George & Helen
Shipley, David & Ann
Sholund, *Betty (Mrs. Ron)
Shold, Gene & Margaret
Siegrist, Gillian (Mrs.)
Siewert, *Paul & *Viola
Simon, Lela (Mrs. Autumn)
Simon, *Lucien & *Faye
Simpson, Edna (Mrs. Earl)
Sischo, Jack & *Jean
Sisson, Edna (Mrs. Eugene)
Skarz, Otho & Leon
Skinner, *Curt & *Mary Gail
Smith, Mary (Mrs. Don B.)
Smith, Kathleen (Mrs. Edwin)
Out of Town Members

(*DENOTES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)

Burns, *Louann (Groeschell)  
(Mrs. Daniel)
Burton, Pauline (Mrs. H. E.)
Calkins, Anna (Mrs. F. D.)
Capili, Leah (Prince)
Carpenter, Gertrude (Mrs. Archie)
Clark, Thyrza (Mrs. Robert C.)
Cole, *Brian
Corcoran, Glenn & Becky
Deering, Pearl (Mrs. Thomas)
Dixon, Larry
Dunn, Dorothy
Dungan, Esther (Mrs. Kenneth)
English, J. O. & Grace
Fitzgerald, William & Mary
Hagen, "Betsy" (Eaton) (Mrs. Kevan)
Hagen, Margaret (Mrs. Ralph)
Hartley, Jim
Henry, Mark
Jacobson, Linda

Jayne, W. W. & Margaret
Kennedy, *Gale
Kirwood, *Ann (Mrs. Alvin Bunch)
Kratz, *David
Lemon, Mildred
McGibbon, Edith
McGibbon, James
Miholland, Michael
Olson, Margaret (Jacobson) (Mrs. Paul)
Raubacher, *Diane (Massey)  
(Mrs. Douglas)
Reeves, Dena
Reynaud, David A.
Russel, Elizabeth (Mrs. Joseph)
Schoelkopf, Jim
Shanafelt, Kaylene (Jennings) (Mrs. Steve)
Sherman, *William & *Jessamine
Southworth, Carol
Springer, *Deborah (Harter) (Mrs. Neal)
Starrett, Ray & Bertha
Strom, Roy & Buela
Wernel, Hazel (Mrs. E. R.)
Wicner, Steven
Whitney, Terry
Wood, Charlotte (Mrs.)
Ministers of the
United Churches of Olympia

Dates Minister & Significant Events of Ministry
1917-1920 HARRY S. TEMPLETON
Women’s League formed; 325 members (1917); city divided into zones with deacon or elder responsible for each.

1920-1921 J. W. COUNTERMINE

1921-1928 THOMAS W. SIMPSON
First church broadcasts on KGY. Community House purchased.

1928-1932 FRANK E. CARLSON

1933 SHERMAN L. DEVINE (Jan. - Nov.)

1934-1938 L. WENDELL TAYLOR
“Voice of United Churches” first printed in 1935; new pipes added to organ.

1938-1947 DWIGHT C. SMITH
Move to plan new church on land donated by Lemons; old church damaged in earthquake.

1948-1962 J. EDGAR PEARSON III
Church at Eleventh and Washington built; 1099 members (1960).

WILLIAM PERRY MccORMICK

1963-1971 MAURICE L. HAEHLEN
Mortgage retired.

1971- PAUL McCANN
Church enlarged and renovated; 811 members (1980).

Other Ministerial Staff of the United Churches

1957-1966 PHYLLIS JOHNSON
First Director of Christian Education

1966-1967 RICHARD JACOBSEN
Assistant Minister

1968-1971 ROBERT VAN NEST
Associate Minister

1972-1979 DAVID KRATZ
Associate Minister

1980 SHERYL E. LAUBACH PETERSON
Associate Minister

Directors of Christian Education

May 26, 1957 - March 20, 1966 Phyllis Johnson

Christian Education Coordinators were hired to fill the place of Director of Christian Education.

1966 - June 1968 Dorothy Blanchard (Mrs. Robert)

Three age-level Coordinators were hired in 1968 on part-time basis.

