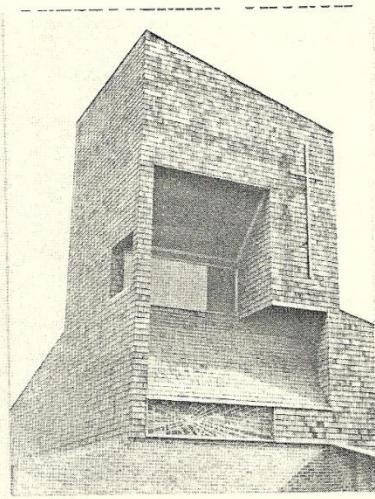
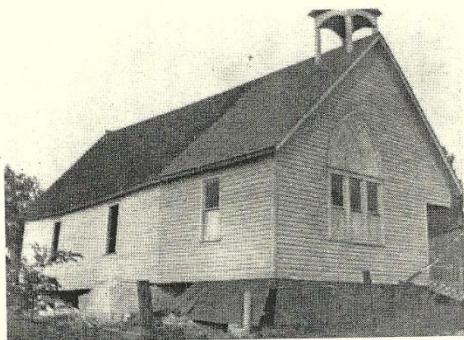
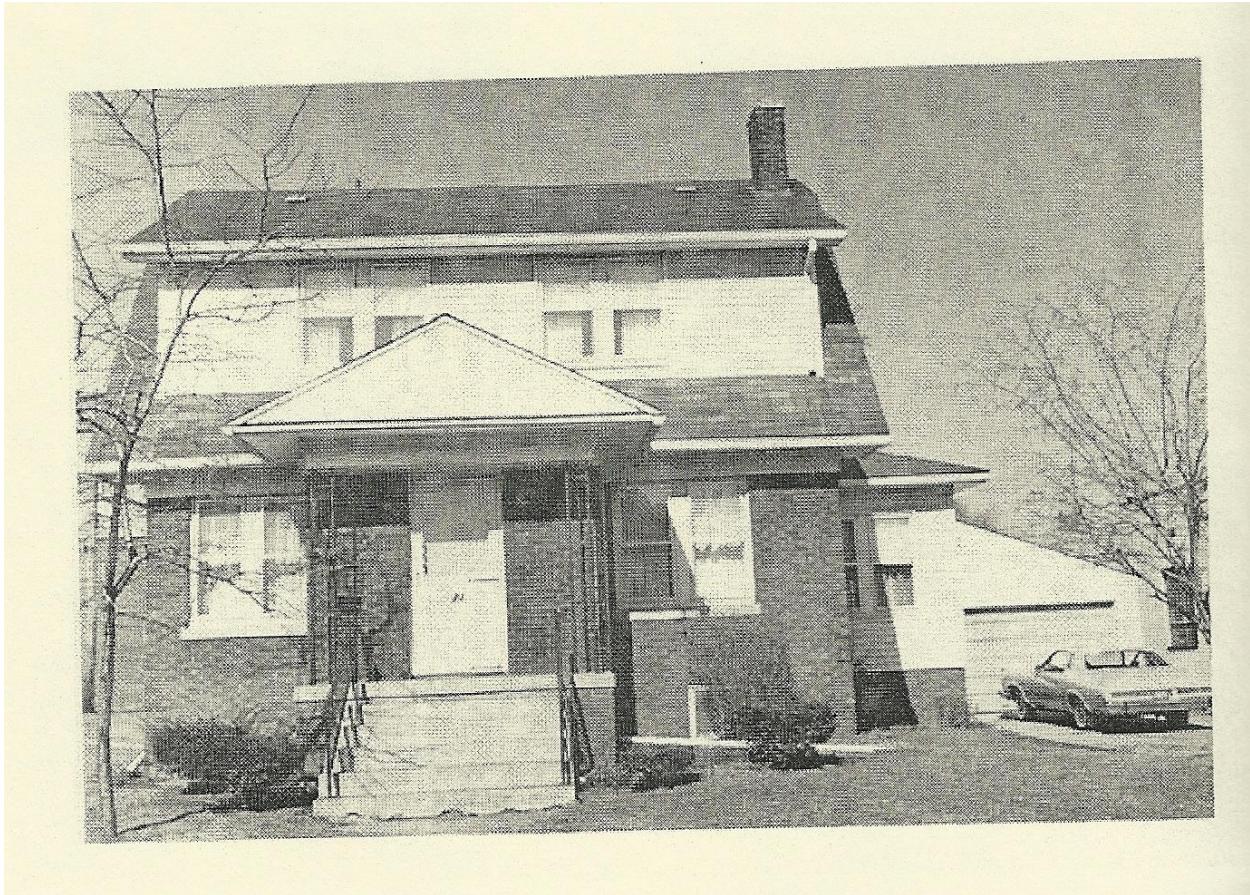


The Presbyterian Presence: Ecorse Presbyterian Church, 1910 Through Eternity





Message From the Manse

Never in my wildest theological dreams did I image that I would return to Ecorse after a 40 odd year absence and live in the Presbyterian manse where the mythical Reverend Leonard Duckett and his family had lived. But God has a way of working in our lives – ministerial and non-ministerial- and I swept the leaves off the front porch in early October 2004 and laid in a supply of bird seed and rock salt for the Michigan winter.

I thank God for the privilege of writing the history of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, the church that I was baptized in and grew up in, the church of my grandparents, and for a time, the church of my parents. My Grandfather and Grandmother Robson loved this church and served it well. I hope that this history does the same.

Kathy Covert Warnes

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The Presbyterian Presence

1870-Sunday School in Ecorse

1907- A group of Ecorse young people, members of the Wyandotte Baptist Church, but living in Ecorse, organize a mission Sunday School.

1910-The Ecorse Presbyterian Church is organized and chartered on September 12, 1910, with 51 charter members.

1912- A wind storm demolishes the old white frame church on the corner of Monroe and Cicotte Streets.

1914- The red brick church on the corner of Jefferson and Outer Drive was dedicated and served the congregation and community for over 60 years.

1926-The manse is built behind the church.

1931- Reverend Leonard Duckett assumed the pastorate of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church and provided a strong, steady Christian influence for 25 years.

1953-The Leonard Duckett Center is built to serve the church and community as an activities building.

1956-1958- The Ecorse project, headed by Reverend Orin Hopper, Reverend David Lowry, and Reverend George Coleman, extended a two year ministry into the large industrial plants of Ecorse. Ecorse Presbyterian Church reaches its peak membership during these years with over 400 members.

1960- Ecorse Presbyterian Church marks its 50th anniversary with a weeklong Golden Jubilee Celebration.

1970-The new Ecorse Presbyterian Church is dedicated on February 20, 1970.

1979-December 2, 1979. The Mortgage Burning Service is held in the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. The flowers in the sanctuary were given in memory of Burton Loveland by the Loveland family. Greeters were Mr. and Mrs. William R. Dotson and Mrs. Loretta Loveland and Mrs. Lillian Meade.

1979-Membership numbers in the Ecorse Presbyterian Church hover around 280.

1970s-1980s. Ecorse suffers population loss and declining revenues. Many of the children of the 1940s -1950s pillars of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church move to the suburbs for better homes and jobs. Ecorse goes into bankruptcy in 1986 and Louis Schimmel is appointed as receiver for the City of Ecorse.

1990- Ecorse emerges from four years of receivership, but Schimmel is retained as official "monitor" until August 1, 1999, when all court ordered bonds issued by the city of Ecorse were successfully retired and the city repaid an Emergency Loan from the State of Michigan taken out in 1986.

2000-The population of Ecorse is 11,229. Over half of Ecorse Presbyterian Church members live outside of Ecorse.

2005-2006- The Ecorse Presbyterian Church has 71 members, but continues to persevere in its mission of living God's love throughout the community.

2011- The Ecorse Presbyterian Church no longer sits on the corner of Jefferson and Outer Drive, but its legacy and history live on.



Chapter One

Presbyterians in Ecorse – 1879 to the 21st Century

Father Richard and the Bickering Presbyterians

Father Gabriel Richard was as Catholic as the Confessional, but he also got involved with Ecorse Protestants and legend has it that he recited the Mass in the log cabin home of Elijah Gödel in the early 1800s. If the legend is true, Ecorse has a truly ecumenical heritage, because the Goodells were Huguenots or French Protestants. Despite Father Richard's efforts at ecumenism, for the most part Protestants in Detroit and Downriver had to depend on itinerant preachers, Methodist circuit riders and Eastern missionaries for their religious leadership until after the War of 1812.

Presbyterians established a tangible presence when Lewis S. Cass was appointed Governor of the Michigan Territory in 1813. Along with Henry J. Hunt and James Abbott, Governor Cass appeared to Princeton Seminary to send a protestant missionary to Detroit. Princeton answered the request by sending John Monteith, a Scott and Princeton graduate, who preached his first sermon in the Council House on June 30, 1816. Reverend Monteith traveled a circuit over southeastern Michigan and partnering with Reverend Moses Hunter, he organized the first Presbyterian Church in Michigan at Monroe on January 13, 1820. By 1834, a Synod of Michigan had been created.

But strong minded (some contended flinty stubborn) Presbyterian argued about theology. An organizing principle called The Plan of Union helped establish early Presbyterian churches in Detroit, Farmington, Pontiac and Mackinac, but the Plan of Union also divided Presbyterians as more churches were organized. Two Presbyterian factions, the New England New School and the Mid Atlantic Old School, argued the precepts of theology, and strategies of mission and education.

In some Michigan communities these two competing schools of Presbyterianism functioned side by side and in others, they spilt Presbyterians into warring factions. Finally, the two schools united in 1869 to become the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. In 1972, the Presbytery of Detroit, which Ecorse Presbyterian Church is part of, was restructured and became a part of the Synod of the Covenant which includes 15 presbyteries of Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Ecorse Young People Start a Presbyterian Church

Ecorse Protestants expanded in the shadow of Father Richard's mission church, St. Francis Xavier, and it became a parish in 1845, serving the communities of Fort Wayne, River Rouge, Wyandotte, Oakwood and Delray. The first St. Francis Xavier Church was built on High Street and Bourassa and dedicated in 1882.

Families intermarried and eventually there were nearly equal numbers of French and English settlers. Tradition has it that there was a Protestant Sunday School in Ecorse as early as the 1870s. Some of the Ecorse citizens of the 1870s most certainly participated in the Sunday school. Judge H.H. Emmons lived in Ecorse then, as did the Salliotte and Cicotte families.

Alexander Bondie ran a saloon on the northeast corner of State and Jefferson. Campau and Ferguson did a grocery business on the corner of State and Monroe. John Copeland ran a lumber

company and Frederick Ferguson a brickyard. G.R. Goodell operated a grocery store and E.J. Goodell had a feed store on the east side of Jefferson, just north of Southfield. J.B. Montie oversaw his blacksmith shop south of the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad and George Cicotte owned a general store on Bourassa and West Jefferson. A.M. Salliotte operated his general store on Jefferson and State Street.

Most likely these early Sunday Schools were held in private homes just as the early Catholic Masses were held in the Goodell log cabin. Jefferson Avenue was a dirt road that turned into thick, clingy mud when it rained and icy ruts that rattled buggy wheels and clenched in the winter. People weren't too motivated to seek an out of town Sunday school.

By 1907, a streetcar ran through Trenton, Wyandotte, River Rouge and Ecorse, making it easier for people to travel, although Jefferson Avenue was still unpaved and turned just as muddy and rutted in the corresponding seasons. Despite or maybe because of travel hardships between Ecorse and Wyandotte, a group of young people who were members of the Wyandotte Baptist Church but lived in Ecorse wanted to have a local Sunday school to attend. On September 1, 1907, they organized a mission Sunday school in Ecorse. On September 12, 1910, the Ecorse Presbyterian Church was organized and chartered by the Presbytery of Detroit with 51 charter members, including Miss Ida Stevenson, Arthur Schulz, Henry W. Gerlach and Frank Seavitte.

The newly organized church members met in a wooden frame building on the corner of Monroe and Cicotte Streets, but in 1912 a wind storm blew it down.



The Ecorse Presbyterian Church, corner of Monroe and Cicotte Street

Presbyterians and townspeople immediately rallied to build a new church. They selected a lot on the corner of Outer Drive and Jefferson Avenue and several people donated their teams of horses

to dig out the basement of the church. By 1914, a new brick church stood sentinel over Ecorse from that corner and remained there for the next 56 years.



Reverend Roy G. Hershey became the first pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church on December 15, 1910, and guided the church into its new brick building. Ecorse pioneer Eli "Peck" LeBlanc remembered that Reverend Hershey was a handsome young bachelor which helped him sell bricks for the new church. According to Peck, even several people from St. Francis Xavier bought Presbyterian bricks from Reverend Hershey because he was such a persuasive preacher.

Ecorse Grows Along With Ecorse Presbyterian Church

During the pastorate of Isaac J. Van Hee who served from 1913-1914, Ecorse retained its small pastoral village character. In fact, it had just become a village in 1903 with Alexis M. Salliotte as its first village president. The Detroit Free Press described the Ecorse of Reverend Van Hee and Reverend David Gilles (1914-1915), as "the Little Venice of the West End" because so many cottages were perched on the end of piers jutting out into the Detroit River to take full advantage of the river breezes. Farms still outnumbered industries and the few industries that existed were based on natural resources such as lumber and ship yards.

By the time that Reverend C.W. Hastings (1917-1921), Reverend Walter Nichol (1921-1926), and William T. Angus (1926-1928), had come and gone as pastors of the Presbyterian Church, Ecorse had grown a modern face. The 2 ½ square mile village had attracted George Fink who established the Michigan Steel Corporation and expanded it into Great Lakes Steel Corporation. Great Lakes Engineering and Nicholson Terminal Dock Company expanded an already well established maritime tradition in Ecorse building, repairing, and docking ships. The Presbyterian manse next to the church was built in 1926, when Reverend Angus was pastor of the church.

At this point in its history, Ecorse had five schools: School One at High and Labadie, School Two on West Josephine, School Three on Sixth and White Streets, Ecorse High School on Seventh and Bonzano and St. Francis elementary and high schools. Besides the Presbyterian

Church, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, the Salvation Army, the Gospel Tabernacle, the Church of God, the First Baptist and Mt. Zion Baptist Church were among the Ecorse churches that ministered to the spiritual needs of the village. The main library in the Municipal Building and Visger Road branches provided books for Ecorse citizens and the city hall at High and Labadie had meeting rooms for spelling bees and community events.

Industry had been expanding in Ecorse and by the 1920s Ecorse factories included Great Lakes Steel Corporation, Murray Body Corporation, Grassnell Chemical Company, D. T. & I. Roundhouse, National Smelting Company, Shwayder Brothers Mfg. Co., Wolverine Varnish Company, Michigan Steel Corporation, Ryan Foundry, and Modern Collett & Machine Company.

Reverend Leonard Duckett Comes to Ecorse

Reverend Leonard Duckett and his family came to Ecorse in 1931 and over the next 25 years he contributed much toward the betterment of his church and the community. He provided a strong, steady pastoral influence at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. He oversaw its expansion and remodeling to coincide with the widening of Jefferson Avenue in 1937. While the Presbyterian Church was being remodeled, the congregation met for a time in Raupp's Hall and Reverend Duckett revealed his sense of humor when he commented wryly that the remnants of pumpkins and other decorations from a Halloween party the night before "took him aback." As well as serving his church, Reverend Duckett served his community for several years as a member of the library board.

The Presbyterians were building again in 1953, this time a new youth center adjacent to the manse and church. Reverend Duckett helped the Church House Youth Center become a reality and after he retired in 1956, the building was renamed the Leonard Duckett Center. Many events of the church and community have taken place at the Leonard Duckett Center over the years, including Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Kiwanis Club, Rotary, Civil Air Cadets, Boy Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous, Ecorse Women's Club, Square Dancers, Women's Fellowship Association, rummage sales, Women's Bible Class, study groups, fish fry suppers, spaghetti dinners, Harvest Home Suppers and bazaars.

During the 25 years that Reverend Duckett served in Ecorse, the village went through several changes. It survived a lawless, rum running era in the late 1920s and early 1930s when shots could be heard daily and nightly, bodies could often be spotted floating in the Detroit River, and a Wild West style gun fight between citizens and rum runners took place in Hogan's Alley off of Jefferson Avenue. These years were Depression Years and Reverend Duckett helped his parishioners meet the challenges of putting food on the table daily and keeping a roof over their heads. He also addressed the problem of paying the church mortgage and successfully kept the church roof and ownership in the hands of the Presbyterians.

Ecorse industry and shipbuilding helped America win World War II. Great Lakes Steel manufactured steel and steel products, Great Lakes Engineering ships, and Modern Collett and other industries contributed much to war production. Immigration from both outside and inside the United States swelled the population of Ecorse. Hungarian, Greek, Polish, and Italian people settled in and around Ecorse during World War II. Thousands of white and black people from the South came North to work in the automobile and other industries and built lives in Ecorse and the Downriver area.

In these years, people found Ecorse a good place to raise a family and the population swelled to a peak of about 19,000 people. Ecorse became a City in 1942 and although it was plagued by turbulent politics, cronyism and fiscal problems, business and civic affairs flourished.

The Detroit Industrial Ministry Appears

After Reverend Leonard Duckett retired in 1956, the Detroit Presbytery and the National office of the Presbyterian Church sponsored a Detroit Industrial Ministry with the Ecorse Presbyterian Church as the focal point of the experiment. Three young ministers, all recent graduates of Princeton Theological Seminary, came to lead the vocational ministry to the men in the large industrial plants of Ecorse. Reverend Orion C. Hopper and Reverend David B. Lowry served from 1956-1958, and Reverend George Colman remained as pastor until 1962. Ecorse Presbyterian Church grew in numbers – peak membership of 400 people – and influence during this experiment.

Reverend Scott Helps Replace the Old Church Building

Reverend John Pack served the Ecorse Presbyterian Church from 1963-1964 and in 1965, Reverend Raymond Dana Scott and his family came to the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. During the 1965-1971 ministry of Reverend Scott, he and the congregation met the challenge of replacing the old church building which engineers advised them would cost more to repair than replace. The new church was dedicated on February 22, 1970. In the dedication program Reverend Scott summed up his feeling about the new building when he wrote: "There are many other things that one could say about the symbolism and theology of this building, but unless this building truly becomes a means of fulfilling the mission of God, then it stands as only a monument of our own pride. May it be a useful tool as we seek to worship God and serve his people."



Reverend John Bartko Is Pastor for 21 Years

Reverend John Bartko came to Ecorse Presbyterian Church in 1972 and served faithfully until he died suddenly in 1993. During his pastorate, Ecorse experienced steady unemployment, “urban flight,” declining property values and erosion of the public school system and youth recreational opportunities. Ecorse went into receivership from 1986-1990 and church membership fell to about 200 people compared to 280 in 1979.

After the death of Reverend Bartko, temporary supply pastors served the church until 2002 when Reverend E. Dickson Forsyth was called out of retirement to serve the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. Over the last twenty years, the Ecorse Presbyterian Church has focused on being a “family church” with little emphasis on active outreach. As the community changed and members of the church family moved on or died, the congregation steadily declined to about 71 members. Sunday school enrollment suffered similar losses and pledges and contributions also declined, eventually forcing the church to tap into its endowment and investment reserves.

The energy and guidance of Reverend Forsyth have revived a hopeful spirit in the hearts and minds of the remaining Ecorse Presbyterian Church members. The Ecorse community is experiencing a renaissance as well, and with faith and prayer, the community and church will resurrect together.

Chapter Two

Presbyterian Celebrations

Ecorse Tribune

September 5, 1935

Ecorse Church Celebrates Its Silver Jubilee

Special Services to Commemorate Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Ecorse Presbyterians

The silver anniversary of the founding of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church will be celebrated next week with special services, a pageant and an anniversary banquet at which Dr. Harry M. Crooks, president of Alma College, will be the principal speaker.

It was on September 12, 1910, that the church was organized. It grew out of a mission Sunday school founded in September 1907 by a group of young people who lived in Ecorse but who were members of the Wyandotte Baptist Church. Before that there had been a Sunday school in Ecorse dating back to 1870.

Fifty one persons became charter members of the church when it was organized in 1910, and the Rev. Roy G. Hershey was the first pastor, serving for nearly three years. The present pastor is the Rev. Leonard Duckett who received his appointment in 1931.

Other ministers who have occupied the pulpit at the church are the Rev. I.J. Van Hee who was there in 1913 and 1914; Rev. David Gilles, 1914-1915; Rev. G.W. Hastings, 1917-1921; Rev. Walter Nichol, 1921-1926; Rev. William T. Angus, 1926-1928; and Rev. Ralph A. Armstrong, 1928-1931.

The old church building was destroyed by a windstorm in 1912 and in 1914 the present church edifice was dedicated. The manse was built in 1926.

The congregation now numbers 300 and there are 500 children in the Sunday school classes.

Anniversary services will be held Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock. The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Walter Nichol who now is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Plymouth, Michigan.

In the evening beginning at 7:30 o'clock, the Young People's Society of the Church will present "The Lamp," a pageant of religious education. It is in three scenes with five episodes in the second scene.

The Anniversary Banquet will be Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. John C. Davis will be the toastmaster and Frank W. Seavitte will read a historical paper. Harry Murray with E. Lee Murray as accompanist will play a violin solo and Mrs. Ivan Reberts, soprano, will sing. Her accompanist will be Mrs. Ray Meade.

Dr. M.C. Rearer, superintendent of the Presbyterian Board of Church Extension, will extend greetings to the congregation on behalf of the Detroit Presbytery.

On Sunday, September 15, there will be an anniversary communion service at 11 a.m. New members will be received into the church at this service.

The Reverend Mr. Duckett is chairman of the committee in charge of the anniversary celebration. Assisting him are: Frank W. Seavitte, Philip M. Buerk, Charles T. School, Mrs. Elmer Hart, Mrs. Ray Meade, and Mrs. James Smith.

Detroit Free Press

September 7, 1935

Churches Birthday to be celebrated

The Ecorse Presbyterian congregation will begin a week of events at 11 a.m. Sunday in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its formation.

The Reverend Walter Nichol, D.D., pastor of Plymouth Presbyterian Church, former pastor of Ecorse Church, will deliver the anniversary sermon Sunday morning.

At 7:30 p.m. a pageant entitled "The Lamp" will be given by members of the congregation.

Thursday evening at the silver jubilee banquet, Frank W. Seavitte, charter member, will talk on his historical outline and Dr. Harry M. Crooks, president of Alma College, will give the main address. John E. Davis will be toastmaster.

The Reverend Leslie A. Bechtel, D.D., of Cavalry Church, Detroit, will voice good wishes from the Presbytery.

The Reverend Leonard Duckett, pastor of the Ecorse Church since 1931, will preside at the exercises to end with an anniversary communion service on September 15.

Detroit News

September 7, 1935

Celebrations Planned

Ecorse Presbyterians to Mark Anniversary

The Ecorse Presbyterian Church will hold a series of special services next week in celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary. The Rev. Walter Nichol, D.D., minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, will give the anniversary sermon Sunday morning. In the evening, a pageant, "The Lamp," will be presented.

A silver anniversary banquet will be held Thursday evening with John E. Davis as toastmaster. Frank W. Seavitte, a charter member of the church will read an historical paper, and greetings from the Detroit Presbytery will be extended by the Rev. Leslie A. Bechtel, minister of Calvary Presbyterian Church. Dr. Harry M. Crooks, president of Alma College, will give the principal address.

The Rev. Leonard Duckett, minister of the church since 1931, will preside at the anniversary celebrations and will be in charge of the anniversary communion service on Sunday morning, September 15.

From the Ecorse Presbyterian Church Silver Anniversary Booklet- September 1935

Church Membership Now Exceeds 500, Started with 51

Twenty-five years ago next Thursday, September 12, 1910, a small group of Ecorse people met to organize the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. It was the realization of a dream that for forty years previous had been the goal of a devout group who had joined the Wyandotte Church for lack of a local place of worship.

Since that memorable day in 1910, the Ecorse Presbyterian Church has outgrown two church edifices and now looks forward to an enlargement of its present church.

The Ecorse Presbyterian Church is the outgrowth of a mission Sunday School that was organized on September 1, 1907, by a group of young people who lived in Ecorse, but were members of the Wyandotte Baptist Church. There had, however, been a Sunday school in Ecorse as far back as 1870 but it remained for that small group in 1907 to take active steps to organize the local church and within years their efforts were rewarded.

When the new church was organized there were 51 charter members. Many of these charter members are still active in the affairs of the church and look with pride at the growth and accomplishments which their early efforts made possible. The present membership of the church numbers three hundred and the Sunday school has a membership of over five hundred.

