

BREA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HISTORY

1913 - 1953

Compiled from the records of the Brea Congregational Church files

by

Mossie Wallace Barnett  
and  
Kathryn Mitchell Wise

December 6, 1953

BREA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HISTORY  
1913 - 1953

When the population of this community numbered approximately five hundred, a group of fifteen people met in the old Sewell building on April 13, 1913, for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School. Two weeks later with twenty-five present, The Rev. Mr. Case helped to complete the organization which was called Brea Congregational Sunday School. Their first Sunday School Superintendent was Mr. T. E. Moore, who served for many years.

Some effort was made near the end of that year to start a church, but they ran into difficulties and it was not until April of 1914, that plans for a Church finally matured.

Much credit for the early efforts of the Church is given to Mrs. Sadie E. Russell, wife of the late J. E. Russell and mother of Melvin Russell who is still an active member. It is said that she would stop every person she met upon the street to ask them if they were interested in starting another church group in Brea, and invite them to services. The first substantial contribution to the building fund was \$500.00, which Mrs. Russell solicited and received from Mr. A. O. Birch, of the Birch Oil Company. The first gift to the Church was a christening bowl, presented by Mrs. Russell's Sunday School Class. The first recorded christening was that of Caroline Grace Moore, daughter of Mrs. and Mr. T. E. Moore.

When the temporary meeting place of this Sunday School group was destroyed by fire, they were forced to meet for a short period in a tent. Other temporary quarters followed, but they were a forward looking people not easily discouraged and determined to have a Church of their own.

Easter Sunday 1914, Dr. N. L. Rowell began his work as their first permanent Pastor, serving until the end of that year.

May 10, 1914, a reorganization of the Church was effected. The Rev. Mr. Ralph B. Larkin, Superintendent of the Southern California Congregational Church Conference, being present to assist.

The meeting was opened with songs and prayer, after which Mrs. Spohn was appointed clerk, pro-tem. The Rev. Mr. Larkin then read the Doctrinal Statement of the Church and after a few remarks asked for names of any desiring to join the Church by letter or confession of faith. Twenty-one became members of the Church at that time. Fifteen by letter, six on confession of faith.

The following names were presented for membership:

By letter,

Dr. N. L. Rowell  
 Mrs. Maud M. Rowell  
 Mrs. E. Cecelia Miller  
 Mr. T. Elwood Moore  
 Mrs. Isabelle Moore  
 Mrs. Mabel Tallman  
 Miss Hester Tallman  
 Mr. J. P. Hoffman  
 Mr. J. E. Russell  
 Mrs. Sadie E. Russell  
 Mrs. Bertha Bergsten  
 Dr. V. C. Charleston  
 Mrs. Ethyle Charleston  
 Mrs. Arne Pridham  
 Mrs. Margaret G. Hoffman

On confession of faith,

Mrs. Elizabeth Sutherlen  
 Dale Hoffman  
 Mr. J. O. Tallman  
 Mrs. Margaret Spohn  
 Mrs. Rosalie Rankin Williams  
 Mabel Bush

On behalf of the Church the Rev. Mr. Larkin extended the right hand of fellowship to Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Rowell, after which Dr. Rowell extended the right hand of fellowship to the other members.

Election of officers followed. The first Board of Directors were the following:

J. O. Tallman  
 H. C. Van Hoorebecke  
 W. A. Culp  
 W. N. Sutherlen  
 J. P. Hoffman  
 Dr. V. C. Charleston  
 J. B. Pridham

Mrs. Margaret Spohn elected to serve as Clerk, and Mr. J. E. Russell, Treasurer.

Papers of Incorporation were obtained during the latter part of the year 1914, and plans for the purchase of the lot at the southwest corner of Pomona and Birch Streets were made.

The year 1915 was one of achievement. Mr. Thomas M. Lineweaver came as pastor. His membership was transferred from Boston, Mass. He was paid a salary of \$60.00 a month. There was an agreement that he reside in Brea, but should have the privilege of continuing his studies in Los Angeles three days each week.

By May of that year we find that final possession of the building site had been obtained and the cornerstone laid. On June 8, 1915, Craig and Bird, Building Contractors began construction of the Church, which was completed and dedicated in August.

It was during that same month that Mr. Lineweaver became an ordained minister. The Church was also recognized by the Ecclesiastical Council of Churches and the Brea Church and Pastor were admitted as members of the Los Angeles Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers.

The reports at the annual meeting at the close of that year showed that the sum of \$2,759.90 had been received into the building fund and \$723.85 into the general fund. There was a balance on hand of \$1.50 in the building fund and \$4.26 in the general fund. The Sunday School was reported to be in excellent condition with 100 enrolled. Thanks were extended to the Ladies Aid Society for their splendid work during the year. They reported \$260.35 contributed to the building fund, \$189.25 to the general fund.

