

N 7996

GOLDEN JUBILEE



Emily West

FIRST UKRAINIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
in Irvington, N. J.

JUNE 27, 1959

BANQUET

GROVE STREET & BERKELEY TERRACE
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRVINGTON, N. J.

FIRST UKRAINIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

36 Harison Place, Irvington, New Jersey

P r e f a c e

The following narrative is but a brief summary of the history of the First Ukrainian Presbyterian Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, now located in Irvington, New Jersey. This account, as a history of our church, aims to point only to those important events that may be considered as part of the annals of the Presbyterian (Evangelical-Reformed) movement among the Ukrainians throughout the world.

The writing of a detailed history of this Church must await further research into the far-reaching effect this Church had as the Mother Church of other Ukrainian Presbyterian Churches here and abroad. The life, the aims and plans of its recently deceased Pastor-Emeritus, the Rev. Basil Kusiw, strongly influenced the life of this church, the growth of the Ukrainian Protestant movement in general, and the development of the Ukrainian Presbyterian (Evangelical-Reformed) movement in particular. The history of his life, of his work and aims must await the gathering of an enormous amount of his writings and correspondence.

It is appropriate to mention Rev. B. Kusiw's service as chairman of the Ukrainian Bible Re-

vision Committee. The Bible, first translated into the Ukrainian by Panteleymon Kulish, John Lewycky and John Puluji in the late 1800's, was recently revised under the sponsorship of the British Bible Society. In addition to Rev. B. Kusiw, the other members of this revision committee were Ilarion Ohienko, Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada and Rev. Zapko Potapowycz, Baptist Minister.

The impact of the Ukrainian Evangelical Alliance on Ukrainian religious thought and life is another feature that requires considerable space. It is not within the purpose of this pamphlet to describe the details.

The Ukrainian history, heritage and culture are also important factors in the development of the Reformed movement among the Ukrainians. A treatise describing these aspects must await a sociological analysis of causes and trends.

Space does not permit us to detail the work of such spiritual leaders as Rev. John Bodrug, Rev. Paul Crath, Rev. Wolodymyr Kupchinsky, and other men and women who pioneered the Presbyterian movement among the Ukrainians.



The Surviving Founders (from left to right): Mr. Agrypian Peczena, Mrs. Julia Semeniuk, Mr. Joseph Kubida, Mrs. Joseph Kubida, Mr. John Pankiw, Mrs. Maria Jacenty, Mrs. John Pankiw, Mr. Hnat Slobodianyck, Rev. David Hughes, present pastor, Mrs. Stephen Hercula, Mr. Stephen Hercula. (1959).

The Church — Its Establishment

“When the day of Pentecost had come and they were all together in one place, and suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.”

Acts 2: 1, 2, 4, 6.

At an historic meeting on June 20, 1909 our Church was officially organized and thereby became the First Ukrainian Presbyterian Church in the world.

This memorable event was the culmination of the work of Rev. John Bodrug, Rev. Wladimir Pyndykowski, Rev. Michael Baczynsky, and laymen Michael Baron and such others who asked the Newark Presbytery to accept them into the Presbyterian body.



Rev. John Bodrug

The Rev. Wladimir Pyndykowski besides serving as pastor was designated as the first Clerk of Session.



