



75 YEARS OF SERVICE
AT 9TH AVENUE AND 7TH STREET S. E.

Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church



Cedar Rapids, Iowa

1889

1964

The Minister, The Session and The Board of Trustees
of Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church
cordially invite you to be present
at the Worship and Dedication Service on the
Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Church
Sunday morning, September the twentieth
at half after nine o'clock
and to participate in the Commemorative Celebration
at half after one o'clock.

Buffet Dinner at twelve o'clock
Church Parlors
631 Ninth Avenue Southeast
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR--

The Lord has showered His wonderful grace and word upon us in exceptional measure. We are permitted to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this congregation. When we speak of 75 years, we are speaking in terms of several human generations. The work of the faithful. Of course, the world does not consider it an extraordinary blessing that a Christian congregation has continued her work for such a period of time. The children of this world cannot evaluate spiritual things properly. However, Christians, whom the grace of God has kept in Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church, realize today how good and wonderful the blessing is that God has preserved this congregation in His word and the correct administration of the blessed Sacraments. No wonder we rejoice today. It should not be otherwise. I thank God that I am permitted to join you in this celebration and to minister to you on this happy occasion.

In the Service of our Lord,

William B. Harnish

William B. Harnish

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 20, 1964

9 o'clock — The Call to Re-Dedication

Reading of the Scripture

Prayer

A Word from the Pastor

Presentation of the Key

Opening of the Church Doors

Enter to Worship

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Organ Prelude: Finlandia. Sibelius

*Minister: Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a Stone, a tried Stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation. The Stone which the builders refused is become the Head Stone of the corner.

*People: THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THE WONDERFUL TABERNACLE OF GOD, THE GLORIOUS HABITATION OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT, IS BUILT UPON JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY SURE FOUNDATION.

*Prayer: Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly Father and pray as our Lord did teach us to pray.

*Hymn No. 333 - The Church's One Foundation

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32 thru Hebrews 12:2

Commemorative Prayer - Dr. Milo Filipi

Dedication Ceremonies - Rev. William Harnish and
Dr. Milo Filipi

Anthem - Praise Him, Alleluia. Hermann

Introduction of Guests

Announcements

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Organ Offertory: Meditation. Sturgis'

*Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

Sermon: "Running With Patience"

Dr. John Walker
Text-Hebrews 12:1

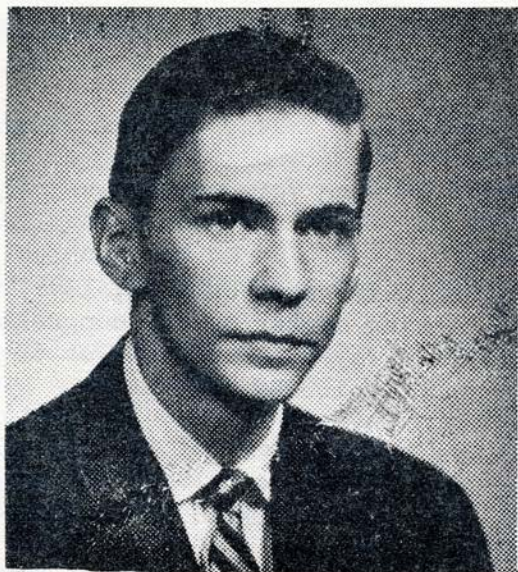
*Hymn No. 459 - Now Thank We All Our God

*Closing Prayer and Benediction

*Choral Response and Silent Prayer

*Postlude: Postlude

(*) Congregation Standing



Mr. Harnish was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa November 16, 1932; a graduate of Coe College, 1956. He completed his Theological training at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, 1961; has attended Iowa State University for Pastors and the University of Iowa Graduate School of Religion. He has served as student pastor at the First Presbyterian Church, Emeline, Iowa, 1957-1958, and as an assistant pastor at Central Park Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, 1959-1960. He served the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church as student pastor from September 18, 1960 until he was ordained and installed March 10, 1963 in the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church. Mr. Harnish married the former Rita M. Wallerich on November 13, 1960 in the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church. They now have two children, John William Harnish born January 21, 1962 and Debra Margaret Harnish born August 20, 1964.