The year 1916 find progress continuing with the Rev. Mr. Thomas M. Lineweaver as Pastor. Business and social meetings are being held in the "Social Hall". A music committee is now functioning.

The records show that in April 1916, an invitation was read and accepted from the Christian Church of Brea to the Pastor and Congregation, to hear a sermon on Christian Unity. Brea now had three churches, for the Nazarene Church had been dedicated in 1913.

At a business meeting in June 1916, the Pastor's salary was advanced from \$60.00 to \$90.00 a month.

The every member canvass plan is now in use.

There was about \$1600.00 indebtedness on the Church. Reports at the end of the year show a balance of \$61.44 in the general fund, and in the building fund the sum of .98 cents.

In February of 1917 a business meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the removal of a miniature replica of an oil field derrick from the top of the Church. Its removal was unanimously voted. No mention is made of why or when it was placed there, or why it was decided to remove it.

The country was now involved in World War I, and the names of those who had answered the call to duty were being placed upon an Honor Roll.

A letter was sent to the City Council protesting a petition which was being circulated asking that Birch Street be narrowed from 80 feet to 60 feet.

At the Annual Meeting the Pastor, The Rev. Mr. T. M. Lineweaver commented on the spiritual growth during the year. Twenty-three additions to the Church were reported with only two letters of dismissal. The building debt was being reduced. The Sunday School showed an enrollment of 176, with an increase of 26 during the year. Everyone felt that the outlook was encouraging.

Rev. Lineweaver's work as Pastor came to an end during the latter part of the year 1918, and The Rev. Mr. Jessie Mitchell became the Pastor in October. Meetings were discontinued during the epidemic of Influenza, and churches were closed. There seemed to be an era of discouragement. On January 1, 1919, The Rev. Mr. Mitchell resigned and the Church was without a Pastor of its own for several months.

In August of that year a meeting was held to discuss the advisability of a merger with the Christian Church of Brea. It was decided the time was not quite right for such a merger, and The Rev. Mr. W. J. Marsh of Yorba Linda was called as Pastor. After a short time he found that his health was unequal to the task and had to resign. His brother, The Rev. Mr. B. W. Marsh of Whittier accepted the Pastorate, and his request of \$100.00 a month and parsonage was granted. Plans were immediately laid to build a small parsonage on the rear of the present Church lot. There was an enthusiastic response for funds, \$110.00 being given by those attending that meeting of November 30, 1919.

By 1921 we find the Sunday School has expanded and urgently in need of more classrooms. It was decided to turn the present small parsonage over to the Sunday School and build a more adequate parsonage. Mr. W. A. Culp and Mr. Jay C. Sexton offered to give a lot in the new tract just being opened on Redwood Street. This was accepted and construction began immediately.

The end of the year 1922 found the parsonage completed with only a modest indebtedness. It was a comfortable cottage of five rooms. It at the present time is occupied by one of the offices of the Shaffer Tool Company.

It was early in the year 1922 that The Rev. B. W. Marsh's resignation as Pastor was accepted. He was succeeded by The Rev. Mr. Earl J. Sechrist who accepted at an annual salary of \$1200.00.

The first ten years of the life of the Church were the most interesting because it was a period of great struggle and great inspiration. While there were many requests for dismissal from membership, new people were moving in ready to accept the responsibilities of church membership. A group of 44 applicants were received at a single meeting in August 1924.

The Rev. Mr. Owen Hornburg succeeded The Rev. Earl Sechrist as pastor during 1925. His resignation was accepted before the year had ended. Mr. S. F. Hilgenfeld, a member of the Church, performed the duties of pastor on a temporary basis until The Rev. Mr. W. J. Oldfield became Pastor during the summer of 1926.

Mrs. W. W. Hay as Church Clerk records a gratifying social and spiritual life is being experienced by the membership.

A great amount of interest is being shown in young peoples activities. Melvin Hilgenfeld as President of Senior Christian Endeavor, relates that their membership numbers 30 with an average attendance of 20. A commendable program is outlined.

Mr. W. D. Shaffer as Chairman of Music, pleads for more interest in the Choir especially male voices.

The Women's Society had assisted quite materially in financial support. Mrs. Phebe Spenseley as President of Women's Missionary Society, has outlined and directed some worthwhile reading courses.

The Sunday School with its various departments has ever been an outstanding part of the Church program. The enrollment during this period has gone well above 200.