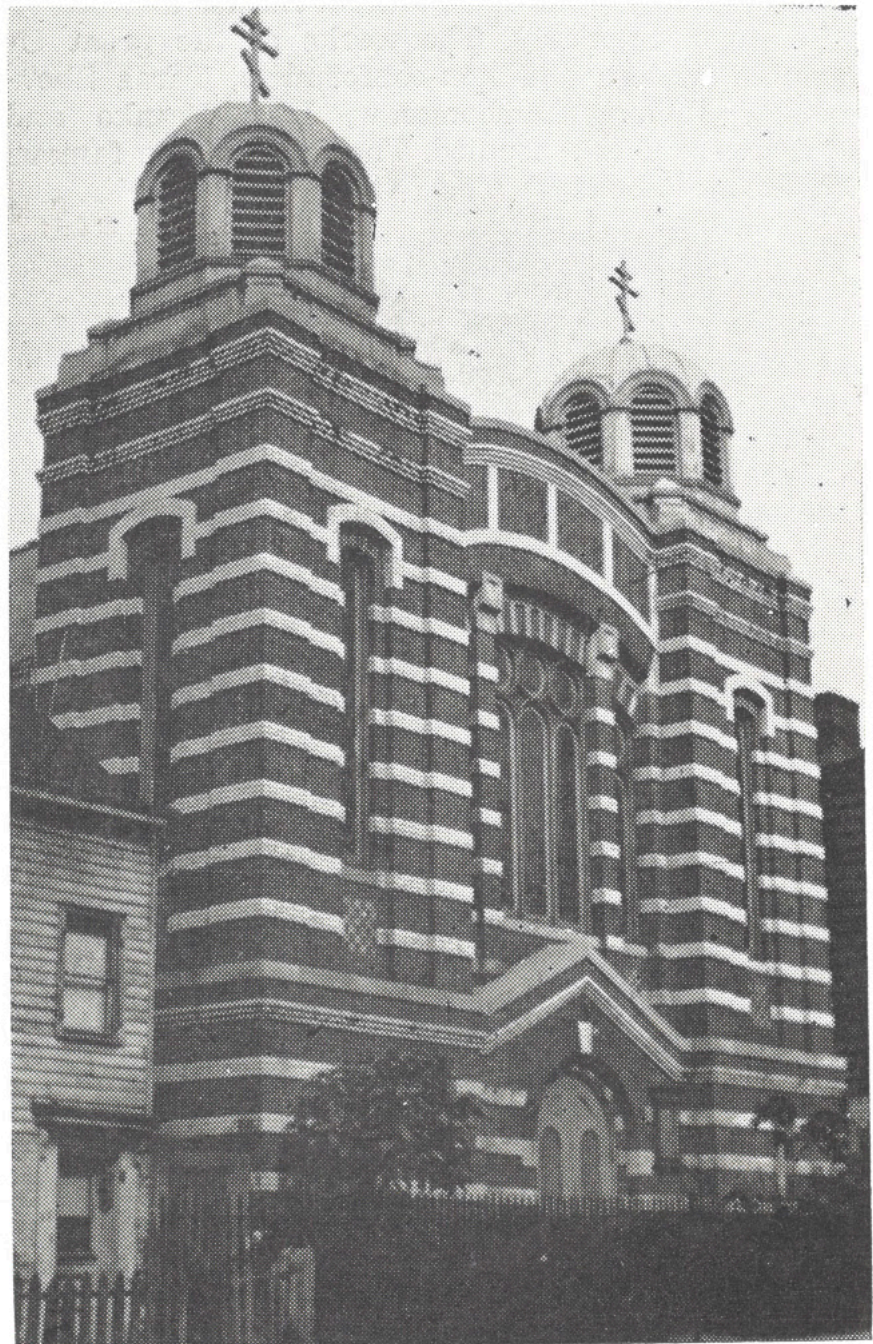
Rev. Wladimir Pyndykowski

On this same day, 88 men and women were received into the membership of our Church to constitute its original congregation. They immediately elected the following elders who made up the first

Session of this Church: Dmytro Hryciw, Stephan Semenek, Gregory Romankiw, Wladimir Warnicki, Daniel Sas, Andrew Iwanyshyn.

The first Board of Trustees elected on July 24, 1909 consisted of: Michael Baron, Michael Melnyk, Dmytro Popil, Kost Jacenty, Dmytro Hryciw, Michael Spiwak, Hnat Slobodanyk, Dmytro Chomiak, Hnat Nowak, John Hercula.

Because of the rapid growth of the congregation, the members foresaw that their temporary place of worship at 36 College Place, Newark, N. J. would soon be inadequate. They made plans, in cooperation with the Newark Presbytery, for the building of a permanent House of Worship. This cooperative endeavor was climaxed by the dedication of this body's first edifice at 49 Beacon Street, Newark, N. J. on April 9, 1911. The success of this



First Church Building, 49 Beacon St., Newark, N. J.