The original church was in a small frame building at the corner of Cicotte and Monroe Streets. Barely a hundred people could be accommodated. On December 15, 1910, the Reverend Roy G. Hershey became the first pastor of the new church and remained to direct its activities for three years.

Early in 1912, a severe wind storm which struck this section completely demolished the frame structure and caused the church to seek new quarters. While a suitable location was being sought, services were held in Charles Barlow's boat house on the Detroit River. In 1914, the present church was dedicated. Twelve years later the manse was built.

During its twenty-five years of existence, the Ecorse Presbyterian Church has been served by eight pastors. Following Mr. Hershey in 1913 was Isaac J. Van Hee, 1913-1914; David Gilles, 1914-1915; C.W. Hastings, 1917-1921; Walter Nichol, 1921-1926; William T. Angus, 1926-1928; Ralph A. Armstrong, 1928-1931; and the present pastor, Leonard Duckett, who has been here since Mr. Armstrong's death.

To commemorate the twenty fifth anniversary of the church a special program has been prepared by the committee for the week of September 8. On Sunday morning, Rev. Walter Nichol of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth will preach the sermon.

Ecorse Advertiser

September 22, 1960

Ecorse Presbyterian Church Marks 50th Year

Twenty five years ago on September 12, 1935, John Davis, then principal of the Ecorse High School, served as toastmaster for a silver jubilee banquet of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

On Thursday, September 29, 1960, Davis who has since retired as assistant superintendent of the Ecorse Schools, will again service as toastmaster as the church once again has a celebration – this time its Fiftieth Anniversary.

A week long celebration is being planned as the church marks its golden jubilee. The Rev. Leonard Duckett, pastor emeritus, who served in the pulpit of the Ecorse Church for 25 years before his retirement in 1956 will preach at services on September 25 to open the celebration.

The banquet which will be held in the Leonard Duckett Center, will have Dr. Kenneth Neigh, former pastor of Allen Park Presbyterian Church, as guest speaker. Dr. Neigh, who has countless friends in this area, is executive secretary of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

The weeklong celebration will close on October 2 when Rev. George Colman, present pastor of the Ecorse Church, will preach at worldwide communion services.

The history of the Ecorse Church dates back nearly a century, when in 1870, Sunday School Classes were held in the small village. However in 1910, a group of 51 Ecorse men and women who had been members of the Wyandotte Baptist Church, signed the charter to form the present Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

Committee members assisting Davis, who is chairman of the jubilee committee, include Mrs. Everal Fesko, Mrs. Loretta Loveland, Mrs. Margaret Balla, Mrs. Hazel Stevenson, Mrs. Lillian made, Elwyn DuHadway, Donald Pettijohn, Charles Woodruff, Reverend Duckett and Reverend Colman.

1985-Ecorse Presbyterian Church Celebrates Seventy-Fifth Anniversary

The 75th Anniversary Committee

Margaret C. Bond – Chairperson

The Rev. John D. Bartko- ex officio

Ralph Brant

Doris Curtiss

Beverly DuHadway

Helen Elkins

R. Louise Elliott

Everal Fesko

Chester Fleming

Winifred Thomas

Bessie Goodell

Nina Hileman

Gladys Lizak

Loretta Loveland

Diane McCaw

Harold McCutcheon

Kathleen McCuthceon

James Rice

Waltham Seavitte

Chapter Three

Presbyterian Construction- Building for the Future

Ecorse Enterprise

March 4, 1937

Opening Services at Ecorse Sunday

The Reverend Walter Nichol of Plymouth, pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church from 1921 to 1926, and long beloved in the Downriver area, will preach at special evening services at the Ecorse Church Sunday, March 7, 1937, when the church will hold its first service in the remodeled church building which was moved for the widening of Jefferson Avenue.

Plans are underway for a formal rededication of the church shortly after Easter. The Reverend Leonard Duckett, pastor of the church, will give a sermon appropriate to the reopening Sunday morning at which time infant baptism will be held.

The Sunday school will have its sessions in the new basement auditorium of the church.

Ecorse Advertiser

March 4, 1937

Reverend Duckett Speaks on "The Mission of the Church" Sunday

Reopening services of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, closed for seven months during the widening of West Jefferson Avenue and remodeling of the church itself, will be held Sunday morning, the Reverend Leonard Duckett, pastor, declared today.

The sermon subject will be "The Mission of the Church." Infant baptism will be administered at this service. Christian endeavor will meet at 6:30.

Evening services will be held at 7:30 p.m. with the Reverend Walter Nichol of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth occupying the pulpit.

A social hour with refreshments served will follow the sermon.

Meeting in Raupp Hall

Ecorse Advertiser

March 4, 1937

By John Wall

After a seven months absence from the home fireside, the congregation of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church for the last few Sundays has been attending services in the church itself. The reopening service will be held Sunday.

Driven from their worship by the widening of West Jefferson Avenue, a widening which has had a tremendous influence upon the village, the congregation in the interim occupied the only available hall in the village, now known as Raupp Hall. Its use was donated free of charge by the Michigan Steel Social & Relief Association.

If there should be any basis in fact for the theory often expounded by many American writers that the brick or wooden walls of a building should absorb into themselves traits of the characters of their occupants or a building should absorb some of the characteristics previously interpreted to the encircling walls – what a weird combination there must have been established in that old Raupp Hall- judging from the many occupations that have been pursued within its precincts- and what effect may it not have had on its transient occupants?

Something of that feeling has been imparted to the Reverend Leonard Duckett, pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

"It used to give me quite a start to lead the congregation in prayers, then open my eyes and see the fierce gleaming eyes of a first class Halloween cat blazing down upon me from the wall as they did the morning after the last Halloween dance. And it was disconcerting too, to have the decorations of witches and brooms and other unearthly symbols in the House of the Lord," he said.

Even more disconcerting, he thought, was the holding of a church service in the aroma of stale beer left over from a party the night before; likewise, the sight of a half dozen empty half barrels, marshaled neatly against the back wall of the hall, smote against his eyes as he raised them from reading the text for the services.

But perhaps the most potent factor of the lot was not made clear to the Reverend Duckett as he was not about when Lefty Clark held sway over the premises which until recently the Presbyterians had used weekly as a church. That was left to a few members of the congregation who in other years might have ascended that narrow flight of stairs to the assembly room through a pseudo cigar store and passed between two rows of hidden eyes closely scrutinizing every person who approached, and perhaps these few members faintly expected when going to the church services, to have to step up on a little platform and be deftly "patted down" or "finished" for concealed weapons and have to say the right words in order to get through steel doors swinging outward.

And it is not without the bounds of reason to suppose that the same members might often have wondered as church people might often wonder about affairs utterly extraneous to the church, whether there might not be in attendance at these Sunday morning meetings, other ghostly communicants, peering down from balconies, which no longer line the walls as they used to, which sharp eyed guardsmen patrolled them or whether ghostly crap tables, half a dozen of them,

might not have been pushed back from the center of the floor and the faint clicking of the dice, once so dominant in that place, have been stilled for the services – whether the gentle “congregations” which assembled there long ago.

Yes, the presence of church services in Raupp's Hall must have imparted some considerable shame to the patrons covering the walls of the old hall and it makes one wonder what an imaginative person could see if he should scrape from the ceiling some of the discolorations there, infused into the beams by acrid fumes of cigar smoke and stale beer, the reek of whiskey, the heavy odor of massed humans, perhaps deepened by shouts of winners, the cries of losers, music of a dance band or the sound of a reverent hymn being raised by devout worshippers – if he should take these scraping, put them in a bottle and distill them.

Would he see again in the vapor emerging from the retort a long procession of the gamblers, the racketeers, honest steel workers, pleasure bound, and the devout worshippers, Bible in hand, in short, all the folks who have frequented the place from its inception?

Probably not.

At any rate, the new church is nearing completion, slowly, and the building fund is rising, also slowly, to complete it. Another thousand dollars in the fund Reverend Duckett says, and there will never again be any need for going into Raupp's or anyone else's hall for church services.

The rebuilt church will rise upon its new foundations, and the members of the congregation will leave the old Raupp's Hall to its prescribed function – providing a place for recreation and further gathering its misty memories.

Wyandotte Daily News

March 6, 1937

Reopening services of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church closed for the seven months during which Jefferson Avenue was widened and the church remodeled will be held Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

The sermon subject will be “The Mission of the church.” Infant baptism will be administered at this service.

In the evening Reverend Walter Nichol of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth will speak at the 7:30 service. A social hour with refreshments will follow.

Session Records

March 26, 1937

The Moderator spoke of the need for new song books and it was decided that 100 of the "Hymns of the Christian Life" be purchased. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor paid for the song books.

Sunday, May 23, 1937

The Ecrose Presbyterian Church, organized on September 12, 1910, held a rededication service. Dr. Ralph C. McAfee, Executive Secretary of the Detroit Council of Churches, delivered the sermon.

At a 5 p.m. Vesper Service, Don Miller of Detroit gave an organ recital on the two manual Everett organs. Dr. and Mrs. Lee Hileman gave the organ in loving memory of their daughter Nina Mae.

The lectern was given in memory of Mrs. Sophia Slumpff, by the members of her family. Mr. B.E. Loveland and Mr. Anthony Letwin donated the pulpit and the Young People's Society the hymn books. Mr. and Mrs. James Trueman donated the baptismal font in memory of their daughter Mae and the Reverend Leonard Duckett and his sons Norman and Charles donated the communion table in memory of Marion C. Duckett.

Mrs. Joseph Broom gave the palms in memory of her father and mother and Mrs. James Hargreaves the ferns in memory of her husband.

Mr. Paul Vollmar contributed a chancel chair in memory of his mother. The Sunday School gave another chancel chair and the Whatsoever Class gave a chair in memory of their teacher, Miss Mabel "Patch" Clark.

Architect for the new building was John C. Stahl, Jr. of Detroit. The building committee was:

Philip Buerk, chairman

Frank W. Seavitte, secretary

Edgar R. Poindexter, treasurer

Guy Pooley

Fred Seeloff

James Smith

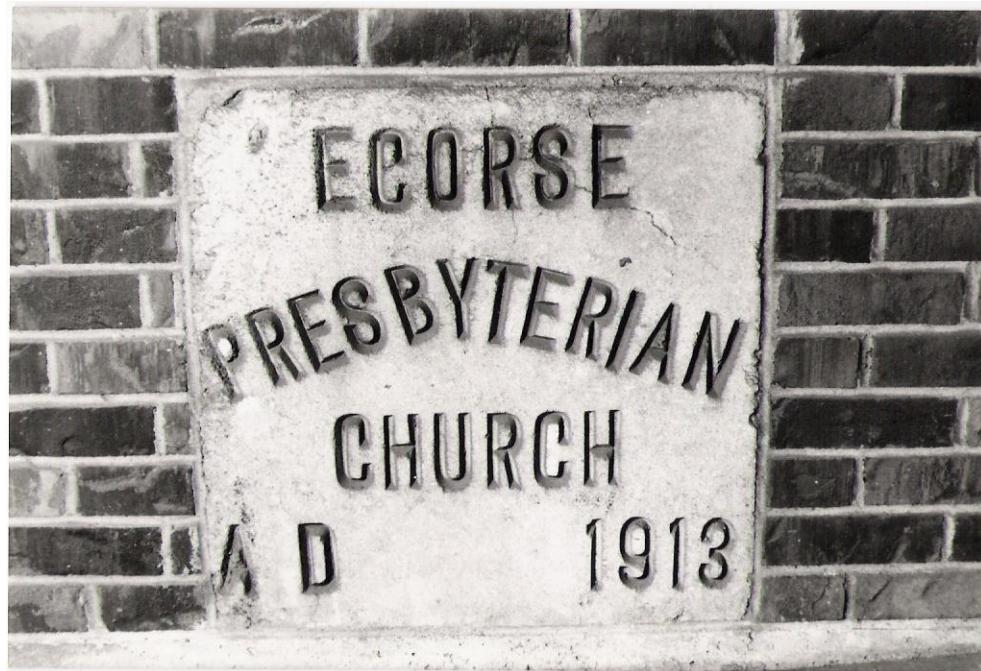
Ray Meade

Albert Kirkham

Peter Jensen

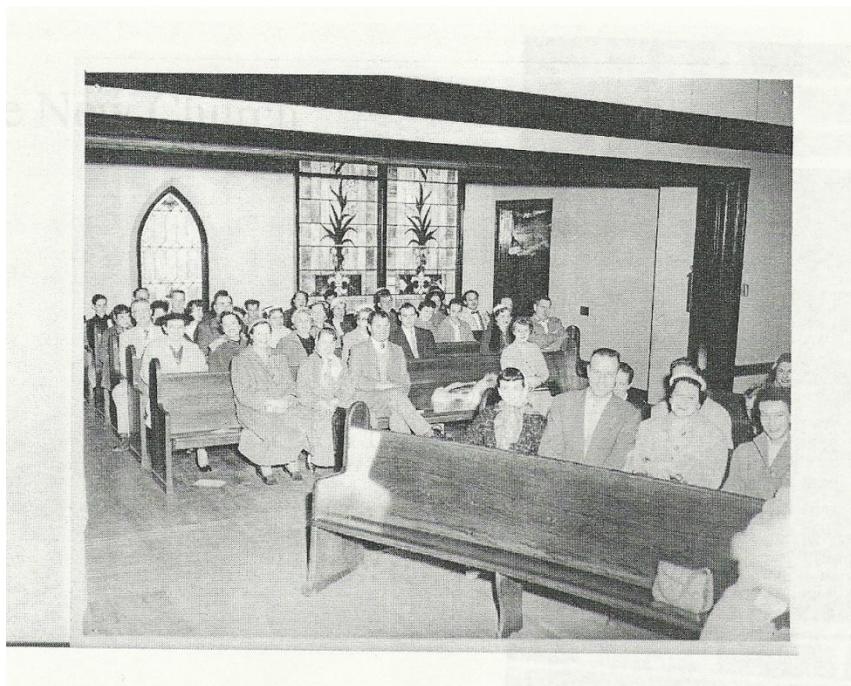
Elmer Hart

Beatitudes from the Old Brick Church



17

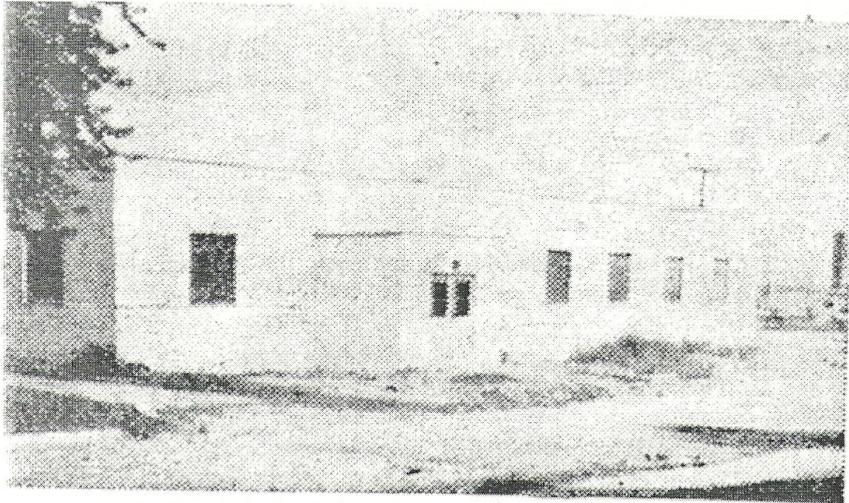






The Leonard Duckett Center

The New Church House-Youth Center



October 1953

Following the serving of a banquet, Sunday, October 4, 1953, in the new building, the dedication of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church House-Youth Center took place.

Some three hundred people were present for the ceremonies that added a new building to the Ecorse horizon. B.E. Loveland served as toastmaster for the occasion and introduced Dr. Warren E. Hall of Wyandotte who gave the invocation. Then Olive Sullivan led a group singing and next, a vocal trio composed of Mrs. Sullivan, Ardith Urich and Virginia Herb sang two selections. Mrs. Mildred Campbell accompanied them.

Reverend Leonard Duckett, pastor of the church, introduced the principal speaker Dr. Henry J. Walch of Plymouth. His talk was followed by the closing hymn and then Reverend W.F.A. Simon of Wyandotte gave the benediction.

The building committee in charge of the construction of the center was composed of William Jones, chairman; Richard Evans, Roy Frysinger, Roscoe Hileman, B.E. Loveland, Ray Meade, Miles Sullivan, Glen Veneklasen, Mrs. Elmer Hart and John Davis.

Previous to the banquet and following the eleven o'clock service, Chairman Jones of the building committee turned over the keys to the building to Reverend Duckett.

The structure is 53 by 100 feet in size and the dining room has a capacity of 325 people. The kitchen is one of the most modern possible. It is equipped with dishwashers, a potato peeler, potato masher, large gas ranges and is so designed that waitresses do not have to enter the kitchen to serve the food.

Completely furnished, the building was erected at a cost of \$55,000, and William Mezel of Lincoln Park was the general contractor. He chose a cement block type of structure with a face brick front. There is ample parking space around the building and many other improvements are expected to be made.

Presbyterian Church Begins Campaign for New Building

April 4, 1968

Members of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church are taking advantage of modern day methods as they strive for a new church home to replace their venerable fifty year old structure which now stands at 4207 West Jefferson.

A talking color slide presentation has been created and vividly shows the desperate need for a new sanctuary. It will be shown at homes throughout the Downriver area. M. Sandy Blakeman, 20 West Goodell, Ecorse, snapped several hundred color slides of the church and of this number nearly 60 of them were incorporated into the presentation.

The Reverend Raymond Scott along with Elwyn DuHadway, 4326 Eleventh and Chester Fleming, 4068 High Street, both of Ecorse met with Charles Anderson of Allen Park and clued Inks of Taylor township to document the slides.

After long hours of writing, the program was finally formulated and Anderson was selected to make a recording which will accompany the slide presentation. The recording with church music in the background points out the need for a new sanctuary.

The film presentation which will be shown prior to the fund raising drive scheduled for May 5 is radically different from a similar drive in 1914 that brought about the building of the present church.

Eli "Peck" LeBlanc, a descendant of the early French settlers, recalled that when he was a young man Roy Hershey, the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church sold him several bricks, each for a dollar, to help with the building fund.

LeBlanc, who was born on the banks of the Detroit River about 80 years ago, recalled that Hershey was a handsome young bachelor and that many members of St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic parish purchased the bricks.

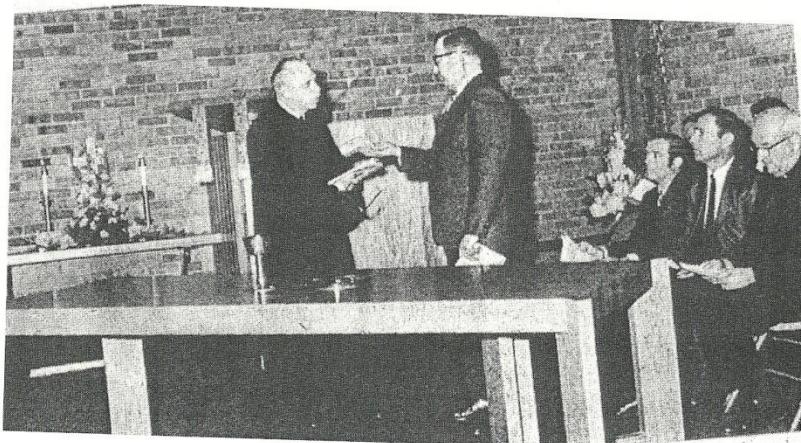
The New Church

Dedication of Sanctuary

Sunday, February 22, 1970

3:30 p.m.



Church Building Dedicated During 60th Anniversary Year of Church*Chester A. Fleming*

The keys to the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church were officially present at the church dedication on February 22, 1970. Dr. Robert H. Yolton (left) executive, Presbytery of Detroit, presented the church keys to Chester Fleming, building committee chairman. Seated are Peter Else, architect of Birmingham and Mario Autunno, general contractor of Dearborn.

Ecorse Advertiser

March 4, 1970

The newly constructed Ecorse United Presbyterian Church was formally dedicated at special services on February 22. The church is located on the site of the former church on the corner of Outer Drive and West Jefferson.

The special 3:30 p.m. service was preached by the Reverend Richard Milford, pastor of Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church. The morning service that day was preached by Dr. C. Ralson Smith, executive of the magazine "Religion today." He traveled from Washington D.C. to attend the Ecorse service. The dedication was also attended by the Reverend George Colman, former pastor of the Ecorse Church.

The keys to the new structure were formally presented by contractor Marlo Autunno to architect Peter Else. He in turn gave them to Dr. Robert Yolton, presbytery Executive, who accepted them in the name of the Presbytery of Detroit and members of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church. The keys were then given to Building Chairman Chester Fleming who accepted them on behalf of the congregation.

Members of the church session are:

Dr. Fred Bork

Ralph Brant

George Kinlen

Mrs. Robert McQuiston

Mrs. James Custer

Edward Fesko

Mrs. Jeanne Jones

Jerry Kirkland

James Rice

Mrs. Orville Bond

Chester Fleming

Harold McCutcheon

Building committee members are:

Chester Fleming

Mrs. Edward Fesko

Mrs. Orville Bond

George Kinlen

Clyde Inks

Roy Frysinger

Mrs. Jeanne Jones

Elwyn DuHadway

Jerry Kirkland

Mrs. Lewis Nagy

Mrs. Thomas

Dr. Fred Bork

The Reverend Raymond D. Scott is pastor. William Olin is music director and Mrs. Scott is junior choir director. Mrs. James Laing is secretary and Mrs. John Laskowski is organist. Custodian is Joseph Robson. Church officers are:

Mrs. James Custer, stated clerk.

Thomas Cole, treasurer

Mrs. Thomas Cole, financial secretary

Architect Else gave his reflections on the new church. He said the strong form of the tower of the church recalls the strong forms of the steel mills behind the church. "But the simple, natural materials and openness of the tower are to invite welcome – for worship and communal gatherings, meetings, and education."

...going into the original church building to have dinner. Below photo
is how the church looked then. I took this in October 1968. The church
has potential, and would like donated to continue on as a church.



Reverend Raymond D. Scott

Theological and Symbolic Meaning of the Building

Frank Lloyd Wright, the world famous architect stated that the architecture of a building should always relate itself to its environment. The environment of our church is one of industry and in particular – the steel mill. The shed roofs of the mills are reflected in the church's shed roofs of the tower, the sanctuary and the pastor's study. In further identifying with the environment, the Building Committee chose a "Cor-Ten" steel Celtic cross as the symbol for the front of the church. This type of steel has a veneer that oxidizes but will not deteriorate. The Celtic cross is the symbol of the Presbyterian Church, which has its roots in Scotland.

The exterior of the building reflects strength through the functional buttresses that support the tower and roof. However, the unusual, even radical shape of the church, strikes some people as being very arbitrary to what they think a church should look like. On this point, it should be noted that the church has evolved from both a functional and design concept that reflects the program and beliefs of the congregation. The Christian faith is very radical and arbitrary to the world's values and beliefs. The building reflects this affirmation. Yet, at the same time, the tilting tower window seems to bid one welcome. The cedar shingles lend texture and warmth in order that the structure not be overpowering while still expressing strength.

In the worship room or sanctuary, one's eyes are immediately drawn to the worship center by the natural light coming from the tower and the strong shapes of the pulpit, table, and font. The floor slopes to the front of the church 18 inches, which not only allows for direct vision for both worshipper and minister but also gives the feeling of oneness as one looks from side to side and confronts his neighbor. There is no separation between clergy and laity in the act of worship because the feeling of openness pervades the sanctuary. There is no doubt in anyone's mind as he enters about the importance of Word and Sacrament as well as fellowship in the life and belief of our Church. The large wooden table weighs over 400 pounds and is made of solid red oak. Its V-shaped legs spread wide as the open arms of Christ welcoming all of his people to the table. The large pulpit is slightly elevated in order that all in the room can see and hear. Above the pulpit is a sounding board which prevents the sound from going up into the tower.

The pews in the church are open ended to remind us that nothing should separate us from one another but we truly are the people of God gathered around His Holy Table and challenged by His Word. As one sits in the church for worship and meditation, he is aware of the beauty and the natural materials of brick and wood. A very helpful setting for one who turns inward toward his God and yet, at the same time, he is reminded through the clear glass of the tower window that the world is outside and that it is for the world that Jesus came to earth.