50 YEAR MEMBERS

- Mrs. Adolf Troyak - July 12, 1891, the oldest
living member of our congregation.
Mr. Frank Troyak - Organist for 50 years.
Mrs. Frank (Libbie) Troyak
Mrs. Anna Vavra
Mr. John Troyak
Mrs. Bessie Kubik
Mrs. Antonette Kubik
Mrs. Frances Leksa
Mrs. Emma Challed
Mrs. Emma Kosek
Mrs. Anna Kouba
Mrs. Emily Leksa
Miss Esther Karban
Mr. Joseph Michalek
Mrs. John Rompotl
Mrs. Bozena Fieseler
Mrs. Frank (Carrie) Vavra
Miss Marie Wokoun
Mrs. Ruby Kacer
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kucera
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jasa
Mr. Joseph Bednar

THE HUS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Before explaining the actual beginnings of the Hus Memorial Church in Cedar Rapids, it is necessary to consider the beginnings of the Central West Presbytery of which the local church became a member in November, 1908. This was the beginning of an effort to consolidate all the Czech churches in the Central West states together.

The foundations of the churches of the Central West Presbytery were laid in the pioneer period of the central states and manifest the characteristics of the settlements about the middle nineteenth century. The Church today is reaping the results of their hard toil, abundant faith, honest work, simple wants, and high ideals, all abundant contributions to the agricultural development of the Middle West.

The founders of the Czech churches were sons and daughters of the Reformed Church of Bohemia and Moravia. Their immigration to the United States commenced after the downfall of the democratic uprisings in Europe in 1848, and with the approaching reaction against political and ecclesiastical autocracy.

From their mother church, these settlers brought the heritage of faith in God, the Bible, the prayerbook and the hymnal. Unlike other happier immigrants they were not accompanied by ordained spiritual leaders. For forty years the Bohemian Protestant pioneers kept the Christian fellowship without a ministry and without any assistance from abroad. Yet they met regularly for worship, often in the homes of their neighbors, built churches, and hoped for a trained ministry. The reliance upon self-help in religious nurture has not disappeared. In 1920, at a time of threatening dearth in the number of candidates, the Committee of Education advised the return to the "well tested method of laymen leading in service in church and Sunday School where no other better way" was provided. It is touching to read of the appeals sent to the only man available, in the late fifties, for a preaching service and for the administration of the sacraments. This man was the Rev.

Francis Kun, an ordained minister from Bohemia, a man with extensive university and theological training.

Of his stern resolve and his devotion to what he considered his duty to co-religionists, we can form a faint conception when we remember that he often braved a trip of sixty miles through roadless country to visit his people. That was before the Civil War. He preached in English, Czech, or German, as circumstances required. Rev. Kun came to the United States in 1856. Before coming, he was warned that "the prospects for a Czech pastor were not encouraging." The worthy man died at Ely in 1894 in his sixty-ninth year.

Then in the year 1874, the Czech Evangelical people found a good friend in T. M. Sinclair, the owner of a packing plant where many of these people were employed. Sinclair was a devoted Christian and philanthropist. He gave the group fatherly care and because there was no better place, he made it possible for the group to meet in the factory in a shop where boxes were made. Here the congregation used boxes as seats and continued services for two years. Sinclair encouraged Czech Protestants to persevere in their efforts and invited workers to services; furthermore, in 1877 he built the Hope Mission Chapel (Third Presbyterian church) on the hill back of Saint Wenceslaus Church. Here at three o'clock Sunday School classes were taught in the English language, and at four o'clock church services were conducted in Czech. Rev. Kun came occasionally to preach and with the support of Sinclair, the little group increased and prospered.