As the population increased, the Brea Congregational Church began to realize that the location at the southwest corner of Birch and Pomona was not the most desirable one. The newly organized Oilfields National Bank expressed a desire to purchase the lot for the purpose of erecting a bank building. In November 1927, a business meeting was called to hear a report from the Board of Trustees concerning the transaction. At that time the Trustees were granted permission to sell the lot for the sum of \$12,00.00 and to purchase for the sum of \$6,000. the present location, known as the Hambleton Tract, corner of Flower and Cedar (street name being changed to Imperial at a later date).

Now a period of great activity is in progress. Plans for moving to the new site are under way. The residence on the Hambleton Tract must be moved to the south edge of the lot and remodeled into a modern and roomy parsonage. The old parsonage on Redwood Street is sold. It now seems expedient to purchase an additional 50 feet of land lying east of the original purchase and facing on Cedar Street.

The Board of Trustees who undertook the responsibility of these important transactions were: W. D. Shaffer, I. W. Barnett, R. W. Phelps, W. W. Hay and T. E. Moore.

During this, the year 1928 the Church was operating under a budget which required the sum of \$3,683.00.

The Annual Meeting in 1929 finds all the facilities of the remodeled and redecorated additions in full use and greatly enjoyed. The Christian Endeavor Orchestra, directed by Melvin McMechan furnished entertainment for the occasion.



In January of 1931 following the Annual Meeting, Mr. Shaffer invited the members and guests into the sanctuary where he presented a concert on the pipe organ. The organ being a gift to the Church from Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shaffer in memory of their son George William Shaffer. This organ was the realization of a life-long dream of Mr. Shaffer, who instead of installing it in his home chose to share the pleasure of it with everyone by giving it to the Church. He played it regularly for services until the end of 1945. All those present for this memorable concert in 1931 joined in singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" after which the Pastor read the 122nd. Psalm.

The Rev. Mr. Oldfield offered his resignation after five years of service, in March 1931.

A call was extended to Donald H. Gaylord, who came with all the enthusiasm of youth.

A beautiful and impressive ceremony was held at the Church on Tuesday evening November 3, 1931, when Mr. Donald Gaylord was ordained and installed as Pastor.

Present at the ordination were a number of well-known Congregational Ministers of the Los Angeles District Association. A large delegation from the Buena Park Church, The Rev. Mr. Hunt of the Brea Christian Church, and a large number of members and friends of the local Church.

Doctor F. O. Wyatt, Moderator of the Los Angeles Association, was Chairman. The program as follows:

Organ Prelude - W. D. Shaffer

Doxology

Invocation - Dr. Wyatt

Anthem by the Choir

Statement of the Purpose of the Meeting by the Registrar of the Association, The Rev. A. P. Davis.

Ordination Sermon - Doctor Henry Kendale Booth, of Long Beach

First Congregational Church.

Solo "This Holy Hour" - Ethel Kuenzli.

Service of Ordination and Installation:

Taking of Vows - The Rev. Perry F. Schrock, of Santa Ana.

Ordination Prayer - Dr. Edward D. Gaylord, Superintendent of  
Southern California Conference.

Charge to the Candidate - The Rev. Holland F. Burr.

Right Hand of Fellowship - The Rev. A. D. Stauffacher, Moderator  
of So. Calif. Congregational Conference.

Charge to the Church - The Rev. W. I. Newman.

Hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have"

Benediction - The Rev. Donald F. Gaylord.

We find many new ventures undertaken by the Church during the years The Rev. Mr. Gaylord served as Pastor.

Church Bulletins are introduced and accepted as a permanent part of the Church Service.

A Leadership training class in Child Psychology, taught by the Pastor over a period of six weeks, proved to be of great interest to the Sunday School teachers.

A Junior Choir under the direction of Mrs. A. J. Barnes was organized and has given much pleasure to both the Sunday School and Church. Mr. O. A. Andrews, teacher of the Adult Class has a fine group of 45 active members.

The Women's Guild of Service was organized in 1934. In August the members of the Missionary Society voted to unite with the new Guild of Service.

Leagues of Youth were organized with The Rev. Mr. Gaylord as counselor. Lively interest in these groups was shown by the young people.

The resignation of The Rev. Donald F. Gaylord was received in June, 1936. A Pulpit Committee consisting of Mr. J. H. Robinson as Chairman, Mrs. J. D. Neuls and Mrs. O. S. Close were elected.

In September 1936, the Chairman of the pulpit Committee recommended The Rev. Mr. Cecil Prior to fill the vacancy. He with his wife and four children came from Escondido, California, where he had been Pastor of the Congregational Church. It was decided to build an addition to the parsonage to accommodate their needs.

The Junior Guild an interdenominational group of young women was begun about this time, with a membership of 30. Their aims were spiritual, cultural and philanthropic. They sponsored a Girl Scout Troop, and equipped a loan chest of most needed hospital equipment for home nursing. They also contributed to the annual church budget.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shaffer presented the Chimes as a gift to the Church during the year 1937.