After much debate and discussion, it was decided that the choir should be placed in the back of the church for the following reasons: the choir first are worshippers and not performers and secondly, they are called to lead in the congregational singing. By placing the choir in the rear, there is less distraction which enables the worshipper to meditate on the words of the anthems rather than to be entertained.

There are many other things one could say about the symbolism and the theology of this building, but unless this building truly becomes a means for fulfilling the mission of God, then it stands only as a monument to our own pride. May it be a useful tool as we seek to worship God and serve His people.



Reverend Raymond D. Scott and congregation.

Chapter Four

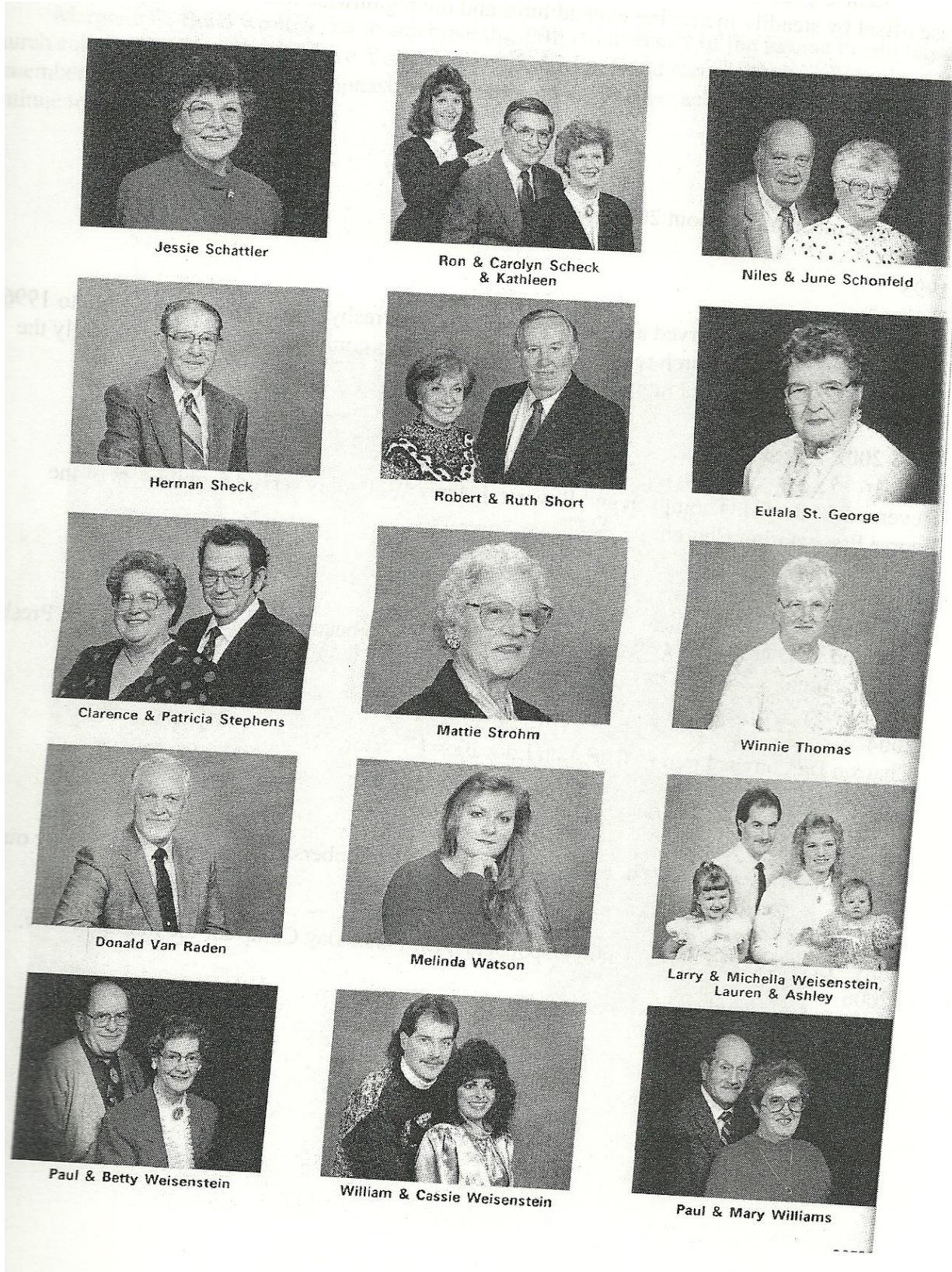
Presbyterian People



Ecorse Adventurer

WALL PLAQUE placement is suggested by Mrs. Dianne McCaw, left, and Mrs. Beverly DuHadway, center, as Mrs. Hellen Elkins, right looks on, holding a screen card holder, which is also suitable for holding wood on a fireplace hearth. The women, with the aid of others, are preparing novelties for the church-wide Christmas bazaar, Nov. 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Leonard Duckett Center, 27 Bonzano, Ecorse. Mrs. McCaw and Mrs. Elkins, both of Wyandotte are co-chairing the event. In addition to the handcrafted articles, there will be booths with homemade candy, baked goods and novelties. The Rev. John Bartko, church pastor, and Chester Fleming will feature penny candy, cider, cheese and canned goods in their country store. Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. will be chaired by Mrs. Bessie Goodell and her committee, while Mrs. Myra McQuiston heads the dinner group from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Beverly DuHadway





James & Kathy Kinney,
Kevin & Jaclyn



Tom & Kathy Kurginski



Jessie Laginess



Gladys Lizak



David & Fayne Loveland



Loretta Loveland



Vivienne Loveland



Richard Manning



Harold & Betty Marcott



Dianne McCaw



Harold & Kathleen McCutcheon



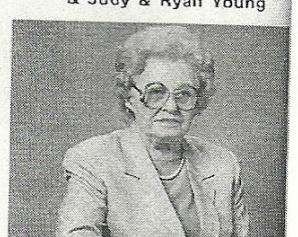
Dorothy McMahon
& Judy & Ryan Young



Janet McQuiston



Robert & Myra McQuiston,
James, Judy, Beth, Margaret, Janet



Mary Moilanen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge the cooperation and contributions of the organizations, business firms and individuals who have helped to make this program possible.

*The Ecorse Community Conference*Co-Chairmen

D. Dale Hughes
Lawrence Royals

CommitteesPublicity

Ethel Stevenson (Co-Chairman)
Sandy Blakeman (Co-Chairman)
Gertrude Perkins
Frank Vrabel
Noreen Gougeon

Honored Guests

Lillian Meade (Chairman)
Olivia Dennis
Eula Hileman

Program

Cecil Smith (Chairman)
D. Dale Hughes
The Rev. Edward Ritter
Koretta Loveland
Dessie Trueman
Mary Layos
Eleanor Chase
Merle Thompson

Organization & Merchant Contact

Larry Royals (Chairman)
Gene Flanigan
Angeline Goodell

Finance & Tickets

David Richards (Co-Chairman)
Francis Cardwell (Co-Chairman)
Bernadette Loveland
Bertha Zeininger
Mary Krizanovic
Violette Boone
Benjamine Stevenson
Josephine Luna
Beverley Jones
Hector Luna
Doris Young

Location, Time, Arrangements

Jerry & Barbara Stetina
(Co-Chairmen)
Barbara Carroll
Loretta Loveland
Dessie Trueman
Sister Celesta SSJ
Sister Emilie SSJ

ECORSE COMMUNITY
CONFERENCE

Presents A Tribute
To
RALPH E. BRANT

May 24, 1967

* * * * *

6:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Gathering time
and "Sign in".

BUFFET MENU

• Roast Beef	• Mashed Potatoes
• Kielbasa & Kraut	• Gravy
• Chicken & Dressing	• Green Beans
Relishes	
Tossed Salad	
• Angel Wings	• Ice Cream & Cake
• Bread & Butter	• Coffee - Tea - Milk

EVENING PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies
D. Dale Hughes
Ecorse Community Conference

Dinner Music -- Ardith Urich -- Pianist

Welcome

Invocation - The Reverend Raymond Scott
Ecorse United Presbyterian Church

Dinner

Introductions

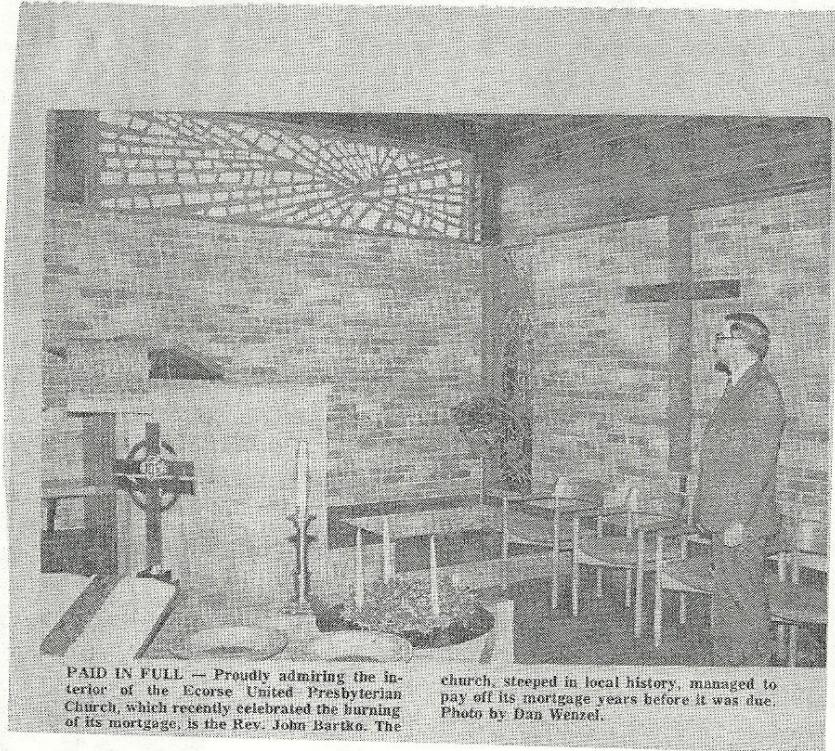
Testimonials (Former Students)

Audio-Visual Vignette "Our Mr. Ed,"
by Sandy Blakeman
Ecorse Department of Public Relations

Presentations

Response - Mr. Ralph Brant

Closing Benediction - The Reverend Joseph Barlow
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church



PAID IN FULL — Proudly admiring the interior of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church, which recently celebrated the burning of its mortgage, is the Rev. John Bartko. The

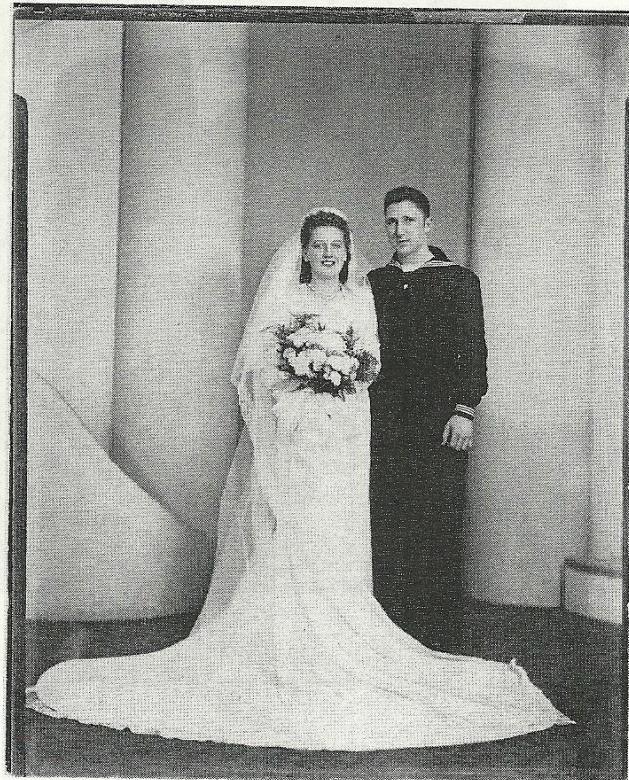
church, steeped in local history, managed to pay off its mortgage years before it was due.
Photo by Dan Wenzel.

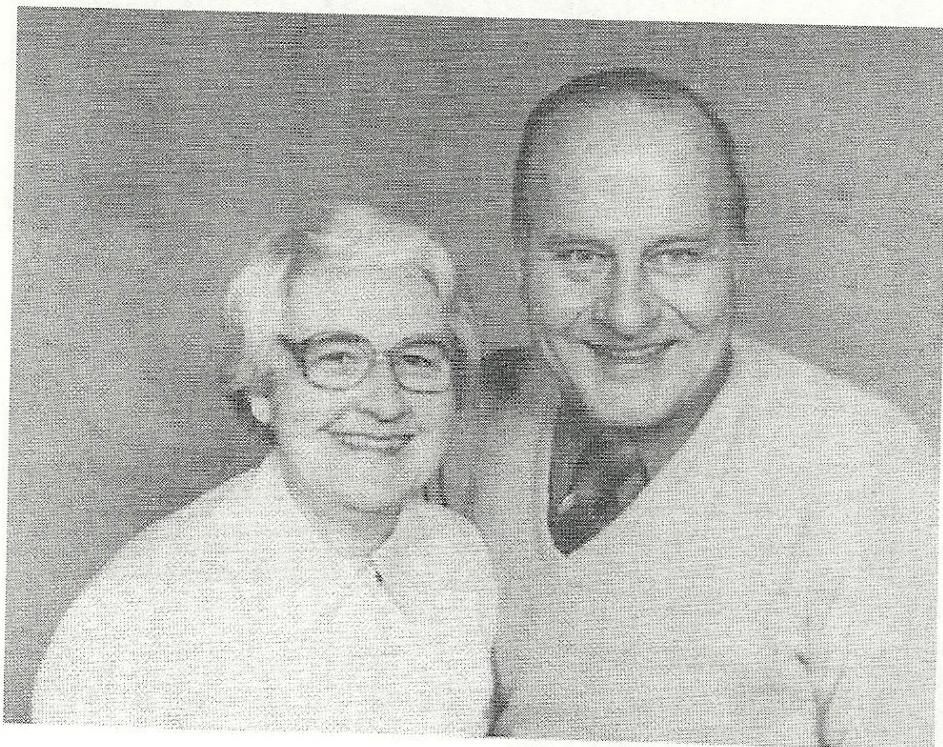


SLOVAK COSTUMES were worn by Ecorse residents Mrs. Mary Hric, left, who played the violin, while her daughter, Mary Jane accompanied at the piano and standing right, Mrs. Stephanie (Hric) Abrams who also played selections on her violin during the program for the Ecorse Woman's Club in the Duckett Center, 27 Bonzano, Ecorse. Standing at the rear is the Rev. John Bartko, who was program guest speaker, relating experiences of his travels into his parents' native Czechoslovakia. He also showed slide pictures of the country's architecture, castles and flowers. The pastor of Ecorse United Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Bartko noted that the country's houses of brick are finished with a coating of cement. He also said that "the Danube River is not blue!" "No trash is on the roadways and older men and women are seen working in the fields and on the roads," he said. Many churches are closed and some made into museums.

Photo by Irene Martin.









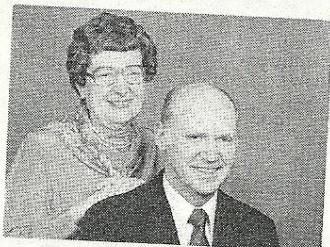




Hazel Monday

Frank & Carol Morris
& Laura

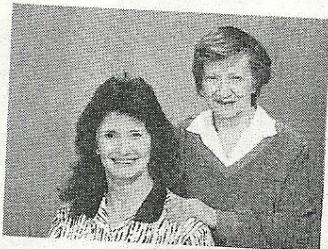
Mabel Nuckles

Elizabeth Oberdieck
& E. Anne

Don & Ella Jean Pettijohn

Jim & Marjie Poindexter,
Steven & DavidSteven & Carol Porch
& William

Janet Raushenberger

Dorothy Rice
& Carol Easton

Jim & Nancy Rice

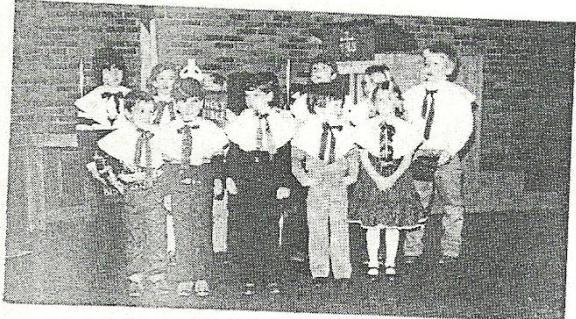
Glenn & Marion Roberts,
Matthew, Joseph & Sarah

Jack & Lola Sanders

Rocco & Kathleen Sanfilippo
& EmiliaGene & Debra Sarazin,
Lori & Gene, II



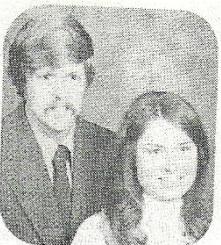
MRS. GEORGANN AMBROSE
Church Secretary



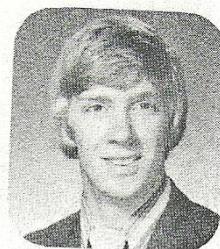
MR. & MRS. WILLIAM
OLIN



MR. & MRS. DONALD E.
PETTIJOHN & DAVID



MR. & MRS. DONALD J.
PETTIJOHN



*ROBERT PETTIJOHN



MR. & MRS. EDGAR
POINDEXTER



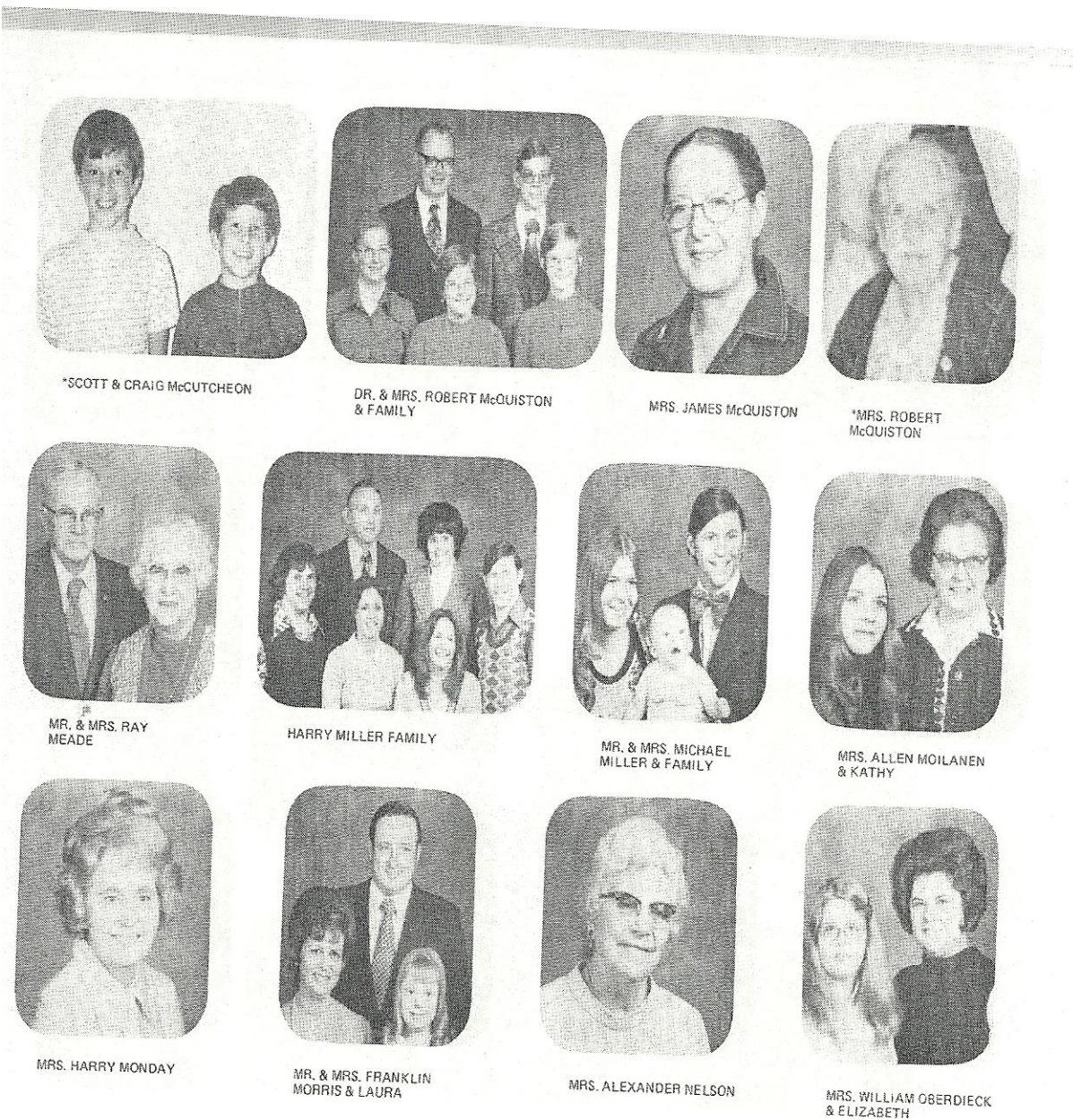
MR. & MRS. JAMES
POINDEXTER & STEVEN



MRS. JOSEPH PTAK



MR. & MRS. MERLE
RAUSCHENBERGER





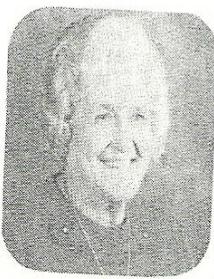
HAROLD ALLEN FAMILY



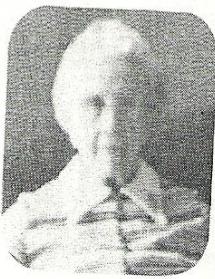
*MRS. LORNE BABCOCK

MR. & MRS. JOHN
BALLAMRS. HOWARD BALCOM
& BEVERLY

MR. JOHN D. BARTKO



MRS. ARTHUR BARNEY



*MRS. RICHARD BEIER



MRS. LABBE BLAIR



*MRS. JOHN BROUGHTON



MRS. WALTER BROWN

MR. & MRS. RALPH
BRANTMR. & MRS. ORVILLE
BOND



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MRS. MILLARD CALDERWOOD



MRS. ALBERT BUTLER



MRS. DORIS CURTISS



ROBERT E. CRESS FAMILY



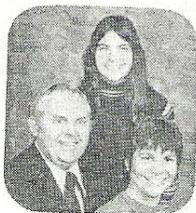
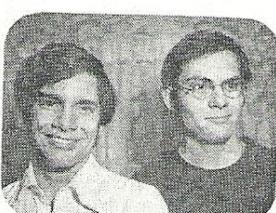
MR. & MRS. LEONARD CORNS



WILLIAM DOTSON FAMILY



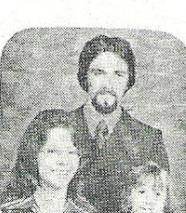
MRS. ALEXANDER DICKIE

MR. & MRS. CLYDE INKS
& KATHLEEN

*DAVID & DONALD INKS



MR. & MRS. ROBERT JEWELL



MR. & MRS. BURLON JOHNSON & DAUGHTER



*MRS. FREDERICK JONES



MR. & MRS. DALE KENDALL



MR. & MRS. ROBERT KELLUM



GEORGE KINLEN FAMILY



JERRY KIRKLAND FAMILY



MRS. MALCOLM KIRKLAND



MRS. GRACE LANGDON, LONA LANGDON & BRIAN



MR. & MRS. EARL LANSTRA & LYNNELLE



MRS. EDWARD LITTEN FAMILY

MRS. FRANK LIZAK &
DAUGHTERS

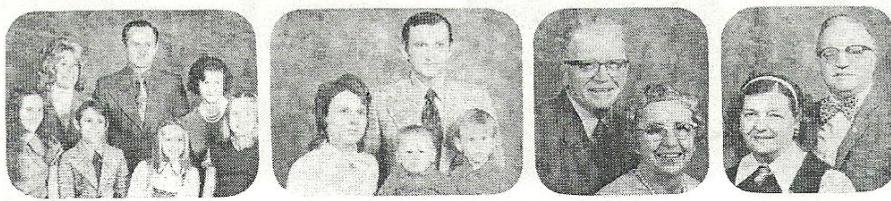
MRS. BURTON E. LOVELAND

MR. & MRS. DAVID LOVELAND &
FAMILY

MR. ROBERT MACKAY

MRS. STEWART McCAW
& CHILDRENMR. & MRS. HAROLD
McCUTCHEON

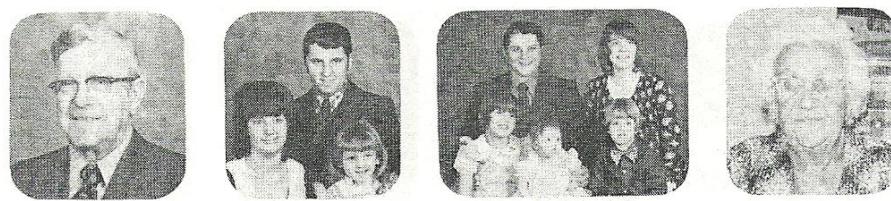
*MR. & MRS. BRENT McCUTCHEON

MR. & MRS. JAMES RICE & FAMILY &
MRS. JAMES P. RICE

MR. & MRS. GLEN ROBERTS & FAMILY

MR. & MRS. JOSEPH
ROBSONMR. & MRS. JULIUS
ST. GEORGEMR. & MRS. JACKSON
SAUNDERSMRS. GENE SARAZIN
& LORI ANN

MRS. EMORY SCHONFELD

MR. & MRS. NILES SCHONFELD &
FAMILY

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MR. & MRS. KENNETH
SEXSMITH & KIMBERLYMR. & MRS. KENNETH SHAW &
CHILDREN

*MRS. JOHN SHOE



MRS. LEE SOVA



MISS IDA STEVENSON



MR. & MRS. CASH STROHM



MRS. OTTO THEEL



MISS BETTY THOMAS



MRS. RALPH TODD



MRS. FRED VANHORN



MR. DONALD VANRADEN



JAMES CUSTER FAMILY

MR. & MRS. NEAL
FADDEN

*MR. JEROME ELLSWORTH

MR. & MRS. ELWYN
DUHADWAY

EDWARD FESKO FAMILY

CHESTER FLEMING FAMILY

MR. & MRS. STANLEY
FLINDERSMR. & MRS. STANLEY
FLINDERS, JR. & DAUGHTERMRS. LOUISE FORD &
BEVERLY BOWLES

MRS. AUDREY FOUGHT

MR. & MRS. ROY
FRYSINGER*MR. & MRS. OREN
GOODELL



*MRS. FRANCIS GRUNDY



MRS. JOHN HASSETT



MRS. HAROLD HAWKINS

MR. & MRS. ROSCOE
HILEMAN

MISS LOIS HILEMAN

MR. & MRS. GARY
HIPPS

JACK HOHMAN FAMILY

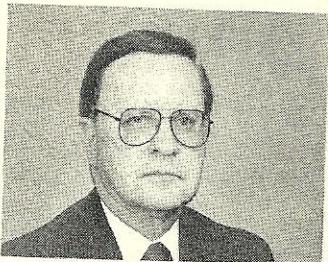


MRS. BERNARD HUGHES

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM
WEEBERMRS. PAUL WEISENSTEIN &
LARRYMR. & MRS. PAUL
WILLIAMS



Clifford & Marjory Ballheim
& David



John D. Bartko



Sandy & Mary Blakeman



Tony & Jo Chiparo, Jeff,
Beth, Erin, Michele, Leslie, Eliz.