1968 - 1971 Phyllis Van Nest (Mrs. Robert)
1968 - 1973 Erma Pinson (Mrs. Lawrence)
1971 - 1972 Audrey Clink (Mrs. James)
1974 - 1976 Becky Corcoran (Mrs. Glen)
1976 Patricia Hamilton
1976-1980 Sandy Frost

In 1980 Sandy Frost was hired as full-time Coordinator.

Choir Directors of The United Churches

1923-1924 Mrs. A. W. Tyler
1931-1947 Stanley Starr
1948-1951 Marguerite Agnew
1951-1953 Stanley Starr
1954-1957 Leslie Armstrong
1958-1959 Richard Koehler
1960 Delores Olson
1960-1962 Philip Paulsrude
1963 Louis Owens
1963-1965 David Zeverbergen
1965-1967 Dan Russell
1967-1973 Ross Stover
1963-1975 Mrs. R. K. (Patricia) Carino
1975- Mrs. Nicholas (Judith) Lewis

Organists of The United Churches

1923-1924 Mrs. A. C. Baker
1929-1943 Fred Flahaut
1944 Mrs. Luedeker
1945-1949 Fred Flahaut
1949-1950 Mrs. Frank (Erma) Hunt
1951-1955 Fred Flahaut
1956-1957 Mrs. Frank (Erma) Hunt
1957-1958 Edwin Neuman
1958 Mrs. Frank (Erma) Hunt
1960-1961 Ann Erickson
1963-1976 Mrs. Edwin (Eva) Neuman
1976- Mrs. Nicholas (Judith) Lewis
Presidents of the Women's League of The United Churches

1917-1918 Mrs. R. O. Dunbar
1919 Mrs. Delbridge (Mrs. Drees' mother)
1920 Mrs. Arno (Christine) Glidden
1921 Mrs. Robert (Eva) Elwell
1922 Mrs. Lucien D. McArdle
1923 Mrs. Clyde (Dora Howie)
1924-1925 (Records missing)
1926 Mrs. Newton Bader
1927 Mrs. S. M. Henderson
1928 Mrs. Lucien D. McArdle
1929 Mrs. E. H. Hansen
1930 Mrs. George (Ina) Hall
1931 (Records missing)
1932 Mrs. Varney
1933 Mrs. Miller
1934 Mrs. Curtis Egbert
1935 Mrs. Ross K. (Ella) Tiffany
1936 Mrs. E. A. Fitzherny (served one month)
1937 Mrs. H. N. (Emma) Bouley
1938 Mrs. Humphry (Estoria) Williams
1939 Mrs. George (Emma) O'Bryan
1940 Mrs. E. H. (Edna) Sisson
1941 Mrs. Don (Erma) Lewis
1942 Mrs. Curtis (Dana) Egbert (resigned in September)
1943 Mrs. Harry (Henrietta) Lindley
1944 Mrs. Otto (Esther) Jacobson
1945 Mrs. C. M. (Frances) Kirsop
1946-1947 Mrs. Charles Phillips
1948 Mrs. Edward (Hattie) Thompson
1949 Mrs. E. H. (Edna) Sisson
1950 Mrs. Alvin (Frances) Hartley
1951 Mrs. L. L. (Laura) Webster
1952-1953 Mrs. Charles (Beth) Schaefer
1954-1955 Mrs. W. A. G. (Maude) Bennett
1956-1957 Mrs. A. R. (Frances) Hartley
1958-1959 Mrs. Glenn I. (Ruth) Rowley
1960-1961 Mrs. J. L. (Laura) Webster
1962-1963 Mrs. A. R. (Frances) Hartley
1963-1964 Mrs. W. A. G. (Maude) Bennett
1965-1966 Mrs. Lyman (Nancy) Hopkins
1967-1968 Mrs. George (Ruth) Andrews
1969-1970 Mrs. Jacob (Fae) Siegler
1971 Mrs. William (Ruth) Akins
1972-1973 Lucille Messer
1974 Mrs. Maurice (Helen) Jacobsen
1975 Mrs. Roger (Mig) LeClerc
1976-1977 Mrs. James (Evelyn) Finnell
1978 Mrs. Robert (Alma) Bratton
1979-1980 Mrs. Mel (Esther) Knox

Bibliography


Pioneer and Democrat, (Olympia, Washington Territory), November 11, 1954.