THE FIRST CHURCH

The year 1889 was the most important year in the history of the church. On March 10, 1889 the church was permanently organized as a Reformed church with about one hundred members. By-laws were written and the church was incorporated. The brethren at once began thinking of building their own sanctuary. It so happened at the time that the Congregational church

wanted to sell their building; therefore on May 2 this church was bought for \$1600 and moved to the site of the present church on the corner of Ninth Avenue and Seventh Street. On July 7 the church was dedicated by Rev. Kun and several American preachers before a huge crowd of people.

The First Church



On September 29, 1889, this church became a part of the Cedar Rapids Presbytery which did much to help the Protestant Czech work. Until 1910 the church was a member of the Cedar Rapids Presbytery; in that year it became a part of the newly organized Central West Bohemian Presbytery of which we have already spoken.

In the summer of 1890 Vaclav Dudycha, who was the son of one of the first elders and a student at Union Theological seminary, preached without remuneration in this new church. That fall Vaclav Hlavaty came to the United States as a candidate of theology. He was born in Bohemia, studied in the gymnasia in Kolin, Bohemia, and had studied theology in Vienna and Edinburgh. He came to Cedar Rapids during the Christmas holidays and preached in this newly organized church. On January 7, 1891, the congregation called him to be their minister and on January 25 he was ordained by the Presbytery of Cedar Rapids and installed. From that time on services were held every Sunday and the work of God continued

favorably but many times with difficulty. A few months after Reverend Hlavaty's ordination, a debt of \$735 on the church property was paid with the help of the First and Second Presbyterian churches. After a thirty-year struggle to attain their goal the people of this congregation at last had their own place of worship and a regular minister of their own nationality.

The highest number of church members was reached in 1913 with 297 making up the congregation. It is also evident from the minutes that the church partly supported a Czech Home Missionary, Miss Mary Belehrad.

In October, 1913, several women decided to organize a ladies society. They gave their club the name "Martha." Soon they changed it to "Tabita," the name which it now holds. The organization began with nine members but by 1915 grew to twenty-two. It now has ninety-two members and has doubled in the last six years.

THE NEW CHURCH

In 1906, when plans were formulated for a new church, a building fund was created. Eight years later, in 1914, a total of \$5,000 was on hand. On June 25, 1915, the old church building was sold and moved away



to make room for a new structure. On July 6, Jan Hus Day, ground was broken for the new and present Bohemian Presbyterian church.

On July 15, 1915, the elders met in the German Evangelical church where the congregation held services while the new church was being built. The corner stone was laid on August 21, 1915. The building, complete with furnishings, was to cost \$24,000 but actually the final total reached \$30,000. On Sunday, January 9, 1916, the Hus Memorial Presbyterian church was dedicated free from debt. Dr. J. Bren preached the dedicatory sermon assisted by visiting ministers from Cedar Rapids and vicinity, and other Czech churches in the Middle West.

The church is a brick structure which measures thirty-six by sixty-six feet. It is divided in the middle by a door which can be raised or lowered. The auditorium seats five hundred people. Above the main sanctuary, on the balcony, are four rooms used for Sunday School. In the basement there is a large hall in which dinners are served, meetings held, programs given, and plays presented. Adjoining this room is an adequately equipped kitchen. On the other side of the large hall there is a smaller room which is used for recreation, and half of the room serves as the nursery for the youngest group in the church.

MINISTERS

The Rev. Vaclav Hlavaty	- Jan. 25, 1891-June 29, 1919
Dr. Joseph Bren	- Dec. 20, 1919-March 20, 1938
The Rev. Benjamin Paroulek	- Oct. 10, 1938-April 17, 1941
The Rev. Zdenek F. Pauk	- Oct. 1, 1941-Dec. 30, 1954
The Rev. Joseph Havlik	- Oct. 23, 1955-Oct. 13, 1959
The Rev. William Harnish	- Mar. 10, 1963-

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