Tyrus & Jennifer Cobb



Velva Comstock



Robert & Catherine Cornell



Derek & Lynda Crawford,
Erika & Kristin



Doris Curtiss



James & Kay Custer



Ray & Tammy Darga



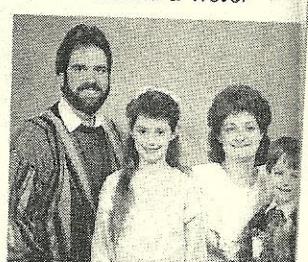
William & Karen Dotson,
Andrea & Trevor



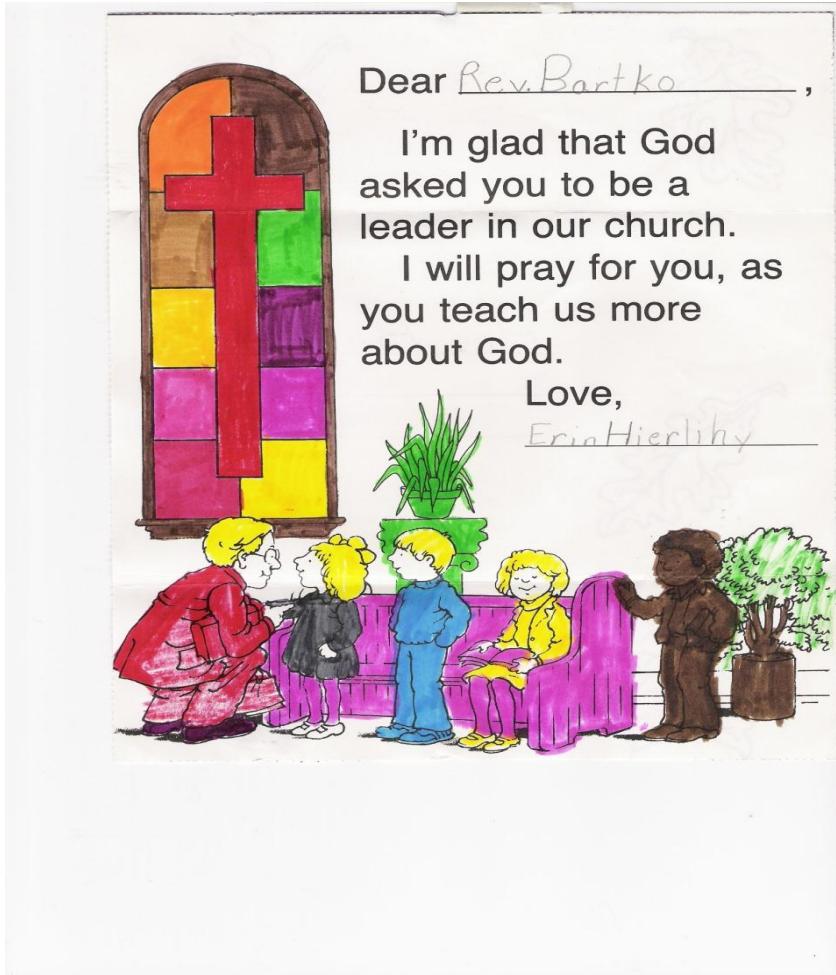
William & Kittie Dotson



Beverly DuHadway



Ken & Sue Duprey,
Allison & children



Mr. and Mrs. William W. Philip

March 24, 1955



Married 50 Years.

Mr. and Mrs. William W. Philip of 14 West Westfield, Ecorse, were married on March 26, 1905, in St. Louis, Missouri, and will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on March 26 with an open house at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church Youth Center at 8 p.m. All of their friends and neighbors are invited to attend.

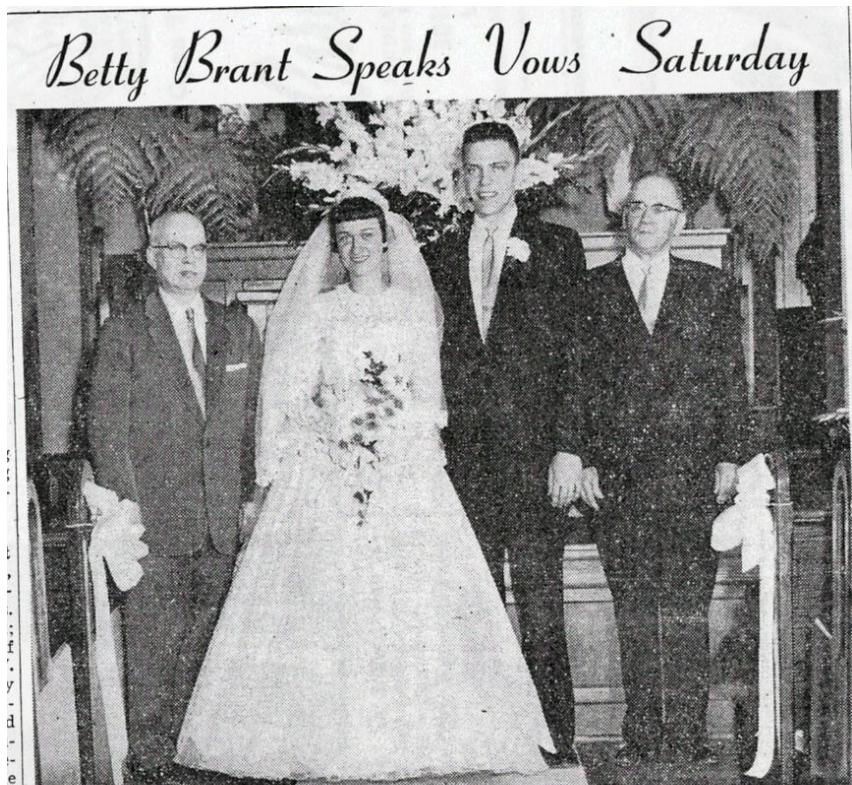
Out of town guests will be their son and daughter-in-law Harold and Isabel Philip of California, Mrs. Clara Jackel, Mrs. Adele Rose, Mrs. Emma Kallemer and Mrs. Laura Vollmer, all of St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip have been residents of Ecorse for 36 years. They have five children – three boys and twin daughters, 14 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Betty Brant Marries Kenneth Freemark, Jr.

Ecorse Advertiser

Thursday, March 29, 1956



THE BRIDE SPOKE HER marriage vows to two ministers—one in the person of the Rev. Leonard Duckett, retired pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, left, who watched her attain lovely womanhood, and the other, the

Rev. Clyde Wilcox, D.D. of St. John's, who officiated at the marriage of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brant, in 1929. The bride until Saturday when she became Mrs. Kenneth Freemark, Jr., was Betty Brant.

In a candlelight setting of white gladiolus and pink carnations with cymbidium ferns, Betty Brant became the bride of Kenneth Freemark, Jr. at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church Saturday afternoon.

The Reverend Leonard Duckett of Ecorse and the Reverend Clyde Wilcox D.D. of St. John's, fraternity brother of her father and the minister who married her parents, officiated.



John and Sylvia Davis

June 22, 1961

Some 200 fellow church members, former students and colleagues, and scores of friends gathered at the Leonard Duckett Center in Ecorse Thursday night to bid a fond farewell to John Davis and his wife Sylvia, who are leaving the Downriver area after 42 years to make their home in California.

Mr. David retired three years ago after devoting 37 years of his life to teaching and administrative work in the Ecorse Public Schools. His teaching career spanned 47 years, dating back to 1911, when he taught in a one room, rural school following his graduation from high school in Paulding, Ohio.

The farewell party surprised both John and his wife who thought they were going to attend a family night dinner at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church youth center. Instead, scores of friends greeted them.

Mr. Davis has been a member of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church since 1921, serving as a ruling elder for 38 years. During this time he also has served as superintendent of the Sunday school, men's Bible class, teacher, member of the music committee and member of the Christian education committee of the Detroit Presbyterian Churches.

He first joined the Ecorse schools system as a teacher in February 1921. The following September he started a two year stint as a River Rouge High School teacher, but returned to Ecorse in 1923 as a high school principal, a position he held for 31 years.

More than 2,290 students were graduated from Ecorse High School during this time, with the first class in 1929. When he retired in 1958, he had served as assistant superintendent of schools for four years.

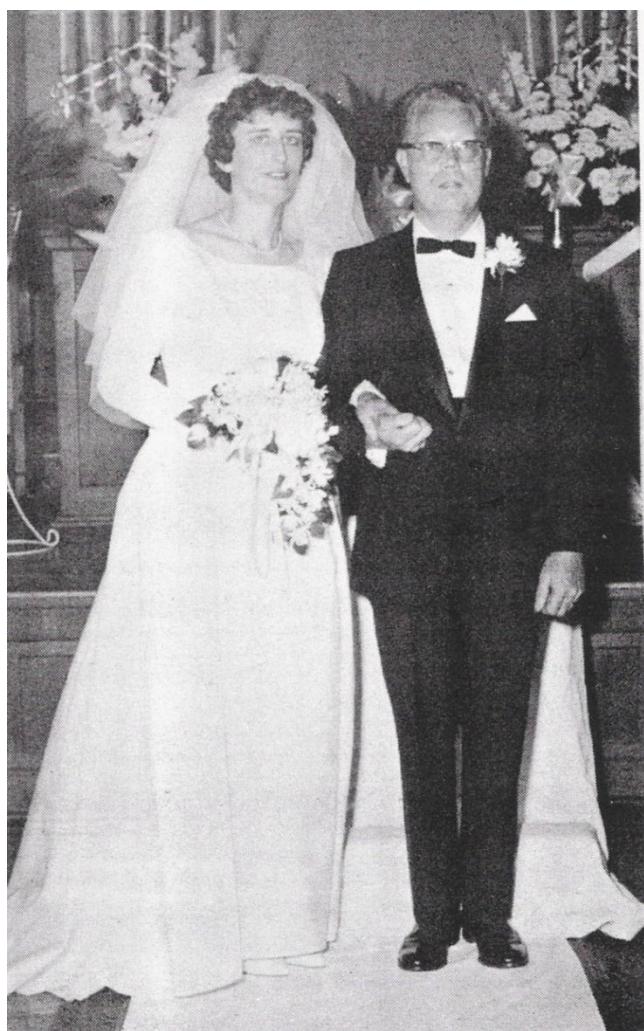
These facts and others about his teaching career, educational background and personal life were described by Bruce McNeilage, a close friend for many years who acted as master of ceremonies during the farewell gathering.

McNeilage recalled that Davis was just one of several eligible young men in Ecorse and surrounding communities who sought the favors of a charming young lady who in 1926 came to Ecorse from Pontiac as a kindergarten teacher. Davis was the successful suitor and now he and his wife Sylvia, the former school teacher, are planning to spend their retirement years near Anaheim, California, close to their son John. They also have three daughters who are teachers.

Ruth Loveland Marries Harold Allen

Ecorse Advertiser

October 1, 1964



Ecorse United Presbyterian Church was the scene of a double-ring ceremony Saturday evening, September 26, when Ruth Loveland, daughter of Mrs. Bert Loveland of 26 Knox, Ecorse, became the bride of Harold Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Allen of Southgate.

The Reverend John C. Park officiated at the candle light service. Traditional organ music was provided. Mr. Earl Strnad sang "Entreat Me Not to leave Thee," by Gounod.

The bride, given in marriage by her brother David Loveland, appeared before an altar banked with flowers and ferns, wearing a bouffant sheath of peau de sole. The bodice and front of the skirt were trimmed with clipped Chantilly lace. A chapel train completed the ensemble. Her shoulder length veil of nylon was held by a tiara of pearls and rhinestones and she carried a crescent bouquet of white feathered mums.

Mrs. David Loveland, sister-in-law of the bride, was matron of honor. Marian Loveland, a niece of the bride was bridesmaid. Both attendants wore floor length sheaths of rose fiesta rayon peau featuring an empire waist. A bouffant veil was held by a floral headpiece. They carried corsages of mums and carnations tip-dyed to match their gowns.

Jerry Safran served as best man. Ushering guests to their seats were Edward Smith, a nephew of the bridegroom, and Donald e. Loveland, a brother of the bride.

Mrs. Loveland chose a teal blue sheath with matching accessories for her daughter's wedding. She wore a corsage of peach glameilas.

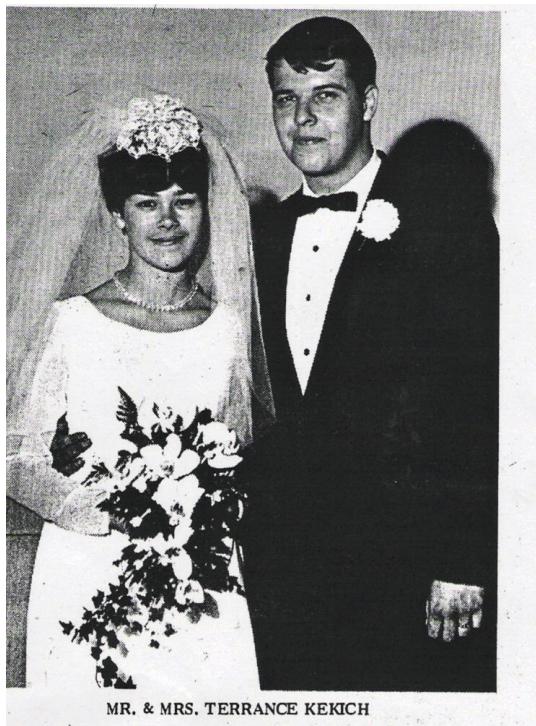
Mrs. Allen, mother of the bridegroom, wore a rust colored suit with matching accessories and a corsage of yellow glameilas.

Following a reception held at the Leonard Duckett Center, the newlyweds left for a two week trip through the New England States. Upon their return, they will reside in Southgate. The bridegroom is employed by the Detroit Free Press.

Leta Blakeman Marries Terrance Kekich

Ecorse Advertiser

September 28, 1967



Ecorse Presbyterian Church was the setting Saturday for the marriage of Leta Blakeman and Terrance Kekich. The Reverend Raymond D. Scott officiated at the nuptials before an altar adorned with bouquets of white gladioli and lighted candelabra.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Blakeman, 20 West Goodell, Ecorse, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kekich, 17 West Alexis, Ecorse.

Special music was presented by Mrs. Ardith Urich on the organ. She also accompanied Mrs. Raymond Scott who sang "When Thou Art Near," "Oh Perfect Love," and a traditional Scottish melody "Faithful."

Escorted to the altar by her father, the bride chose a gown of white chiffon, designed with long straight lines. The empire bodice featured a scooped neckline and long sleeves. Cluny lace adorned the front panel of the gown and edged the empire train. She wore a crystal necklace that belonged to her great-grandmother.

A crown of aurora borealis crystals held the bride's bouffant shoulder-length veil. She carried a cascade arrangement of philanopsis, orchids and stephanotis.

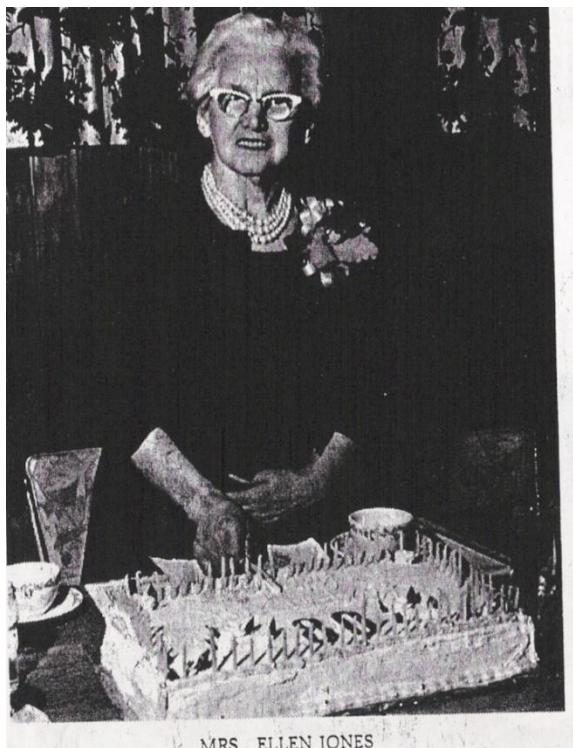
Mrs. Raymond Olczak of Ecorse appeared as matron of honor in a gown of deep rose pink chiffon fashioned with an empire waist line and long sleeves. A Dior bow secured a matching veil and her flowers were a cascade bouquet of pink carnations tipped with deep rose pink.

The new Mrs. Kekich is a graduate of Ecorse High School. Her husband, also an Ecorse High School graduate, is employed at Dana Corporation. They plan to reside in Wyandotte on their return from their honeymoon trip to Northern Michigan.

Family and relatives attended the wedding from Brewster, Akron, Navarre, Massillon and West Portsmouth, Ohio. Friends from Penicuik, Scotland, also attended.

Mrs. Ellen Jones

January 1968



One of the happiest Ecorse residents Saturday evening was Mrs. Ellen Jones, 4228 High Street, who was honored at a surprise 80th birthday party given by her immediate family at a Lincoln Park restaurant.

Mrs. Jones, known to her many friends as Nellie, was overwhelmed with happiness to see her five children and eleven grandchildren.

An Ecorse resident for 35 years, Mrs. Jones is well known for her daily walks to the bakery and grocery store, plus her years of active work in the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

She received many beautiful cards from friends in England, Canada, and Ecorse, including one from Ecorse Mayor Richard Manning and several councilmen. Many lovely gifts were also received.

Mrs. Jones, due to the early death of her husband, worked for many years to raise her children during the Depression years, which are well remembered by the old timers of today.

When asked to what she attributed her good health at the age of 80, she stated, "My keeping active with daily walks of over one and one half miles virtually every day, keeping busy baking for her children and now her grandchildren, and being a hard working church member. She said that she didn't have time for worry or self pity, "which makes most people grow old before their time."

Rauschenbergers Celebrate Golden Anniversary



MR. and MRS. MERLE RAUSCHENBERGER

February 1976

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Rauschenberger of 16 Ruth, Ecorse, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February 1976 at a dinner party held in an Allen Park restaurant with their twelve children and their spouses.

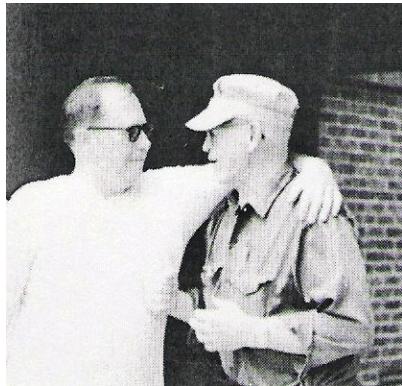
The Rauschenbergers were married on February 8, 1926, in Butler, Pennsylvania, and lived in Ecorse for 43 years. Mrs. Rauschenberger, who was Janet Freeman before her marriage, chose an aqua chiffon dress with gold and silver metallic designs on the bodice and sleeve cuffs. Her shoulder corsage was fashioned of gold rosebuds and baby's breath.

The couple cut a three tiered wedding cake centered in a floral arrangement with gold candles at either side. After dinner, the couple and their guests continued festivities at the Ecorse home of their parents.

The Rauschenbergers are members of Ecorse United Presbyterian Church and Down River Pennsylvania Club. She is a member of the Ecorse Women's Club. Merle Rauschenberger was a foreman bricklayer at Great Lakes Steel before his retirement after 37 years at the Steel Mill.

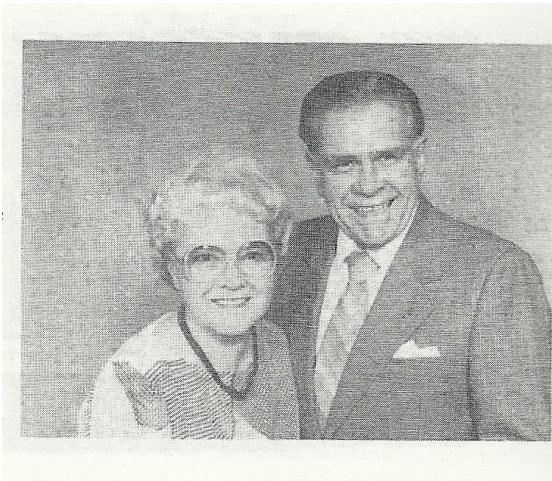
The couple has 46 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Conscientious Custodians



These two men, Emmett Swartzbaugh and Joseph Robson spent many dedicated years as custodians of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

Ecorse Photographer, Sandy Blakeman



Morris "Sandy" Blakeman began his photography career as an Army photographer during World War II. He and his wife Mary were long time members of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church and many of the photos in this history were made from negatives in his files. He and his wife Mary were long time members of Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

The Mayor and the Ministers

(Left to right) Mayor George Coman, Pastor Joseph Barlow, and Reverend John Bartko at the dedication of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Presbyterians and the Rowing Club

The Ecorse Rowing Club dedicated a shell to Mrs. Burton Loveland to honor the participation of the Loveland family in the Club.

Leonard Corns Wrote a Fiftieth Anniversary Poem About Ecorse Presbyterian Church



The Church, 1985

By Leonard Corns

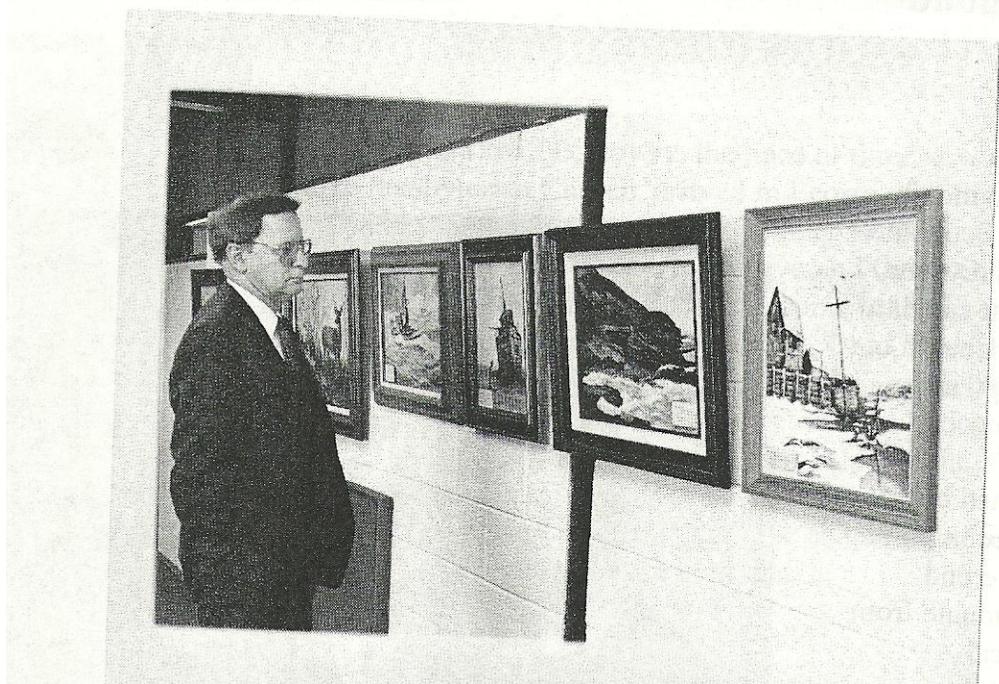
I came to the village Ecorse
About 75 long years ago,
Believe it or not, by the Baptists
I guess the good Lord deemed it so.
At first I was an old frame building
The only Protestant church in town
Then we had a severe and damaging windstorm
That blew my old structure down.
But this didn't discourage the people,
They showed by their strain and sweat,
That they'd build me up, build me over,

It's something I'll never forget.
I became the First Presbyterian Church in Ecorse,
On the place where we now abide,
Fifty-one chartered members were happy,
They felt the good Lord was on their side.
But now I'm old and weakened;
The members have voted to tear me down,
I can't complain, I've done my work,
And I know I should not frown.
You see, they wanted something modern,
You can't blame them for that, and yet-
It's going to cost them a bundle of money,
It's going to put them deeply in debt.
So off they went to get a loan,
Although their chances could be slim,
They wanted a fine and beautiful church,
For the people to worship in.
They got the loan and built me up,
There's nothing I didn't lack,
But I forgot to tell you;
They have to pay the money back.
But the people rose to this task,
As they always did before,
And before you knew it, they paid it back,
Now who could ask for anything more.

Remember When?

- The Ecorse Presbyterian Church had a church day at Bob-Lo Island. Families packed kids and picnic baskets and waited at the foot of State Street (now Southfield and Jefferson) to board the boat for a day of fun.
- The Ecorse Presbyterian Church sponsored baseball and basketball teams and each team won many trophies.
- Many Christian Endeavor members gathered at the home of “Ma Jones” for a game of hearts and a cup of tea.
- Church dinners were held in the basement of the red brick church.
- Miss Edna Long supervised a group of ladies who gathered to make cancer pads.
- A Sunday School class met in the church belfry.
- Elizabeth McCutcheon, mother of Harold, Hazel Stevenson, aunt of Winnie Thomas, and Mary Davis used to put the *Presbyterian Notes* together for mailing in the old church basement.

Chapter Five Presbyterian Pastors



Ecorse Presbyterian Church Ministers

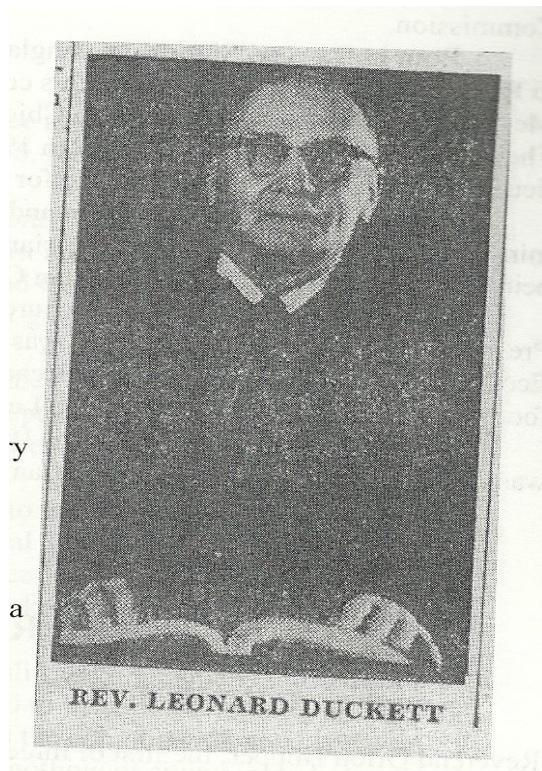
Roy G. Hershey	1910-1913
Isaac J. Van Hee, S.S.	1913-1914
David Gilles	1914-1915
C.W. Hastings	1917-1921
Walter Nichol	1921-1926
William T. Angus	1926-1928
Ralph A. Armstrong	1928[1931]

Leonard Duckett	1931-1956
Orion Hopper,	
David Lowry	1956-1959
George Colman	1956-1962
John Calvin Pack	1963-1964
Raymond D. Scott	1965-1971
John D. Bartko	1972-1993
Edith Gause	1993-1996
G. Patrick Thompson	Temporary Supply Minister
Harry W. Ladley	1999-2002
E. Dickson Forsyth	2002-2006

Reverend Leonard Duckett, 1931-1956

Ecorse Advertiser

Thursday, December 8 1955



Testimonial Banquet Set for Reverend Duckett
To Retire January 1 After Devoting 35 Years to Ministerial Duties

Another milestone in the 35 years he has dedicated to the ministry will be reached Christmas Day when the Reverend Leonard Duckett preaches his last sermon as pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

Presently serving his twenty fifth year as pastor, Reverend Duckett plans to retire on January 1, although as pastor emeritus he will continue to be identified with the church and will supply the pulpit until a successor is chosen.

A farewell banquet in his honor will be held Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Church House Youth Center built by the church in 1953.

Prominent fellow churchmen and civic leaders will join members of his congregation and friends in honoring the beloved pastor Sunday.

Among the speakers will be his close friends Dr. Kenneth J. Neigh, executive of the Presbyterian Synod of Michigan, Dr. Warren Hall, pastor of the Wyandotte Presbyterian Church and a classmate at McCormick Theological Seminary, and the Reverend H. Norman Jackson, pastor of the Wyandotte Congregational Church.

Mayor William W. Voisine who has called upon the services of Reverend Duckett in many civic undertakings and has never been refused, will be a principal speaker.

A program planned by Mrs. Ray Meade and B.E. Loveland will include a community sing, special songs by a women's trio and a solo by Mrs. Herbert Saylor, choir director, who will sing Reverend Duckett's favorite, "The World Is Waiting for the sunrise."

Mayor William Voisine and the Ecorse Library Board honored Reverend Leonard Duckett with a farewell testimonial dinner.

Membership of the church has increased to 650 from the congregation of 262 that first greeted Reverend Duckett in September 1931. The pastor directed the remodeling of the church and addition to the basement when the building was moved back 60 feet during the widening of Jefferson Avenue in 1936. When the Church House Youth Center was erected, one of his fondest dreams was realized.

Reverend Duckett served as moderator of the Presbytery of Detroit in 1941, has been a member of the Ecorse Kiwanis Club for 22 years, and for several years has served as chairman of the Ecorse Library Commission.

Born in Dawley, Shropshire, England, Reverend Duckett came to America in 1909, and traveled alone to Rossville, Iowa, his first home in this country. He was graduated from Coe College in 1915 and entered McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. After studying at McCormick for a year, he entered Auburn Theological Seminary in New York. In 1917, he joined the United States Army and served as a second lieutenant. He was stationed in France for nine months.

In 1919, he returned to Auburn and completed his ministerial training. In June 1920, he accepted his first ministry as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, Iowa, where he served for eleven years before being transferred to Ecorse Presbyterian Church in September 1931.

Reverend Duckett served his church and community long and well. He was the minister of Ecorse Presbyterian Church for 25 years. He was a member of the Ecorse Kiwanis for 25 years and served on the Ecorse Library Commission for two decades. In November 1956, the Church House Youth-Center located at the foot of East Bonzano was renamed the Leonard Duckett Center in his honor.

Reverend Duckett died in April 1970 at Presbyterian Village in Redford Township. His funeral service was conducted at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church and he was buried at Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Reverend Orion Hopper, 1956-1959



REV. ORION HOPPER

Reverend Orion Hopper, the first of three ministers conducting an experimental program designed to determine how the Presbyterian Church could best serve the people of an industrial society, preached his first sermon at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church in early July 1956.

A graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, Reverend Hopper came from a ministerial tradition. His father, Orion Hopper, spent his life as a minister, including a pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford, New Jersey, from 1925-1929.

After serving three years in Ecorse, Reverend Hopper and his wife Julia, went to Hillsdale, Michigan, where Reverend Hopper served as organizing pastor of the Hillsborough Presbyterian Church.

Reverend George D. Colman, 1956-1962

REV. G. D. COLMAN

The Ecrose Presbyterian Church welcomed the second of its three new ministers, the Reverend George D. Colman, on Sunday, August 19, 1956. He and Mrs. Colman and their two children will live at 21 Bonzano.

Before coming to Ecrose, Reverend Colman served as the assistant minister of the Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pa. Born in Binghamton, New York, and the son of a Presbyterian minister, Reverend Colman was educated at Haverford College in Philadelphia and Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

Reverend Colman is one of a team of three ministers, including the Reverend O.C. Hopper, Jr. and the Reverend D.B. Lowry, who have accepted the call to the pastorate of the Ecrose Church. He Reverend Orion Hopper was the first minister to arrive on July 15, 1956.

Their call to the Ecrose Presbyterian Church was the result of the congregation's desire to enter with them into a study of the church's ministry to contemporary industrial society. The study has the approval of the Presbytery of Detroit. The three ministers will take over the charge vacated by the Reverend Leonard Duckett who retired January 1 after serving the church for 25 years.

The youthful minister with his trademark crew cut and his wife Julie and their small children soon became part of Ecrose. Under Reverend Colman's guidance (he preferred to be called George by the members of his church) scores of teenage couples and young married adults joined the congregation and served on various committees and held church offices.

Reverend Colman thought nothing of sitting in on hot political meetings in Ecrose, a town where politicians play hard ball even on a softball field. He was a member of the library board, the community relations council, and was one of the chaplains of the police and fire departments. In

order to understand the community better, he occasionally accompanied police officers on their beats. He organized teenage clubs, jumped in the swimming pool with congregation members during family swim nights, and whirled around the floor at square dances in the Leonard Duckett Center.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church members recall with a chuckle the time that Reverend Coleman sat quietly in the back of their church and was asked to help with the offering. He waited until he had assisted the priest until he revealed his true identity.

Reverend Colman and priests from St. Francis would often hold joint meeting with young people's groups to promote understanding of their work. In his efforts to promote understanding, Reverend Colman asked ministers from many other denominations to exchange pulpits with him and often served in black churches.

Many local high school students gained insight into the lives of other people by attending work camps under Reverend Colman's guidance. Ecorse teenagers were taken to coal mine communities, remote mountain villages and the heart of the big city slum areas. During their two week tours they would live with the people in these areas and make repairs to their churches while experiencing how other people lived.

After six years in Ecorse, Reverend Colman accepted a position as associate field director in Michigan for the Board of National Missions, where he worked with the inner city areas of Detroit and Port Huron.

In the six years that he served as pastor of Ecorse Presbyterian Church, Reverend Colman made many friends in the Downriver area. He loved Ecorse and its people and when the new position was offered him while he was attending a general church assembly in Denver, he spent considerable time in soul searching before he decided to accept it.

Reverend David B. Lowry, 1956-1959



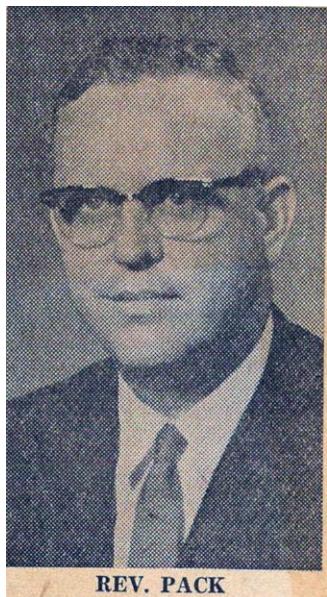
REV. DAVID B. LOWRY

The Reverend David B. Lowry, the third of three new ministers at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, arrived in Ecorse with his wife and their two children in the first week of November 1956.

Reverend Lowry joined the Reverend Orion C. Hopper, Junior and Reverend George D. Colman who came to the Ecrose Church earlier in the year. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Reverend Lowry received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

He came to the Detroit area from Alexandria, Virginia, where he served as a probate officer in the Fairfax County Court. Before that he completed a ministerial internship in the chaplain's office of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C.

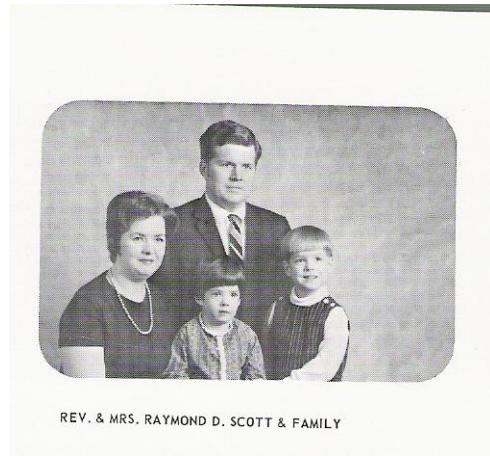
Reverend John Calvin Pack, 1963-1964



Reverend John Calvin Pack and his wife, the former Mildred Broome, both natives of West Virginia, arrived in Ecrose in late 1962. The congregation of the Ecrose Presbyterian Church welcomed him as their new minister.

Reverend Pack graduated from Morris Harvey College, Charleston, West Virginia and Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Reverend Pack's special field of study was pastoral counseling and psychology. Before he entered the ministry, Reverend Pack was a businessman for twelve years and Mrs. Pack had been a public school teacher for twenty years.

Reverend Raymond D. Scott, 1965-1971

REV. & MRS. RAYMOND D. SCOTT & FAMILY

Reverend Raymond Dana Scot and Mrs. Scott and their twins Todd Andrew and Jennifer Preston Scott came to Ecorse Presbyterian Church in August 1965. On September 19, 1965, Reverend Scott was installed as pastor.

After he earned his undergraduate degree in Wooster, Ohio, Reverend Scott went on to graduate from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1963. After serving as an apartment house pastor and at two New York City churches, Reverend Scott and his family came to Ecorse in 1965. He was instrumental in guiding the congregation through building a new church.

Reverend Scott readily recalls important dates in his life. The Scotts were married on June 9, 1961, his twins were born on January 16, 1964, and he earned his doctoral degree from McCormick Seminary in Chicago in 1984.

After they left Ecorse, the Scotts went to a Presbyterian Church in Stamford, Connecticut for nine years and then to Cincinnati, Ohio, for nine years. In 1989, Reverend Scott accepted a pastorate at the Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, and he retired from there in 2003.

Reverend Scott remembers the people of Ecorse Presbyterian Church as being “wonderful, caring, people.”

Reverend John Bartko, 1972-1993

Reverend John Bartko was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and spent his childhood in Mingo Junction, Ohio. He received his education in the Central High School of Mingo Junction and Waynesburg College in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, where he majored in English and minored in Spanish and music. Then he attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where he majored in Christian Education.

Reverend Bartko could converse in the Slovak language. His hobby was music and he studied the organ quite extensively. He also enjoyed bowling and working with flowers.

He came to Ecorse from the Christ United Presbyterian Church in Milford, Ohio, in November 1972, and served until his death in June 1993.

Reverend Edith Gause. 1993-1996

During Reverend Gause's pastorate at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, signs of new life began to appear. There was increased worship attendance, an active youth group, and a modest increase in the number and amount of pledges. Church members began to become involved in community issues and the laity became increasingly involved in the leadership and oversight of church life.

After she left Ecorse, Reverend Gause became a transitional synod executive for the Asian Presbyterian Council in California.

Between 1996 and 2002, when Reverend E. Dickson Forsyth came to serve as pastor of Ecorse Presbyterian Church, Reverend G. Patrick Thompson and Reverend Harry E. Ladley served as Presbyterian pastors.

Reverend E. Dickson Forsyth, 2002-2006



In 2002, when he had spent just two years in retirement, Reverend E. Dickson Forsyth came out of retirement to accept a call to be the pastor of Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

Reverend Forsyth reconsidered his retirement shortly after he conducted a Thanksgiving service at another church and the pastor's wife asked him if he missed being a pastor. According to Reverend Forsyth, her question "started a chain of events that led the way to where the Lord would lead me. I received a lot of support from my family and clergy friends as well."

Before he retired, Reverend Forsyth served churches in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Maryland and moved to Michigan with his family in 1974. In Michigan, he worked for nine years on the pastoral staff of Hospice of Michigan and in the course of his duties established an advisory council in Dearborn for Muslin Hospice of Michigan. He also spent two years at Cleary University in Ypsilanti as development officer.

A native of Massachusetts, Reverend Forsyth was raised in a "good Presbyterian family" and dedicated his life to the church when he was just 15. "I always felt called to the ministry through circumstances of family, Christian classes and camps," he recalled. He continued his education by earning a bachelor's degree from Gordon-Conwell College in Massachusetts and a master of theology degree at the Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Ordained at the age of 23, he has also studied at colleges in Amsterdam and Moscow.

Reverend Forsyth is an avid reader and goes through at least a book a week, usually biographies, fiction, and nonfiction. He also likes to garden, swim, and spend time with his family. He and Nancy, his wife of nearly four decades, have three grown children and three grandchildren.

Chapter Six

The Church Has Many Cornerstones

Sunday School and Youth Groups



Frank Seavitte, the father of Walt Seavitte and Ella Jean Pettijohn, was the first Sunday School Superintendent of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. He continued that post for 35 years and helped build the attendance from a few to over two hundred.

Roscoe Hileman, husband of Eula and father of Carolyn Hileman Sheck, became the next Sunday School Superintendent. He was instrumental in forming the Men's Group and he also made it possible for the Sunday school teachers to participate in the quarterly curriculum reviews sponsored by the Presbytery and many other activities.

Charles Anderson, a choir member and church school teacher, became the next Sunday School Superintendent. In the late 1950s, some of the older Sunday school students wanted to form Youth Fellowship groups, so with the cooperation of some of the teachers, Senior High and Junior High Fellowships were formed.

George Kenlin followed Charles Anderson as Sunday School Superintendent. During George's time as superintendent, several good programs were initiated or continued. One of these programs included a Work Camp Experience for senior high pupils. As participants in these

work camps, Ecorse Presbyterian Youth traveled to Buckhorn and Berea, Kentucky. Later with Chester Fleming as the adult leader, other young people worked at Sunset Gap in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee. Several groups participated in the Work Camp Experience at Sunset Gap.



Ecorse Presbyterian youth met at the Leonard Duckett Center to discuss plans for their journey in July 1967 to Sunset Gap Community Center near Newport, Tennessee. Departing Sunday morning by station wagons the group will work one week improving the facilities of the center. From left are Sue Sluka, Kim Urich, Robert Cress, the Reverend Raymond Scott, Mike Ciungan, Don Pettijohn, Ron Jones, Brandy Burnham, Sharon Williams and Beverly Bowles. Seated is Chester Fleming who, with the Reverend Scott and family, will accompany the youths. Missing from the photo is Mike Jones.

Ecorse Presbyterian Sunday School



Bessie Goodell

Over the years there have been many dedicated teachers with long years of service in the Sunday School. These teachers include Miss Bessie Goodell who taught kindergarten for 56 years, Everal Fesko, Lola Inks, Dorothy rice, Phyllis Beckman, Jeanette Bolthouse, Gladys Lizak and Myra McQuiston.

Myra and the other Sunday school teachers and the Christian Education Committee have continued the Vacation bible School that the session authorized in the 1920s and worked to make the Sunday School lessons interesting and meaningful to both teachers and students. The Ecorse Presbyterian Church began as a Sunday school and it has grown and become an important force in the life of the church because of its dedicated teachers and Sunday School Superintendents.

Women's Groups

In 1952, women of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church prepare the May Breakfast in the church basement. Some of the ladies in the picture are Nellie Corns, Jean Stahl, Jeanette Bolthouse, Esther Bewick, Clara West, Ruth Robson, Margaret Balla and Alma Stevick.

Women's Fellowship Association

In the Ecorse Presbyterian Church the sewing group, the ladies Aid and the Study Groups became the United Presbyterian Women's organization and later this name was changed to the Women's Fellowship Association. The session record states that in March 1925, the session authorized the formation of a Women's Fellowship Association.

For many years the women held a monthly general meeting and the study group or circle meetings also met once a month. The circles included the Patch Clark, Rebecca, Priscilla and Dorcas Circles which met at the homes of their members. Eventually, the general meeting was held every three months with one circle, the Priscilla Circle, still meeting in the homes of the members.

The Women's Fellowship Association survived these changes through the hard work of such members as Loretta Loveland, Everal Fesko, Myra McQuiston, Doris Curtiss, Lola Inks, Diane McCaw and Joyce Lawrence who struggled to keep the group active.

Over the years the Women's Fellowship Association has raised many thousands of dollars for mission and Christian Education Groups and for the church and community by putting on ice cream socials, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, harvest home dinners and the annual bazaar. The group helped pay off the church mortgage and keep the curtains and kitchen equipment in the Leonard Duckett Center in good repair.



Women's Bible Class

Mabel "Patch" Clark led the original Sunday school class which eventually evolved into the Women's Bible Class.

The Clarks lived on the river side of Jefferson Avenue just north of State Street (now Southfield) and Mabel was a close friend of a great aunt of Louise Short Elliott and Robert Short.

Over the years several teachers taught the Women's bible Class and some of the early members were Margaret Balla, Mattie Strohm, Ryassah Hawkins, Eula Hileman and Ruth Robson. One of the class projects was sending Sunshine Baskets to shut-ins and ill or hospitalized people.



Father and Son Banquet

Thursday, February 17, 1955

With a program designed to please all boys from six to sixty, the Ecorse Presbyterian Church will be the scene of the annual Father and Son Banquet this evening.

The Women's Bible Class will stage the big affair which is being held in the Youth Center Building. President Ruth Robson is in charge of the decorations and has named the following committee heads to assist her: Mrs. Winnie Thomas and Mrs. Mattie Strom, kitchen; Mrs. Beverly DuHadway, dining room.

William Jones and Erich Urich of the men's group have arranged for a varied program. The Reverend Leonard Duckett will address the assembled fathers while the youngsters will be entertained by two Disney cartoons and a troupe of six giant boxer dogs trained by Fay Saysnider.

As in past years various prizes will be awarded for the youngest and oldest father present as well as the father with the most sons present.

Men's Groups

In March 1938, the Session of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church authorized the forming of a Men's Bible Class which rapidly grew and became an important part of the church. On many occasions the men's Bible Class helped serve meals and refreshments for church activities.

On December 7, 1951, Dr. John Stanley Harker, president of Alma College, was the principal speaker at the charter night meeting of the Ecorse Chapter of the National Council of Presbyterian Men Friday, December 7, 1951, at 6:30 p.m. at Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

The Ecorse Chapter was organized on October 23, 1951. Officers were Ernest Monk, president; Layton Brayman, vice president; George Bakos, secretary; and Joseph Pritula, treasurer. The purpose of the National Council of Presbyterian Men was to promote the Kingdom of God worldwide by encouraging Presbyterian men to serve Jesus Christ in the work of the church and to follow him in the vocations of the common life.

Dr. Harker was an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church and he became president of Alma College in January 1951. Alma College was founded by and is controlled by the Presbyterian Church of Michigan. It is a fully accredited college of liberal arts which some 4,000 citizens of Michigan have attended.

Presbyterian Music

In March 1917, the session of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church appointed a committee to establish a music program in the church. Some of the early pianists and organists for the services were Miss Ethel Ranger who taught in the public school system as well as the Presbyterian Sunday School and Miss Ida Stevenson, aunt of Winnie Thomas.

In 1921, Mrs. Lillian Meade and her family moved to Ecorse from Colorado and she became organist and choir director. For over thirty years Mrs. Meade played the organ for worship services, weddings and other church functions. She played the piano for the Women's Fellowship Association and the Kiwanis Club and the Women's Club of Ecorse.

Lillian Meade's daughter Ardis Urich Laskowski took over as organist when her mother decided to step down and like her mother before her Ardis played the organ for the church for many years. Often she directed the choir as well and established a youth choir.



Ardith Meade Urich Laskowski , and her mother, Mrs. Lillian Meade. Both played the organ and piano for the church for many years.

Other choir directors during the time Ardith was organist were Olive Herb Sullivan, Beatrice Saylor, Dune Smith and Earl Strnaud. Earl reestablished a junior choir for third graders and up and the young singers sang in the junior choir until they graduated to the adult choir. Eventually, Ardith Laskowski resigned as organist and Carolyn Hileman, a former piano student of Lillian Meade, became organist and youth choir director. When several years later Carolyn too, found it necessary to give up playing the organ, Ardith returned to the organ and choir directing position.

Eric Franker, Nancy Brookshire and Bryant Brewster were interim organists in the years that Carolyn and Ardith couldn't serve. During those years, Reverend John Bartko served as choir director as well as minister of the church.



In July 1953, Elder John Davis, the head of the music committee, reported that after careful study of a number of organs the committee recommended a Hammond Organ at a price of \$2,599.00, by Grinnell and company. Mr. and Mrs. William Voisine and their daughter in law donated the organ as a memorial to Robert C. Voisine, a lifelong member of the congregation who had recently died. In October 1953, the dedication of the new organ took place at the 11 a.m. service and Dr. Charles L. Werth, the well known concert organist played at the dedicatory service.

This organ served the church for over a quarter of a century until it had to be replaced during Reverend Bartko's ministry.

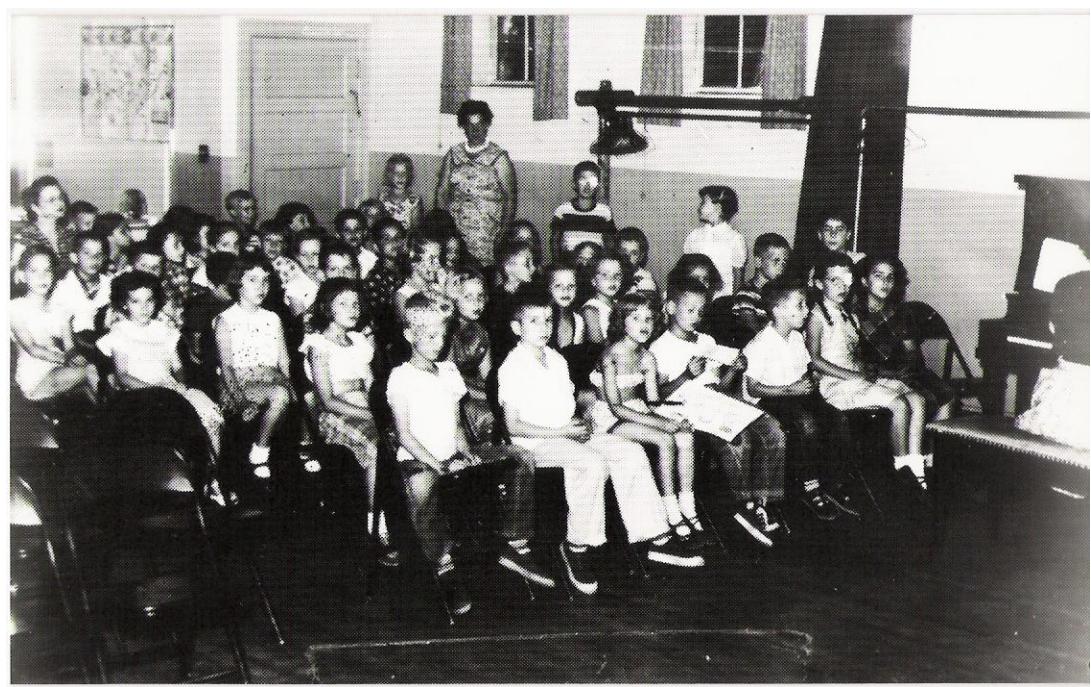


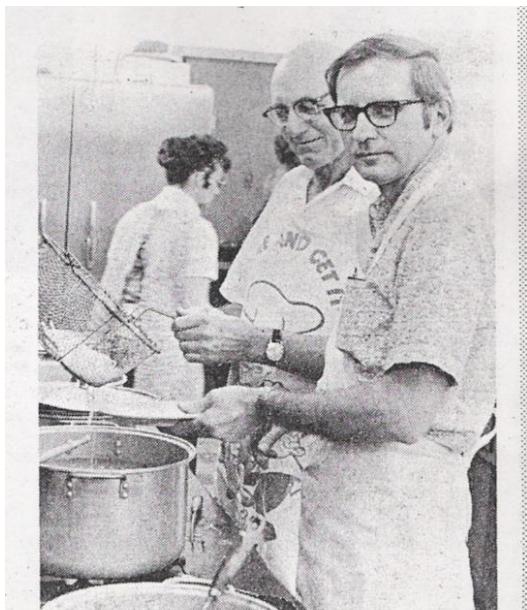
Chapter Seven

Presbyterian Parties, Programs, Projects

Oh, Those Doings at the Duckett Center!







DAVID BERGER and Rev. John Bartko dish up the spaghetti Friday afternoon at the Leonard Duckett

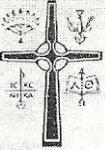


The female side of the Joseph Robson family at a Mother and Daughter Banquet in the Leonard Duckett Center. Left to right are Maryanne and Linda Kowalski, Kathy, Rebecca, Dorothy, and Bonnie Covert, Evelyn and Gloria and Karen Santelli, Ruth and Margaret Robson, and Josephine and Ruth Sanflippo.

PRESBYTERIANOTES

ECORSE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4207 W. Jefferson Avenue
Ecorse, Michigan 48229

Non-Profit Org.



Return Requested

Vol. 13, No. 6

July, 1967

FROM THE PASTOR'S POST

Today I am going with our young people on a work camp and I thought the following article from the book "Creative Brooding" by Robert Raines speaks so clearly of one of the causes of our problems with youth as well as our families and friends.

"Dear Folks,

Thank you for everything, but I am going to Chicago and try and start some kind of new life.

You asked me why I did those things and why I gave you so much trouble, and the answer is easy for me to give you, but I am wondering if you will understand.

Remember when I was about six or seven and I used to want you to just listen to me? I remember my birthday and I was really happy with the things - about a week - at the time I got the things, but the rest of the time during the year I really didn't want presents, I just wanted all the time for you to listen to me like I was somebody who felt things too, because I remember even when I was young I felt things. But you said you were busy.

Mom, you are a wonderful cook, and you had everything so clean and you were tired so much from doing all those things that made you busy; but, you know something, Mom? I would have liked crackers and peanut butter just as well if you had only sat down with me a while during the day and said to me: "Tell me all about it so I can maybe help you understand?"

And when Donna came I couldn't understand why everyone made so much fuss because I didn't think it was my fault that her hair is curly and her skin so white, and she doesn't have to wear glasses with such thick lenses. Her grades were better, too, weren't they?

If Donna ever has children, I hope you will tell her to just pay some attention to the one who doesn't smile very much because that one will really be crying inside. And when she's about to bake six dozen cookies, to make sure first, that the kids don't want to tell her about a dream or a hope or something, because thoughts are

important too, to small kids even though they don't have so many words to use when they tell about what they have inside them.

I think that all the kids who are doing so many things that grown-ups are tearing out their hair worrying about are really looking for somebody that will have time to listen a few minutes and who really and truly will treat them as they would a grown-up who might be useful to them, you know - polite to them. If you folks had ever said to me: "Pardon me" when you interrupted me, I'd have dropped dead!

If anybody asks you where I am, tell them I've gone looking for somebody with time because I've got a lot of things I want to talk about.

Love to all, Your Son"

-A boy with a record as a juvenile delinquent
"Cast me not off, forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!
For my father & my mother have forsaken me,
but the Lord will take me up."

-Psalm 27: 9, 10

Lord, forgive me!
Forgive me for being too busy
to realize that my wife has feelings too;
too busy
to let my child interrupt me while I read
the paper or watch TV;
too busy
to try to understand the complaints
of my associates at work.
Help me today, while there is still time, to
listen.

WORK CAMPERS VISIT TENNESSEE

On Sunday, July 16 ten boys and girls, accompanied by Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Scott and Chester Fleming, young adult Sunday school teacher, left for a revival of the once-popular work camps.

The group spent a week in Sunset Gap, Tennessee where they constructed an outdoor

<p>Two</p> <p>PRESBYTERIANOTES</p> <p>July, 1967</p> <p>for and painted the interior of the Community Center building.</p> <p>The next issue of Presbyteranotes will describe the work they accomplished. Here are photographs to show the results work.</p> <p>Our crew members included Ronald and me, Mike Cungan, Dan Pettijohn, Bob Beverly Bowles, Kim Ulrich, Brandy St., Sharon Williams and Sue Shaka.</p>  <p>VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL</p> <p>Vacation Church School will start on August 14 this year and run until Friday, Aug. 25. Classes will be held for boys and girls 5 years of age through the Sixth grade. It will be conducted from 9:00 A.M. until 11:30 A.M. Many women and high-school girls have volunteered to help on the staff. There is still a need for more help.</p> <p>James Custer is acting director of the school and is also in charge of the kitchen with George Kishen.</p> <p>Other school superintendents include Mrs. McQuiston, Kindergarten; Mrs. George, Primary Department; Mrs. Clyde Young, Juniors; Mrs. Richard Carrico, Seniors, and Mrs. Raymond Scott, Music.</p> <p>Helping on the teaching staff are Mrs. Mr. William Oberdieck, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. James Elkins.</p> <p>In addition to help from the teen-age girls, we are seeking a superintendent for the three Juniors in the third and fourth grades.</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>OLD PHOTOS CREATE MUCH INTEREST</p> <p>A series of old time photos your editors in collecting and publishing have created quite interest.</p> <p>Just month's issue we published a picture of workers who were standing in the air when resulted in the fire Leonard Center building.</p> <p>May be that before too many months pass similar stories will be needed only on a</p>	<p>July, 1967</p> <p>PRESBYTERIANOTES</p> <p>Page Three</p> <p>In those days professional concerns would furnish a director, the scenery and the costumes and local actors would assume the roles.</p> <p>The large photo taken on the stage in the old Eureka High School auditorium was from a play entitled a "Homeless Wedding," with men assuming all the roles. The smaller one features the "Floradora Girl" group from a play called "Corporal Egan".</p> <p>Business and civic leaders all joined together to take part in these productions and money was used to further the work of the church.</p> <p>We would appreciate similar pictures of long-ago scenes.</p>  <p>Members of the Senior High Class have sent assortments to our boys in Viet Nam. Boxes were mailed in June and plans are being made to send additional boxes this month. Donations are more than welcome.</p> <p>Those wishing to drop a few welcome lines to the men may address mail to the following:</p> <p>Brent Burham S.M.; 791-06-05 U.S.S. Okinawan A.P.A. 220 FPO San Francisco, California 96601</p> <p>SP 4 Paul W. Nagy, U.S. 55827606 Co B 8th Engr. Bn., 1st Air Cav. Division APO San Francisco, California 96490</p> <p>SP 4 Jeff Balla, 13874804 Co B, 8th RRF APO San Francisco, California, 96308</p> <p>L/Cpl James D. Heskett, 2245273, U.S.M.C. 1st Bn, 11th Marines, Charley Bay APO San Francisco, California, 96602</p> <p>L/Cpl Scott Lee Kelly, 2146861 U.S.M.C., Marine Composite Recon, Sqdn. APO San Francisco, California, 96602</p> <p>PFC Robert J. Thomas, 2285297 1st Lt AA Missile BN, H & S Btry, (10 Sec) APO San Francisco, California, 96602</p> <p>A 1 C Robert P. Phillip, AF 18733617 (PACAF) 483RD Campon, Box 199 APO San Francisco, California, 96326</p> <p>Sgt. David A. Vargo, US 55827592 Co B, 8th Regt, Inf. Inf. Utah Light Inf. Bde. (Sep.)</p>	  <p>ALEXANDER HAMILTON LIFE INSURANCE</p>
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Chapter Eight

Presbyterian Participation

1870

The beginning of Sunday School in Ecorse.

1903

Ecorse is incorporated as the village of Ecorse. Ecorse history stretches back before 1701, when French voyageurs traveled down the Detroit River and traded with the Indians who had established villages in Ecorse and Wyandotte.

1907-1910

September 1, 1907

A group of young people who lived in the village of Ecorse but were members of the Wyandotte Baptist Church organized a local Sunday school group that met regularly.

1910

September 12, 1910

The Detroit Presbytery organized the Ecorse Presbyterian Church with 51 charter members. On September 15, 1910, the first pastor, Reverend Roy G. Hershey, arrived and served until 1913.

Session Records

October 20, 1910

Reverend Dr. Bryant moderator. Elders: H.W. Gerlach and A. Schultz were present. Elder F.W. Seavitte, absent.

Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Colton appeared before the session and was examined on her religious experiences. She made a satisfactory profession of her faith and was received into membership. She and her daughter Mildred-7 and infants Anne were to be baptized on October 2, 1910.

1911

January 1, 1911

Reverend Roy Hershey, moderator and elders Gerlach, Schultz and Seavitte present.

Annual Report, 1911

Received in church by faith – 28

Letter – 9

Baptisms: adults -11; children-7; Infants-7; Total – 25

Funerals – 17

Marriages – 3

Membership in good standing- 71

October 16, 1911

Motions made by Elder Gerlach, seconded by Elder Schultz, that bylaws and corporation papers be placed in front of sessional record. Carried.

Discussion on getting a decent place to meet for services. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to recommend to the board of trustees that the old building be sold at once and if nothing better could be done to build a new church on the old site.

1912

A wind storm destroyed the old frame building that the Ecorse Presbyterian Church used for a meeting house. Members immediately set to work to build a new one.

February 4, 1912

The session met in the hall used for church services on Sunday morning, February 4, 1912, Mr. Louis J. Hawkins, Mrs. Medora Hawkins, Mr. Alexander Dollarhite and Mrs. Lydia Dollarhite on confession of faith were received into the church.

April 7, 1912

Mrs. Fran Vollmar and Miss Lenora Smith appeared before session and on being examined on confession of faith were taken into full membership of the church.

April 7, 1912

The following were presented for the ordinance of baptism:

Warren Earl Birdsall, born March 21, 1911

Catherine Maud Birdsall, born August 4, 1907

Dorothy Beatrice Barnum, born November 20, 1911

Patricia Lene Kenway, born March 17, 1912

The following appeared before the session and were received into the church on profession of faith:

Mrs. Frank H. Vollmar

Mrs. Leonara Smith

1913

March 23, 1913

George Sherman Ouellette and George Burkhardt were taken into church membership.

1914

Members finished constructing the red brick Ecorse Presbyterian Church on the corner of West Jefferson and Outer Drive. In 1912, a wind storm had blown down the old wooden frame building that had been located on Cicotte and Monroe Streets and members set to work immediately to build a new one. They used their horses to dig out the basement and did most of the work themselves. The new brick building would serve as the church for the next 56 years.

1917

March 1917

The session appointed a committee to establish a music program in the church.

1918

March 3, 1918

Brother John Church appeared before the session and upon confession of faith was elected a member of this church in full communion. Brother Church's public reception to take place at the regular church services this evening. This action was taken on account of Brother Church having joined the Canadian Army and desiring to be a member of this church before leaving for Army service. Motion supported.

March 28, 1918

Marion Pierce, Mrs. Rozella Pierce, Ellsworth Leroy Pierce, Mrs. Floris K. Bolthouse and Mrs. Jeanette Bolthouse were accepted into membership.

March 30, 1918

Sunday School Nominating Committee
Superintendent – Frank W. Seavitte
Assistant Superintendent-Louis F. Hawkins
Secretary-Miss Loretta Burkhardt
Assistant Secretary & Treasurer- Miss Sally Williams
Organist- Miss Ida Stevenson
Assistant Organist-Miss Pauline Minitsch
Primary Superintendent-Miss Beatrice Bennett
Cradle Roll Department-Mrs. Henry Gerlach
Virginia June Buick and Charles Raymond Buick were accepted into membership.

March 1918

Paul Vollmar was appointed to organize and direct a choir and Miss Ida Stevenson became organist. There was also a church orchestra.

April 16, 1918

Church Membership – 98

October 22, 1918

Mrs. Hoffer was appointed Superintendent of the Juniors and will organize a junior church to meet on Sunday afternoons.

1919

March 28, 1919

Sunday School Officers

Superintendent-Fank W. Seavitte

Assistant Superintendent- Marion E. Pierce

Secretary-Miss Loretta Burkhardt

Assistant Secretary- Miss Nellie Williams

Enrolling Secretary-Miss Nellie Williams

Librarian-Albert Kirkahur

Treasurer-Miss Sallie Williams

Primary Superintendent-Miss Beatrice Burnett

Assistant Primary Superintendent- Miss Viola Bahlow
 Superintendent Cradle Roll- Mrs. Henry W. Gerlach
 Organist-Miss Ida Stevenson
 Assistant organist-Miss Pauline Mihatsch

1919

Church membership – 125
 July 1919
 Received in full communion of the church- Burton E. Loveland

1920

April 18, 1920
 Reverend Hastings reported that Miss Hazel Berry had joined and was an active worker in the Christian Church recently established in Ecorse and upon motion her name was taken from the church rolls.

1920

Church membership, 145

1921

February 1921
 The session instructed the Christian Endeavor group not to permit fortune telling for money at an upcoming bazaar.

April 17, 1921

The Sunday school presented a petition to the session for permission to organize a Saturday Church School as a department of the Sunday School and asked for the appointment of two members of the session to act with the pastor and Sunday School Superintendent as an advisory committee. Motion was carried and Mr. Louis Hawkins and Mr. Joseph Trueman were appointed.

April 17, 1921

Pastor C. Windling Hastings resigns.

April 1921

Church Membership – 155 members in good standing.

December 1921

Reverend Walter Nichol is installed as pastor on Friday evening, December 9, 1921

1922

March 29, 1922

New members of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church included Bruce F. Vollmar, Mrs. Hazel Vollmar, James McKee, Mrs. James McKeller and Russell A. Vollmar.

March 31, 1922

Report of Session of Ecorse Presbyterian Church for year ending March 31, 1922

The past year has been one of many changes in the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. On April 17, 1921, Reverend C.W. Hastings who had been minister in Ecorse for nearly four years tendered his resignation and asked the congregation to join with him in the request to Presbytery to sever the pastoral tie. This request was granted and by the action of Presbytery the resignation became effective after Sunday May 8, 1922.

The congregation was without a minister for several months. On October 30, 1922, a call was extended to Reverend Walter Nichol which was accepted at the Presbytery meeting on November 21 and on December 9. Mr. Nichol was installed as minister of the Ecorse charge.

The meetings of the congregation for public worship have been maintained throughout the year. The prayer meeting which was discontinued for a time during the vacancy was resumed on December 28, 1921, and has been held each week since that time. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered twice during the year, in April 1921 and January 1922. The session is gratified to notice evidences of increasing interest in the services of the church.

The Sunday school has continued to do excellent work and each week brings indications of new interest or of interest revived. The Y.P.S.C.E. has kept up its work and is now actively seeking to strengthen that work. In October, an intermediate Y.P.S.C.E. was organized and has been continued since that time and is now in a flourishing condition. The Session wishes to express its thankfulness for those officers and teachers in Sunday school and Y.P.S.C.E. who have labored faithfully for the edification of the body of Christ.

The Session regrets that during the year one of our members joined together with several who had been helpful members of this congregation who have withdrawn their support and are directing their energies elsewhere. The membership roll shows that 6 have been received by letter and 7 have been received by profession of faith. There has been one removal by death, twelve were dismissed at their request and thirty-two were placed on the reserve roll leaving the present membership as 110.

The conclusion is that the session expresses its confidence that a very important work has been given to the Ecorse Church by Almighty God and prayerfully and hopefully looks forward to the year upon which we are just entering.

December 4, 1922

The forming of a mission Sunday school in the district on the west side of the railroad tracks was discussed but no definite action was taken at the session meeting.

1922

The budget for the year 1922 was \$330. That year the Ecorse Presbyterian Church pledged \$78 to Near East Relief, a large amount of money for that time and this was more than any other church in the Detroit Presbytery gave.

1923

April 1, 1923

Church Membership – 135

May 2, 1923

Reverend Nichol spoke of the necessity of a boy's organization and upon motion of Brother Gerlach, supported by Brother J. Trueman, same was approved by the session.

July 1923

The Session approved the Daily Vacation Bible School.



December 19, 1923

The Session approved the use of the church basement by the Women's Relief Corps to begin January 8, 1924.

1924

March 23, 1924

Officers of the Sunday school were:

Superintendent- Frank W. Seavitte

Assistant Superintendent- James Trueman

Secretary-Miss Ethel Rauger

Assistant Secretary- Miss Priscilla Smith

Treasurer- J. Ernest Trueman

Superintendent Primary & Beginners- Mrs. Frank Seavitte

Superintendent Cradle Roll – Mrs. Walter Nichol

Pianist-Mrs. Ray Meade

March 23, 1924

Alexander Robertson presented a letter of membership from Kirke Caldy, Scotland, and was received into the full membership of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

March 31 1924

Reverend Nichol requested that the Anti-Saloon League send a speaker to Ecorse and the session approved the request. They could accept a free will offering, but could not pass out pledge cards or take pledges in the church.

March 31, 1924

Church Membership – 132 members.

June 22, 1924

Mrs. Lillian B. Meade was received into the Ecorse Presbyterian Church on a certificate of membership from the First Baptist church of Lavita, Colorado.

Brother Hawkins moved that the evening services be discontinued for the months of July and August. The motion was carried.

1925

March 22, 1925

The session instructed moderator Reverend W. Nichol to call a meeting of the ladies of the congregation for the purpose of organizing Women's Missionary Society.

April 7, 1925

Year End Report

Church Membership – 160 members

29 infant baptisms

Contributions of the congregation to four great boards of National Mission, Foreign Missions, Christian Education and Ministerial Relief have been \$320.00. Special offering to the Anti-Saloon League, Near East Relief and the Beliviare Indian Mission and Roy Allison have amounted to \$118.71.

The Sabbath School and the Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor and the ladies have accomplished very commendable work during the year. A Vacation bible School was conducted during July 1924 under the direction of Mrs. J.E. Trueman and Mrs. R.L. Haydere.

The session wishes to express its appreciation of the very faithful services rendered by Mrs. Halmshaw and the help of the members of the choir, of Mrs. Meade and of members of the orchestra in the musical service.

December 1925

The session approved serving coffee and doughnuts after the evening services and presenting short religious dramas to try to increase Sunday evening attendance.

1926

The manse was built next to the church.

1927

The session met to determine whether the congregation would enter the Pension Plan of the Presbyterian Church for the benefit of the minister and the issue was approved.

1928

September 1928

Alfred C. Bouchard , the ninth president of Ecorse Village, died while serving his fifth term.

1929

The Depression hits Ecorse and the Downriver area hard. Relief centers dispensing food and clothing are set up around the village.

1931

April 1931

In the depths of the Depression, the Ecorse Presbyterian Church had trouble paying the interest on the mortgage on the church and manse and decided that if it could not find a way to make the payments it would go to the Board of Church Extension for help. There is no further record of what the session decided, but the mortgage on the church and the manse is paid.

1931

Reverend Leonard Duckett became pastor the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. He served for 25 years until he retired in 1958.

1932

April 1932

Church membership rose to 355 members in good standing.

May 23, 1932

Reverend Leonard Duckett requested to attend the 50th anniversary of the church he had formerly served at Monticello, Iowa. Session granted permission.

1933

Church Membership – 262 members in good standing.

February 1, 1933

Reverend Duckett announced that on Sunday, February 12, 1933, the Downriver Christian Endeavor Union would hold their regular monthly services at Ecorse and after discussion it was decided that we combine our regular evening services with this service.

1934

March 25, 1934

The Nominating Committee of the Sabbath School presented the following nominees to the session for their approval.

Superintendent- Frank W. Seavitte

Assistant Superintendent- Mrs. Clarence Holshog, John Slumpff

Recording Secretary-Mrs. Ethel Rauger

Enrolling Secretary- Miss Mary Seavitte

Treasurer-Miss Loraine Kamic

1935

March 13, 1935

Discussion as to find a way to raise our Presbyterian tax so same could be paid and back payments caught up. Suggested that everyone get behind annual excursion to Bob-Lo and use profits if there are any for this purpose.

Sunday, September 8, 1935

Ecorse Presbyterian Church celebrated its Twenty Fifth anniversary. The church held special services during the first week of September and the Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, and Ecorse Tribune reported on the festivities.

Charter members present at the anniversary service were:

Mr. H.W. Gerlach

Mr. Albert Schultz

Mrs. Albert Schultz

Miss Louise Vollmar

Mrs. Sophia Cameron Bishop

Mr. Frank W. Seavitte

1937

November 7, 1937

Average attendance at the evening service has dropped to about 50. The session voted to continue the evening services.

1938

March 1, 1938

Brother Frank W. Seavitte was appointed Superintendent of the Sunday school for the next year. He is to choose his assistants.

After discussing some ways to start work among the men of our congregation, it was decided upon motion of Brother Meade supported by Thompson that the Sunday school start an adult men's Bible class.

1939

June 5, 1939

Motion by Elder Carpenter and supported by Elder Meade that a letter of appreciation be written to Great Lakes Steel American Legion Post #272 for attending Mother's Day Services and inviting them to attend at any time they wish.

1940

January 14, 1940

Mr. J. Howard Cosby and Mrs. Edna Cosby his wife, presented certificates of dismissal from Mt. Olivet Methodist Church of Dearborn, Michigan, and upon motion of Elder Bemis supported by Elder Davis, were received into full membership of this church.

January 21, 1940

The question of playing shuffleboard in the basement on Sundays was discussed and the decision was that in the best interests of the church if not be permitted.

March 17, 1940

Elder Seavitte said he wished to retire as superintendent and that a younger man should carry on. Elder Bemis supported by Brother Davis made motion that Elder Seavitte be elected honorary superintendent of the Sunday school for the remainder of his natural life.

April 9, 1940

Minutes of Annual Meeting

Church members as of December 1939 – 360

Infant Baptists- 26

1941

April 15, 1941

Attention was called to the excellent work that is being done by Mrs. George Kercher as church secretary and also the treasurer Edgar R. Poindexter. The clerk was instructed to write a letter of appreciation and send to Ms. Kercher and Mr. Poindexter.

1942

January 1942

Ecorse adopts a city charter.

February 2, 1942

It was suggested that we get boxes for a special Easter offering to take care of our quota for the Emergency Fund for War Work. Upon motion by Elder Meade, supported by Elder Hawkins, the suggestion was adopted and boxes are to be ordered.

March 31, 1942

Church Membership – 439 Members

1943

April 15, 1943

Suggested by Mrs. Meade and heartily concurred in by all present that the church has had a splendid year and that it is very gratifying to know that the organization is out of debt and has a substantial balance in the treasury of each group.

Moved by Mrs. Brown, supported by Mrs. Blair, that we have a weekly church bulletin. Mr. Davis moved and Mrs. Grundy supported the motion that a committee be appointed to study the possibility of such a bulletin and report back to the board of trustees. Reverent Duckett appointed Mrs. Brown, Mr. Davis, and Mrs. Grundy.

1943

Church Membership – 448 Members

Sunday School - 267

After a short discussion motion was made by Mr. Clifford Vollmar, supported by Mrs. Francis Grundy, to increase the salary of Reverend Leonard Duckett from \$2,500.00 to \$2,750.00 per year. The motion received the unanimous support of the congregation.

1944

September 11, 1944

A letter from Robert Lord resigning as Sunday school superintendent because he moved to Detroit was received. His resignation was accepted after expressing appreciation for his good work. Reverend Leonard Duckett and Elder Carpenter were appointed to contact Elder Evans to see if he would take the office of Sunday school superintendent.

October 4, 1944

Elder John Davis was appointed Sunday school superintendent to succeed Elder Robert Lord.

1945

February 25, 1945

A special congregational meeting was called to consider the budget for 1945. Approval of the budget included a change in the pastor's salary from \$2,750.00 per year to \$3,250.00. John Davis and Harold McCutcheon moved that it be approved and the motion was carried.

March 31, 1945

Church Members – 455

Sunday school – 289

1946

February 18, 1946

The clerk was instructed to write a letter to Mrs. Frank W. Seavitte expressing our sympathy in the loss of her husband and also our appreciation of his outstanding service as Elder and Sunday School Superintendent for 35 years.

April 7, 1946

It was moved and seconded that Charles Herb be nominated to succeed the late Elder Frank Seavitte for a term of three years. Approved.

December 9, 1946

The report of a study of the Presbyterian churches in the metropolitan area of Detroit made in the summer of 1945 in its relation to our church was read and approved. The main recommendation for the Ecorse Church was that it should look forward to moving closer to Lincoln Park.

1947

March 31, 1947

Church Membership – 485 members

Sunday School – 257

April 8, 1947

Annual meeting of the congregation of Ecorse Presbyterian Church held April 8, 1947.

It was moved and seconded that the session be increased from nine to twelve members.

Elder Buerk nominated Dallas Hoppe for a term of one year, Leslie Thompson for a term of two years, and Kenneth Swartzbaugh for a term of three years.

1948

Monday, March 8, 1948

The report on the Memorial dinner to raise funds for the purpose of securing a bronze plaque in honor of those who served their country in World War II, and in memory of those who gave their lives was made by the pastor. The report was to the effect that sufficient funds had been raised from the dinner to purchase the bronze plaque.

The New Life Movement was again discussed and also a check was made of the progress the session had made in winning men and women to Christ.

May 30, 1948

The dedication of the Memorial Plaque in honor of the members of this church and congregation who served their country in World War II, 1941-1945, and dedicated to the sacred memory of those who sacrificed their lives for democracy, peace, and justice, took place at the morning service on Sunday, May 30, 1948.

November 28, 1948

After examination, it was moved and seconded that the following named persons be received into the membership of the church on profession of faith...George Bakos, Mrs. Clarabelle Bakos, Mrs. Mary Blakeman.

December 31, 1948

Church Membership – 456 members

Sunday School – 272

1949

January 3, 1949

It was moved and seconded that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs. Henry Gerlach for the gift of a communion service in memory of her husband who was a faithful elder in this church for 36 years.

January 9, 1949

A beautiful communion silver service was presented to our church in memory of Henry W. Gerlach by his wife and family. Henry W. Gerlach was a charter member of our church and served continuously from the time the church was organized until the day of his death, a period of 36 years. The communion silver service was dedicated on Sunday, January 9, 1949.

July 1949

Reverend Leonard Duckett officiated at the reburial in Michigan Memorial Cemetery of Pfc. William McMurdo, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George McMurdo of Ecorse. "Fergus" as his friends and family called him, was killed in action on November 15, 1944, after just 14 months of service. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star.

According to the citation issued by the War Department, McMurdo voluntarily made three trips through barbed wire entanglements to get grenades for his comrades who were trapped in advance trenches outside fortifications in the face of enemy fire. Later that day he was killed by enemy fire as he attempted to set up a machine gun.

September 18, 1949

On Sunday, September 18, 1949, five new pews were presented and dedicated to our church in memory of Anthony Letwin by his wife and family.

November 13, 1949

On Sunday, November 13, 149, the budget for 1950 was approved by the congregation which included an increase in the pastor's salary from \$3,500.00 to \$3,800.00 per year.

December 11, 1949

More than 250 guests attended the Wayne County Library Union Council's annual Christmas party at Ecorse Public Library on Sunday, December 11. Following a program in the auditorium a smorgasbord dinner was served. Chairman of the program which included dance numbers, music, and an address of welcome by Mayor W. Newton Hawkins, was Mrs. Agnes Pauline of the Plymouth Public Library.

Other speakers were the Reverend Leonard Duckett, pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church and member of the Ecorse Library Board and Walter Kaiser of the county library board.

December 31, 1949

Church Membership – 466 members

Sunday school – 299

1950

November 19, 1950

On Sunday, November 19, 1950, the budget for 1951 was adopted by the congregation. The budget included an increase in the pastor's salary from \$3,800.00 to \$4,200.00 per year.

December 3, 1950

It was moved and seconded that our church send a check in the amount of \$10.00 to the chairman of the New Life Committee in the Detroit Presbytery, toward the New Life School of Preaching to be held in Flint, Michigan, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, December 12-14, 1950. The pastor attended the school of preaching.

1951

February 6, 1951

Marvin W. Carpenter who had been a ruling elder in our church since 1938, passed away on Tuesday, February 6, 1951, following a brief illness. He was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and served splendidly as a ruling elder.

March 11, 1951

Received into church membership:

Carolyn A. Hileman

Dr. William C. Noble

Winifred H. Noble

October 14, 1951

A letter of resignation from Mrs. Lillian Meade as organist and director of music was read. On motion, the resignation was accepted with deep regret and the clerk was instructed to write a letter to Mrs. Meade expressing our sincere appreciation for thirty years of outstanding service. It was also ordered that the letter be signed by each member of the session.

December 7, 1951

Dr. John Stanley Harker, president of Alma College, will be the principal speaker at the charter night meeting of the Ecorse Chapter of the National Council of Presbyterian men on Friday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

The Ecorse Chapter was organized on October 23, 1951. Officers are Ernest Monk, president; Layton Brayman, vice president; George Bakos, secretary; and Joseph Pritula, treasurer. The purpose of the National Council of Presbyterian Men is to promote the Kingdom of God worldwide by encouraging Presbyterian men to serve Jesus Christ in the work of the church and to follow him in the vocations of the common life.

Dr. Harker is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church and he became president of Alma College in January 1951. Alma College was founded by and is controlled by the Presbyterian Church of Michigan. It is a fully accredited college of liberal arts which some 4,000 citizens of Michigan have attended.

1952

January 8, 1952

Annual Meeting

Church Membership- 467 Members

Sunday School – 275

November 2, 1952

Moved and seconded that the session employ a Director of Christian Education at a salary of not more than \$3,000.00, including pension and vacation arrangements who will, under the supervision of the committee on Christian Education, but with final responsibility of the pastor and session, organize, develop and direct the Christian Education program of the church.

December 7, 1952

Mrs. Lawrence D. Helmke of Columbus, Ohio, was engaged as Director of Christian Education in our church for one year at a salary of \$3,000.00.

1953

January 18, 1953

The clerk read a communication containing a resolution to be introduced to Presbytery on January 27, 1953. The resolution was pertaining to the question of non-segregation in all Presbyterian churches. After lengthy discussion in which some members of the session expressed fear that the presence of large numbers of members who originally came from the South would make any action to admit colored people to our church detrimental to the church. No action was taken.

January 27, 1953

The Presbytery passed an important motion approving a policy of non-segregation for all churches in the Detroit Presbytery.

March 22, 1953

Ronald V. Sheck was accepted into membership.

July 19, 1953

The report of the Music Committee was made by Elder John Davis. The report is as follows: after careful study of a number of organs including Wurlitzer, Hammond, Consonate, and Baldwin, we are recommending installation of a Hammond Organ, No. C2, price \$2,599.00 by Grinnell and Company. Our church is responsible for any carpentry to the building necessary to the installation and this is to be done under the direction of Grinnell's engineer.

September 13, 1953

The following plans for the dedication of the Church House Youth Center were approved. The dedication will take place on Sunday, October 4, 1953. Two Communion Services (one at 9:30 a.m. and another at 11:00 a.m.). Immediately following the second service the congregation will go to the new building for the ritual of dedication. At 3:30 p.m. the dedication banquet will be held. The dedication committee is comprised of Ray Meade, John Davis, B.E. Loveland, and William Jones.

October 8, 1953

The dedication of the new organ at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church will take place at the 11 a.m. service next Sunday morning. The well known concert organist Dr. Charles L. Werth will play at the dedicatory service. He is well known for his many appearances at church concerts and has played with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He has played more than 200 concerts during his career.

A donation of Mr. and Mrs. William Voisine and their daughter-in-law, the organ is a memorial to Robert C. Voisine, a lifelong member of the congregation who recently died.

October 13, 1953

The Pastor made the following report on the Church House Youth Center, William Jones, Elmer Hart, Charles Burkhardt, and Mrs. Ray Meade were appointed to supervise the new building.

1954

January 1954

Church Membership – 530 Members

Sunday School – 305

January 8, 1954

In appreciation of their many years of service to the church, John Davis, who had served 33 consecutive years as an elder and Phillip Buerk, who has served many years on the session and board of trustees were named honorary elders.

April 1, 1954

It was moved and seconded that the session recommend that the sum of \$1,500.00 be loaned from the Christian Education Fund to the Trustees for use in church building repairs.

1955

Church Membership – 612 church members

Sunday School – 310 members

May 12, 1955

The Friendship and Rebekah Circles will hold their meeting on Monday, May 16, at the Church House Youth Center, Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

The Dorcas, Patch Clark, and Martha Mary Circles will hold their meetings on Tuesday, May 17, at the Church House Youth Center of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

The Ecorse Presbyterian church was the scene for the May Fellowship Day, sponsored by the Downriver Council of United Church Women, Friday, May 5, 1955. Luncheon tables colorfully decorated with spring flowers were laid for 150 members.

Mrs. B.E. Loveland and Mrs. Harry McMahon were hostesses for the day.

1956

January 1956

Reverend Leonard Duckett retired after 25 years as minister of Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

September 27, 1956

Among the farewell parties in his honor was one held by the Ecorse Library Commission in September 1956. Mayor William Vosine presented Reverend Duckett with a volume library of classical recordings and other personal gifts on behalf of the library board and staff. "Reverend Duckett has been greatly missed by his parishioners and the board for he has always contributed so much," said Mayor Vosine.

March 25, 1956

Calls were extended to Reverend David B. Lowry of Alexandria, Va., Orion C. Hopper, Jr. of Burlington, N.J., and Reverend George D. Colman of Philadelphia, Pa., as ministers of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

September 11, 1956

Mr. Prestloff from the American Lutheran Synod called and asked what our ministers thought about industrial America. His insights on the question were the same as our ministers.

September 30. 1956

The session concurs with the recommendations of the joint committee on policy for the Church-House Youth Center that the name of the structure be changed to the Leonard Duckett Hall and that it will refer the recommendation to the congregation for approval. It was moved, seconded, and approved that a dinner would be presented at the Leonard Duckett Center to mark the change of name.

1957

Thursday, February 14, 1957

The second annual Brotherhood Banquet sponsored by the Ecorse Community Relations Committee will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Leonard Duckett Center.

Louis L. Friedland, professor at Wayne State University, who will be the main speaker will discuss municipal government and community organizational structure. Professor Friedland will

define the nature of municipal government and its role in the lives of the people and suggest how various organizations can function to support the political life of a community in a non-partisan way.

At the completion of Professor Friedland's address, the assemblage will form into small groups, each with a leading citizen as spokesman. The groups will discuss municipal government and how citizens can work together for the betterment of the community.

The welcoming address will be given by B.E. Loveland, chairman of the committee. Following the dinner and prior to Professor Friedland's address, guests will join in a community sing.

Members of the Women's Fellowship of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church will serve the dinner.

March 10, 1957

Motion made, seconded, and approved that should colored people ask to come to our church they should be told they are welcome. Also, in the church school.

October 3, 1957

An active member of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church for 15 years, Roscoe Hileman of 51 Union, was elected president of the Detroit Presbytery at the recent annual fall conference in the Allen Park Presbyterian Church.

Hileman was an elder of the Ecorse Church for six years and held the office of clerk for four years. He was superintendent of the Sunday school for seven years and served as program chairman of the Men's Council. Since 1950, he has served as vice president of the Church School Association of the Detroit area and is its treasurer.

A graduate of Alma College, Hileman is employed at the Great Lakes Steel Corporation. He and his wife are parents of four children: Mrs. Carolyn Sheck, a student at the Wayne State University School of Nursing; Alan, a second semester student in Alma College, and Warren and Lois who are attending Ecorse public schools.

1958

The Session recommended at its July 17, 1958 meeting that the Sunday evening services be discontinued until further notice. The motion was carried.

1959

February 1959

Five panelists discussing brotherhood at the Ecorse Brotherhood Program on February 21, 1959 in the Ecorse High School auditorium included Reverend George Colman, pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

Eight senior high school young people and the minister along with members of two other churches will attend a work camp at a mission church in North Carolina in the month of June.

March 24, 1959

The March 24, 1959 meeting of the Ecorse Woman's Club in the Ecorse Public Library included several members of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

A bright bouquet of yellow daffodils and pussy willows flanked by yellow tapers in silver candleholders set the theme for the meeting. Mrs. John Carriette, Jr. of Pleasant Ridge spoke on the topic, "Gardens of the Bible," her hobby which she has been studying for six years. Mrs. Carriette, a graduate of the University of Michigan, is the daughter of Dean Mackey, the first rector of the Christ Church of Cranbrook.

Mrs. Herbert Saylor, Mrs. Fred Bork, and Mrs. Elwyn DuHadway, Jr., sang "April Showers," "In the Garden," and "In Joseph's Lovely Garden." The trio was accompanied by Mrs. Ray Meade. Mrs. Robert Campbell was program chairman.

Mrs. Peter Betz was tea hostess, assisted by Mrs. Hubert Guindon, Mrs. Burton Loveland, Mrs. Robert MacKay, and Mrs. Archie Stevenson.

Mrs. J.E. shoe and Mrs. Merle Rauschenberger were welcomed as new members into the club which this month celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

At a March 10 meeting – the club's first meeting was March 13, 1934- officers of the Detroit Federation of Woman's Clubs and other Downriver woman's clubs and charter members and past presidents were honored guests.

Mrs. Ada Roscoe Saunders, former librarian of the Ecorse Library, and the late Claude J. Miller, then superintendent of schools, were the organizers with Mrs. Miller as the first president.

Among the 70 guests were 14 past presidents in addition to Mrs. Miller, were Mrs. Fred Bellfy, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Meade, Mrs. Alex Dickie, Mrs. Emerson Green, Mrs. Elmer Hart, Mrs. Charles Hunter, Mrs. Harry McMahon, Mrs. Bruce McNeilage, Mrs. Clarence Meade, Mrs. Arthur Payette, Mrs. Oliver Raupp, and Mrs. Archie Stevenson. Mrs. James Cosgrove is the current president.

Six of these were charter members – Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Meade, and Mrs. Payette. Other charter members who were still on the club's active list were Mrs. George Counter, Mrs. W. Kenneth Davis, Mrs. Clarence Birnbaum, Mrs. Guindon, Mrs. George Debo, Blanche Elliott, Mrs. S. Lee Hileman, Mrs. Don Beckman, Mrs. Walter Grown, Mrs. Loveland, and Mrs. George Moore.

An annual guest night sponsored by the club will be held on April 14 at the Shrimp House dining room. Mrs. Hileman and Mrs. Meade, co-chairmen of the social committee are in charge of the reservations while Mrs. Saylor is planning the music and Mrs. Blaine Smith the program.

1960

Church membership reached a peak of approximately 600 people during these years.

1961

June 8, 1961

The film "Operation Abolition" will be shown on June 16 at 8 p.m. in the Leonard Duckett Center of the Ecorse United Presbyterians Church. "Operation Abolition" has been subject to considerable controversy since Governor Swainson demanded that the Michigan State Police stop promoting its use. According to the Reverend George D. Colman, pastor of the Ecorse church, it is estimated that nearly ten thousand people have seen the film which depicts several of the events which took place last year when the House Un-American Activities Committee held hearings in San Francisco.

Reverend Colman said the film has been heartily endorsed and just as heartily denounced. He went on, "Some groups maintain that it gives an accurate account of the way Communists used groups of California students to achieve their own disruptive ends. Other groups insist that the film distorts the facts in order to whitewash the House Committee. The public is invited to see the film, listen to a variety of reactions and voice opinions," said Reverend Colman.

December 13, 1961

Members of the Women's Fellowship of the Ecorse Fellowship of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church will install Miss Ruth Loveland as president in ceremonies at 7:30 tonight.

The installation rites will be combined with the Association's Christmas party, with Mrs. Anthony Owen as program chairman.

Other officers to be installed are:

Mrs. Allen Moilanen, secretary

Mrs. Roscoe Hileman, treasurer

Three vice presidents: Mrs. Roy Frysinger, first; Mrs. Edward Fesko; second, and Mrs. George Colman, third.

At the party members will exchange gifts and donate one for the boys and girls at the Delray Community House.

1962

Ecorse Advertiser

Thursday, July 5, 1962

Reverend Colman to Accept New Post

Leaving Ecorse in September for a new position with the Michigan synod of the Presbyterian Church will be the Reverend George D. Colman, pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

Thursday, August 16, 1962

Glen Hunt Dies at 63; Taught Here 40 Years

At the Ecorse City Council meeting Tuesday night a moment of silence was observed for "a man who taught most of us here," as one councilman put it. He was Glen Hunt, who died unexpectedly Tuesday at the age of 63. He had been an Ecorse High School teacher since 1922 and was a member of Ecorse Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his wife Blanche; a daughter, Kathleen; a brother and three sisters.

1963

June 1963

Five teenage girls accompanied by their minister, Reverend John C. Pack, are attending a work camp in McArthur, Ohio, a rural community that is classified as a depressed area. Those at the work camp are busy painting both the McArthur Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches.

Both churches, operating on limited funds, are working together in an effort to reach a greater number of people. This cooperation extends to sharing a parish house.

Girls attending from Ecorse are Sheila Johnston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnston; Lois Hileman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Hileman; Karen Urich, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erich Urich; Joie Manning, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Manning; and Kathy Cornell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cornell. The girls will return home June 26.

October 31, 1963

The members of the Women's Fellowship Association of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church were busy preparing for the Fall Bazaar to be held on November 7 at the Leonard Duckett Center on East Bonanzo Street in Ecorse. The big event is scheduled to last the entire day and evening.

Mrs. Merle Rauschenberger is general chairman and has chosen the following booth chairmen:

Parcel post – Mrs. Ray Meade

Country Store – Erich Urich (there are times when men are an absolute necessity)

Bake Shop – Mrs. Walter McCutcheon

Candy Kitchen – Edna Long

Jewelry-Ruth Loveland

Rag Rugs- Ida Stevenson

Aprons-Mrs. Robert Cornell

Christmas items and projects-Mrs. Richard Beir

White Elephant-Mrs. Robert Jewell

Fish Pond-Mrs. Henry Bahnsen

Youth Booth-(nothing sold to adults) Mrs. George Richards

Needlework-Mrs. Lorne Babcock

Extra special attractions of the Bazaar are a luncheon which will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. under the direction of Mrs. Robert Montgomery and an evening meal which will be served from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. under the supervision of Mrs. Emory Schonfeld.

A committee headed by Mrs. Roy Frysinger will be in charge of the dining room. Mrs. George Richards and Mrs. Anthony Owen will be in charge of decorations and Mrs. B.E. Loveland will serve as cashier.

1964

September 1964

Erich Urich, Ecorse civic and community worker, died in July 1964. Community members worked to establish an Erich Urich Memorial Fund to be given to the Downriver Child Guidance Clinic Building Fund. A plaque in honor of Mr. Urich will be placed in the entry of the new Child Guidance Clinic on the grounds of the Outer Driver Hospital.

Mrs. Ardith Urich has been organist and choir director at the Ecorse Presbyterian Church for many years and Mr. Urich was an active member.

1965

July 1965

Mrs. Genevieve Poindexter, 62, of 22 Elton, Ecorse, a teacher at Arno School, Allen Park, for 17 years, died Saturday, July 24, 1965, at Harper Hospital in Detroit.

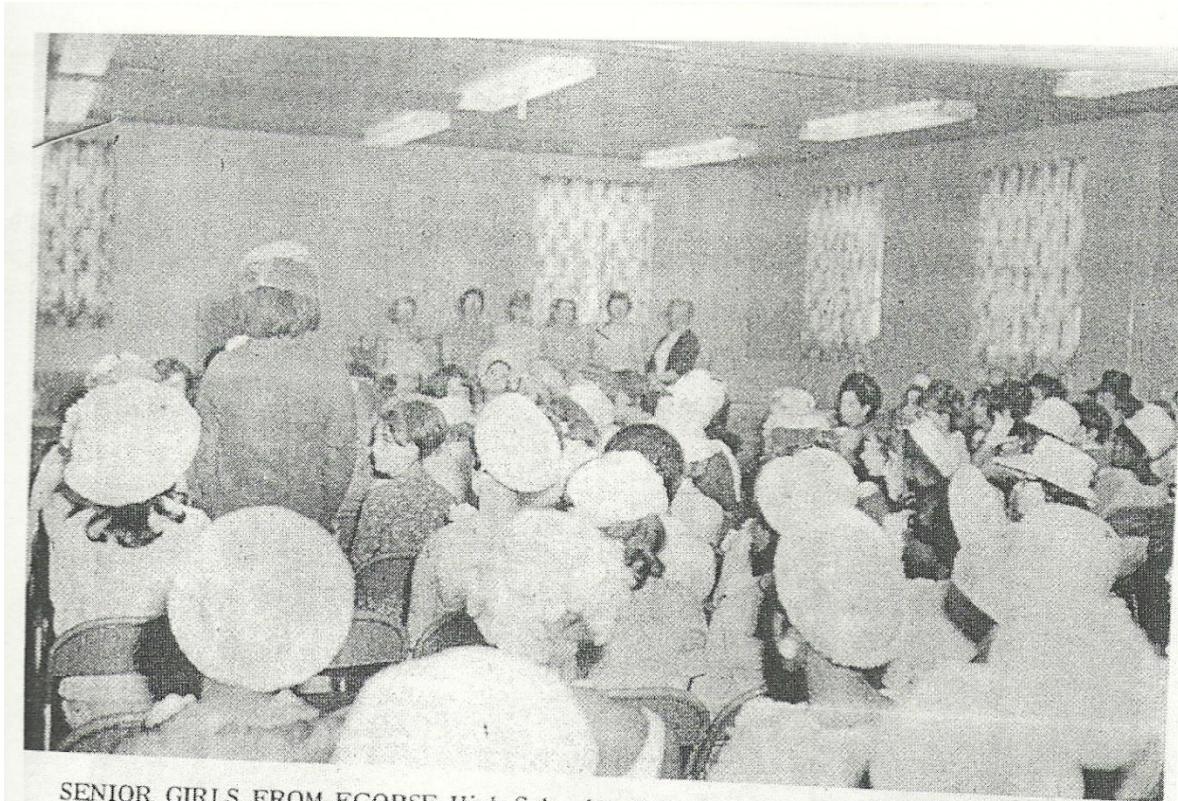
While at Arno, she served as Junior Red Cross coordinator and sponsor for 15 years. She was art supervisor of the East Jordan, Michigan schools and the Ecorse Public Schools. Before she began teaching in Allen Park, she was associated with the Detroit Public school system

She was a charter member of the Ecorse Woman's Club and president of the Allen Park Education Association. She also belonged to the River Rouge Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Michigan Council of Churchwomen, Michigan Education Association and the fellowship organization of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church.

Funeral services for Mrs. Poindexter will be conducted at 1 p.m. at the Ballheim Funeral Home on Thursday, July 29, 1965, by the Reverend Raymond D. Scott of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Michigan Memorial Park.

Mrs. Poindexter was born December 7, 1902, in Michigan and is survived by her husband, Edgar, and two children, James and Kathleen, both at home.

1967



SENIOR GIRLS FROM ECORSE High School and St. Francis Xavier High School, Ecorse, were honored by the Ecorse Woman's Club Tuesday afternoon. Each girl was introduced and presented with a corsage. Standing in the rear are club officers, Georgia Seayitt, (out going president); Dora Lantzsch, president; Joretta Chipard, social chairman; Nadine Castignola, treasurer; Geraldine Hagerman, recording secretary; Joan Owen, music chairman.

May 25, 1967

Woman's Club Fetes Girls at Tea

Pale green and pink was the color theme when the Ecorse Woman's Club held its senior girls tea Tuesday in the Leonard Duckett Center of Ecorse Presbyterian Church. A pale green cloth covered with pale green netting adorned the tea table. The swagged netting was held at the corners by pink carnations and green ribbon.

The table was centered with a mortar board, with blue and white tassels in honor of the 35 girls attending from St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School and red and white tassels honoring the 109 Ecorse High School girls who attended. Tall pink tapers completed the table decorations.

Dramatic readings were presented by two students of John F. Kennedy High School, Taylor. Steve Lovelady gave an excerpt from Mark Twain's "Huck Finn" and Bob Fink delighted those attending with his rendition of Max Shulman's "I Love R.G. Spenser."

Additional entertainment was provided by the Tune Toppers of Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte. Mrs. Anthony Owen, chairman, Mrs. Ray Meade, Mrs. Herbert Saylor, Mrs. Alex Dickie, and Mrs. Arthur Payette were in charge of the music. Social co-chairmen Mrs. Anthony Chiparo and Mrs. Colin Murray were assisted by Mrs. Andrew Mourguet, Mrs. Lee Campbell, Mrs. Robert McQuiston and Mrs. Robert E. Jewell.

July 1967

Vacation Church School

The Vacation Church School will start on Monday, August 14 this year and run until Friday, August 25.

Classes will be held for boys and girls from four years of age through the sixth grade and will be conducted from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Although many women and high school girls have indicated that they would serve on the staff there is still a need for more help.

Mrs. James Custer is acting director of the school and is also in charge of the kitchen with Mrs. George Kinlen.

Department superintendents include: Mrs. Robert McQuiston, kindergarten; Mrs. George McQuiston, primary department; Mrs. Clyde Inks, young juniors; Mrs. Richard Carrico, recreation; and Mrs. Raymond Scott, music.

Assisting on the teaching staff are Mrs. Lee Sova; Mrs. William Oberdieck; Mrs. Thomas Cole and Mrs. James Elkins.

In addition to help from the teenage girls the school is seeking a superintendent for the intermediate juniors in the third and fourth grade group.

1968

February 1968

The congregation of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church makes plans to build a new church and the Ecorse Advertiser prints the details about the new church.

The Advertiser story said that the engineers who inspected the old building told them that it would cost as much to renovate the old sanctuary as it would to build a new church.

Initial plans called for the construction of a 200 seat church on the site of the existing building. To provide for future expansion, the congregation voted to purchase additional property between the church and the Harbor Theatre.

During the period of construction which is expected to start in the spring, worship services will be conducted in the Leonard Duckett Center. General Chairman of the building program is Chester Fleming while Clyde Inks was named chairman of the fund drive. Fleming has appointed a large group of members of the congregation to serve on other important committees.

1970

February 20, 1970

The new church building of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church is dedicated. Reverend Raymond Dana Scott has served the congregation for nearly five years and spearheaded the program which has resulted in the construction of the new \$190,000 church building.

1972

November 11, 1972

Anniversary Party Held at Yacht Club

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kromrei of West Jefferson in Ecorse, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at a party for 115 guests. Their sons and daughters-in-law and Mrs. Ervin Kromrei and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kromrei hosted the party at the Wyandotte Boat Yacht Club.

Mrs. Kromrei is the former Paula Furhman and exchanged wedding vows with Edward Kromrei at Bochum, Germany on November 11, 1922. Their sons Harvey and Ervin live in Wayndotte and they have eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Among the honored guests were Mrs. Frieda Skripzik of Bochum, Germany, who is Mrs. Kromrei's sister and also their cousin Sister M. Amabiis of Monroe, Louisiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kromrei are founders of the Ecorse Body and Fender Repair Shop which they established in 1927.

November 15, 1972

Presbyterian Church Awaits New Minister

The congregation of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church is awaiting the arrival of their new minister, the Reverend John D. Bartko, who will be moving to Ecorse November 30. He will preach his first sermon in the Ecorse pulpit on December 3 at the 11 a.m. worship service.

1973

December 12, 1973

The Presbyterian Bowling league met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert McQuiston Saturday evening. Many Catholics also joined in the spirit there.

1974

March 13, 1974

At a recent meeting of the Women's Fellowship Association in the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church, the following officers were elected for the 1974 term: Mrs. Roscoe Hileman, president; Mrs. Edward Fesko, vice president; Mrs. Gary Ford, secretary; Mrs. Burton Loveland, treasurer; Mrs. Chester Fleming is immediate past president. Mrs. James McQuiston and Mrs. Emery Schonfeld will serve as sewing chairman. Mrs. Robert Cress and Mrs. Schonfeld were appointed United Church Women representatives.

December 18, 1974

Married 60 Years, Meades Honored



MR. AND MRS. RAY MEADE, of Ecorse, hold a ceramic music box, one of the many gifts they received last week during the celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Family and friends gathered December 8, 1974 at the Leonard Duckett Center for the Ray Meades' 60 wedding anniversary party.

Mrs. Meade chose an Alice Blue Gown for the party and a pale pink shoulder corsage. She is the former Lillian Jewell, who is a native of LeVeta, Colorado. She and her husband were married in 1914. He is from Saugatuck, Michigan, and is a plumber by trade. He served many years as Ecorse plumbing inspector.

The Meades have lived in Ecorse for 57 years and are members of Ecorse United Presbyterian Church where Mrs. Meade was organist and choir director for 30 years. She is a charter member of the Ecorse Woman's Club and was its president from 1945-1947. Currently she is a music

committee member. Family members include the couple's three children, eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

1975

May 2, 1975

Miss Stevenson, Oldest Church Member, Dies

Ida Stevenson, the oldest member of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church and the sole surviving charter member of the congregation, died May 2, 1975, in a convalescent home following a brief illness.

"Aunt Idy" as she was known to hundreds of Downriver residents, was buried May 5 at Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit, following services at Ballheim Funeral Home, Ecorse.

She was past matron and charter member of River Rouge Chapter 454, Order of Eastern Star. The chapter conducted special services on May 4 at the Ballheim Funeral Home.

She is survived by nephews Allen, William, Clarence and Jack Stevenson; nieces Mrs. Winifred Thomas, Mrs. Isabel Brown, Mrs. Pearl Moore, Mrs. Lucille Roholoff, and Mrs. Elaine Stefaniak.

As a young woman living in River Rouge, Miss Stevenson worked with Dr. Henri Belanger, a pioneer public health officer, in caring for newborn children. Following the unexpected death of her mother at an early age, Miss Stevenson remained at home and cared for her father and several brothers, all deceased.

For many years until poor eyesight limited her activities, she was a tireless worker for the Ecorse Presbyterian Church and continued to live alone in her 100 year old River Rouge home.

May 28, 1975

Ecorse Presbyterian Church leader Elected to Assembly Committee

Chester A. Fleming of Ecorse has been elected to the Assembly Committee on Ministry to Armed Forces Personnel at the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The Assembly, highest policymaking body of the 2.8 million member denomination was in session at Cincinnati, Ohio, earlier this month. Fleming is a member of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

The 45 member committee is expected to deal with such matters as how the chaplain can function in a dual role while remaining faithful to the discipline of the armed forces and the responsibilities of the clergy, the impact of the military uniform on ministry with individuals, how the church can respond to problems of racism and sexism in the military, and the question of conscientious dissent. The committee, after considering reports and proposals, will make recommendations for action by the full Assembly.

The Presbytery of Detroit elected Fleming as one of the nine elder commissioners representing that body at the General Assembly. He and the Reverend John Bartko, minister of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, attended.

Fleming has been an elder of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church for nearly 20 years and has served actively for most of those years. He also has been an active church school teachers,

working with junior and senior high school groups. From 1967 to 1969, he was chairman of the building committee that developed and erected the modern facility that the church presently occupies.

Currently, Fleming is executive director of the Downriver Guidance Clinic, Lincoln Park. He was appointed to that post on July 1, 1973.

In 1963, he was named Outstanding Young Man of the Year by the Ecorse Jaycees. Five years later he received the Citizens of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Club and in 1972 he was named Kiwanian of the Year by the Ecorse Kiwanis Club. He holds a master's degree from Wayne State University.

Reverend Bartko and Fleming are planning to lead a group of high school students from the Ecorse and Lincoln Park churches on a work study tour of the Appalachian region in eastern Tennessee in early August. The group will compare their daily life activities with those of the young people living in this rural area.

August 20, 1975

Ecorse Young People Work in Tennessee

Recently the Reverend John Bartko, minister at the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church, led a group of ten teenagers on a work camp to Sunset Gap, Tennessee, where a Presbyterian Mission is established.

The group cleared and built a cinder block incinerator and generally cleaned up the grounds. The Center serves the social, spiritual, and temporal needs of the mountain folks living in that area of East Tennessee.

The young people paid their own way, including their room and board for the week's stay. The local church in Tennessee provided the tools and materials and the teenagers provided the willing hands, not to mention the willing hearts.

Highlights of the trip included hiking in the mountains, swimming in the mountain streams, visiting Gatlinburg and seeing a University of Tennessee stage production. Attending were Bruce Bartko, Brian Bartko, Ed Fesko, Katie Fleming, Craig Greenhill, Kathy Inks, Beth McQuiston, Jim McQuiston, Margaret McQuiston, and Rick Gouthron.

Adult sponsors attending with Reverend Bartko were Jerri Dotson and Chester Fleming. The group traveling in a car caravan were joined by seven teenagers and three adult sponsors from the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. The entire group worked and traveled together for the week's stay in Tennessee.

December 3, 1975

Mayor Coman of Ecorse Dies

December 3, 1975
Ecorse Advertiser
10 Cents Per Copy

The Ecorse Advertiser

AFFILIATED WITH THE RIVER ROUGE HERALD

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF ECORSE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

Business Office 4109 W. Jefferson, Ecorse, Mich. 48225 Phone 925-1900 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1975

City Mourns

Mayor Coman, of Ecorse, Dies



An HONOR GUARD of Ecorse police and firefighters saluted as pallbearers moved the casket of Mayor Charles Coman to the hearse following services at Ecorse United Presbyterian Church.

Photo by George D. Rummel

Hundreds Attend Mayor's Funeral

Charles G. Coman, mayor of the city of Ecorse, died Saturday at the Osteopathic Hospital of Detroit.

Mayor Coman, 59, who was re-elected to his second two year term Nov. 4, had been at the hospital since Sept. 20, when explorative tests were made to determine which pinched nerve was cutting off circulation to his leg.

Hundreds of residents, friends, and civic leaders joined relatives at Tuesday's funeral at Ecorse United Presbyterian Church. Rev. John Bartko officiated. Burial was at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. He was in state at Ballheim Funeral Home, Ecorse, Sunday and



CHARLES COMAN

Reverend John Bartko officiated at the funeral of Ecorse mayor Charles Colman at the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, December 2, 1975, after he had lain in state at Ballheim Funeral Home on Sunday and Monday.

The mayor was buried in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock. His wife Ann, son Charles M., daughter Mrs. Joann Todd, two grandchildren and his brother George survived him.

1976

August 11, 1976

Ecorse Church Group Travels to Sunset Gap

A work vacation trip, August 8 through 14, is part of the summer activities for 13 teens from Ecorse United Presbyterian Church. They motored to Sunset Gap, Tennessee, with their four counselors – the Reverend John Bartko, pastor; Chester Fleming, Jim Elkins, and Marlene Calderwood who is a teacher in Pontiac and a Lincoln Park resident.

Destination was the Presbyterian Community Center in Sunset Gap, where the students took part in a paint up and clean up project at the center which houses a church and school building. The center is used for many programs including Head Start and other activities aiding children of varying ages.

Included in the week's excursion were side trips to Gatlinburg, mountain streams, hiking, and visiting. Used clothing was taken by the group to aid the youngsters at the center.

Before leaving the Tennessee church the teens held communion. The teens will take part in the August 15 worship service at 10 a.m. in the Ecorse Church. They include Bruce and Brian Bartko, Ed Fesko, Kathleen Fleming, all of Ecorse; Tammy Elkins of Wyandotte; Craig Greenhill of Trenton; Kathy Inks of Taylor; James, Margaret and Beth McQuiston,, Elizabeth Oberdieck, all of Ecorse; Darlene and Debby Rice of Lincoln Park.

The youngsters earned funds for the trip by holding a car wash and spaghetti supper. They also received contributions from the Ecorse Kiwanis Club and church congregation.

1977

February 22, 1977

Mrs. Edgar Poindexter, director, standing far right, cues the club players taking part in the comedy, "The Amazing Arabella," which was presented during the program at the Ecorse Woman's Club, February 22, 1977 in Leonard Duckett Center. Members of the cast are, from left, Mrs. Helen Elkins as daughter Gloria Fenwood; Beverly DuHadway as the Amazing Arabella; Kathleen McCutcheon as Mrs. Catherine Fenwood; Ruth Short as Mrs. Henrietta Van Walton and Myra McQuiston as Victoria Smith. David Chamberlain, a tenth grader from Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte, played piano selections for the program.



March 1, 1977

This date has been designated as the date that five Ecorse churches will begin picketing the Harbor Theater on Outer Drive and Jefferson. Father Joseph Femminineo, spokesman for the group which formed several weeks ago in protest to the theater's operations said following a meeting last week that each church will be designated certain days to picket the theater. The churches involved include the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church which is located just two doors away from the x-rated theater, the Church of Christ, the Ecorse Baptist Temple, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, and a few from the Ecorse Church of God.

Reverend John D. Bartko, pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, was named vice chairman of the group.



1978

January 21, 1978

Ecorse History Topic at Woman's Club Meeting

Mrs. Ann Coman is chairman of the January 27 Ecorse Woman's Club program and Mrs. Mary Weber is hostess chairman, when the group meets at 2 p.m. in the Leonard Duckett Center.

Mrs. Coman will present Mrs. Martha Higgins of the Ecorse Library, who will speak up on "Ecorse History." Music for the program will be presented by Mrs. Ruth Allen of Southgate. Mrs. Betty Owen and Mrs. Lillian Meade, both of Ecorse, will perform vocal selections, accompanied by Mrs. Meade at the piano.

Assisting Mrs. Weber with hostess duties will be Mrs. Iva Bemis, Mrs. Mary Davis, Mrs. Rhoda Daunter and Mrs. Marie Campbell.

Mrs. Hellen Elkins, publicity committee chairman, said a time change has been made for the February 10 meeting from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Duckett Center for the function, "Holiday Tea Treat."

1979

December 1979

Church membership was about 280 people and close to two-thirds of the members lived outside of the city of Ecorse.

Members of the session were:

Mrs. R. Louise Elliott-Stated Clerk

Mr. Harold McCutcheon-Treasurer

Mr. Orville Bond

Mr. Ralph Brant

Miss Jeri Dotson

Mr. Chester Fleming

Mr. W. Gary Hipp

Mrs. Myra McQuiston

Mrs. Lorraine Nagy

Mr. Joseph Robson

Mr. Waltham Seavitte

Mrs. Ruth Short

Mrs. Ruth Allen

Mrs. Marge Ballheim

Mrs. Joretta Chiparo

Mrs. Rhoda Daunter
 Mrs. Beverly DuHadway
 Mrs. Margaret Johnston
 Mrs. Gladys Lizak
 Mrs. Elizabeth Oberdieck
 Mrs. Doris Sova

December 2, 1979

A mortgage burning service took place at the church. Dr. James Conley and Reverend Edward Miller were guests at the service. Flowers in the sanctuary were given in memory of Burton Loveland by the Loveland family. Greeters were Mr. and Mrs. William R. Dotson, Mrs. Loretta Loveland and Mrs. Lillian Meade. Ballheim Funeral Home paid for the printing of the bulletins. Mr. and Mrs. Chester Fleming donated the Clam Shell in the sanctuary that was slated to be used as a baptismal font.

1981

December 1981

The Women's Bible Class of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church gathered for a potluck dinner at the home of Beverly DuHadway in Lincoln Park. Following dinner, the Reverend John Bartko, pastor of the church, installed newly elected officers in a candlelight ceremony. Joretta Chiparo was installed as president; Margaret Johnston, vice president; Hellen Elkins, recording secretary; Doris Sova, corresponding secretary; and Mabel Nuckols, treasurer.

1982

January 1982

Dianne McCaw is the newly installed president of the Women's Fellowship Association at Ecorse United Presbyterian Church. Other officers in 1982 are Kathleen McCutcheon, vice president, Doris Curtiss, secretary and Loretta Loveland, treasurer. Everal Fesko conducted the installation ceremonies at the December 10 meeting.

April 1982

The Women's Fellowship Association at Ecorse United Presbyterian Church set its annual spring salad luncheon for April 29, 1982 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Leonard Duckett Center. Chairing the "all you can eat" luncheon are Mrs. Ruth Allen and Mrs. Myra McQuiston. Kitchen: Mrs. Dianne McCaw, dining room, Mrs. Doris Curtiss, posters; and Mrs. Loretta Loveland, tickets.

Another Association event announced by President McCaw is the mother-daughter banquet on May 20, 1982. Mrs. Loveland and Mrs. Catherine Cornell have charge of the kitchen, with Mrs. Carol Witt planning the program.

July 31, 1982

The Youth Fellowship of the Ecorse United Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a car wash – no vans or trucks – on July 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church parking lot. The cost is two dollars. The church youth are trying to raise funds for a retreat in October and a work camp in summer 1983. In case of rain, the car wash will be August 7.

August 2 to 6, 1982

Ecorse United Presbyterian Church is sponsoring its annual Vacation Bible School from August 2 to 6 at the church. Four and five year olds, including kindergarten meet from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., first through the sixth grades from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All are asked to bring a sack lunch, a free will offering and a friend.

Margaret McQuiston will teach the kindergarten, Janice Zapor and Nancy Rice, first and second grades; Diane McCaw and Hellen Elkins, third and fourth grades; Lola Inks and Loretta Loveland, fifth and sixth grades. Ruth Allen and Beverly DuHadway are in charge of music and Marge Poindexter, recreation. Program director is Myra McQuiston and church pastor, Reverend John Bartko will lead worship.

September 1982

The annual Harvest Home Supper, a home cooked beef dinner, is scheduled for October 14 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Leonard Duckett Center of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church. The dinner is sponsored by the Women's Fellowship Association.

Catherine Cornell and Loretta Loveland are in charge of the kitchen. Lola Inks heads the dining room committee, Hazel Monday is pie chairman and Doris Curtiss has charge of posters. The public is invited.

The women are preparing articles for the annual bazaar at the Leonard Duckett Center to be held on November 11th. Co-chairperson Dianne McCaw and Hellen Elkins have conducted workshops on hand made refrigerator magnets and making Christmas boxes. Booths planned include Christmas decorations, children's items, books, baked goods, plants, projects, fancy work, quilts, attic treasures, gift wraps and a country store.

The Women's Bible Class meets for its annual potluck dinner on October 7 in the Leonard Duckett Center.

1985

January 16, 1985

Margaret C. Bond wrote a skit to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church called “The First Twenty Five Years.” In her skit, Mrs. Bond records the steady progression of membership in the church and emphasizes that faith in God and in each other is what made it continue to grow.

¹The 1985 Ecorse Presbyterian Directory Featured a message from Pastor John Bartko. The message read:

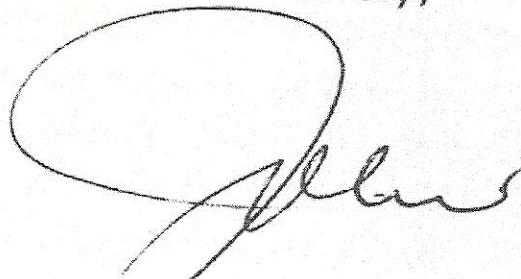
Dear Friends,

This is a special year in the life of our church as we celebrate 75 years of service to God and to the community. As we reflect over the past years, we give thanks for that group of 51 charter members who had the vision and faith to organize a Presbyterian Church and who labored and witnessed to make this Church a special place in the community of Ecorse and the Downriver area.

It is my prayer that we will not let this celebration end with this year, but will let it serve in the months and years ahead as a foundation of our past, a record of our present, and we will let it be a stepping stone for the future.

May God bless each and everyone of you now and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. Blair". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large oval flourish at the beginning.

1986

Ecorse goes into receivership because of declining population, the eroding of its tax base offset by steadily increasing expenditures and the region wide loss of industry.

1989

Church membership is about 200 people.

1993

Reverend Edith Gause served as minister of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church from 1993 to 1996. During her tenure, the church revived and strengthened its community outreach, especially the food pantry and the school tutoring ministry.

1996-2002

Reverend G. Patrick Thompson and Reverend Harry W. Ladley served as ministers of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

2002

Reverend E. Dickson Forsyth strides out of retirement to become minister of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church.

2004

Charron Barcony is hired as Christian Education Director.

**2005**

Ecorse Presbyterian Church, with approximately 71 members, has an active community outreach.

July- Ecorse Presbyterian Church sponsors a Christian Day Camp for the month of July 2006.

2006

October 2006

The Ecorse Presbyterian Church holds its last Harvest Home Supper

November 2006

The Ecorse Presbyterian Church ceases operations and the remaining congregation moves to the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church.

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