One feature of The Rev. Mr. Prior's work which was enjoyed by both young and old was the Junior Sermon which was given just preceding the eleven o'clock service. A sermonette was presented with magic demonstrations to hold the attentions of the grammar school age. Attendance increased appreciably.

The Rev. Mr. Prior presented his resignation early in the year of 1941, feeling that he would find a wider field of service as a Chaplain in the Civilian Conservation Corps. The resignation was effective March 23. The pulpit was filled by various supply ministers until Mr. E. F. Bakkadh1, Chairman of the pastoral committee, recommended that a call be extended to The Rev. Mr. Fredrick Barnhill who had been for some time Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Hemet. He began his work as our Pastor July 1, 1941.

He immediately called a meeting of the Advisory Council as a means of getting the will of the people, and get started on a plan of action. It was decided at

this time to abandon the evening service in favor of more work with young peoples groups.

The Baptist Church was without a Pastor at this time and they were extended a cordial invitation to attend any or all services of this Church. Many of them responded.

The work under the Pastor began with a feeling of interest and unity. The Rev. Barnhill organized his work under four heads: Worship, Religious Education, Fellowship and Service.

There was from the beginning a marked increase in attendance. Mr. J. Cymmings was Chairman of Music with Mr. Leland Auer, a musician of much skill, as Choir Director. The Choir productions during this period were outstanding. The special music for Easter and Christmas services was excellent.

A young married couples group known as "Wifani," became a part of the Church program during this period. Much of its success was due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ambuehl. Meetings were held once each month on Sunday evening. There was a remarkable interest from the beginning. Attendance averaged about 30. The program was educational and recreational. They had interesting speakers, and often conducted discussions by the various members on child psychology, homemaking and family relations.

The Rev. Mr. Barnhill's resignation was accepted with much regret on August 25, 1942, to become effective September 1. He reported for duty as Chaplain in the United States Army, September 5, 1942.

The final decade in the life of the Church begins January 1943, with the acceptance of the pastorate by The Rev. Mr. Harold E. Baber, of Denver, Colorado. The forward movement of the Church continues. We find many youth activities successfully undertaken. The Guild of Service and Junior Guild, as usual under splendid leadership, have completed many worthy projects.

One outstanding activity of the year being the Christmas letters written by Mr. C. O. Harvey and The Rev. Mr. Baber. The letters were written on special Christmas programs of the Church, and sent to our boys in the armed services. They were received with appreciation in many parts of the world.

To Mr. A. F. Beckman fell the pleasant task of informing those present for the Annual Meeting of January 1945, that the Church had recently come to full self-support and is now entirely free of the 1930 mortgage. He also reported a balance in the Church Treasury of \$336.27. Mrs. O. P. Olson, General Hospitality Chairman for the Fellowship Dinners, told of the success of the hostess plan initiated during the past year.

The Rev. Harold E. Baber tendered his resignation as minister of the Brea Congregational Church on Sunday, October 21, 1945. A Pulpit Committee of six members was elected with Mr. Howard E. Bowers as Chairman.

January, 1946, The Rev. Mr. Halsey R. Carstens of Rio Vista, began his service with the Church as Pastor. During the year a committee on Constitution revision set to work, with Mr. Elvin Wilson as Chairman. In December the new Church Constitution was presented and adopted.

The Women's Guild of Service dedicated a page in the Book of Memory in Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California. Our page reads, "In honor of these whom the Brea Congregational Church shall ever hold in loving memory". The names on the page for 1946 are: Phebe Spenseley, William D. Shaffer, Edna U. Shaffer, Kittie A. Marsh, Lillie Mae Griest and Howard E. Bowers.

During the year 1947, the Church purchased the three lots adjoining the present church property on the east.

On September 7, a Memorial Service was held and a bronze plaque, which had been placed on the Shaffer Memorial Organ, was unveiled.

In October the Los Angeles Congregational Church Association met in Brea. The Women's Guild of Service served luncheon to approximately 200 persons attending

the meeting.

The latter part of 1948 Rev. Halsey R. Carstens resigned. Doctor A. C. Hacke served as interim minister.

During November the possibility of a merger with the Christian Church of Brea was discussed, and committees formed to work out plans for such a union. December 28, 1948, a special meeting of the Church Members was held to decide on proposed church merger. Ballots had been mailed out to the church members earlier, and those returned were counted. There were 95 votes - 46 against the merger, 46 votes for the merger. Three agreed to follow the majority. There being no majority vote the Pulpit Committee was instructed to seek a new minister.

January 30, 1949, The Rev. Mr. G. B. Gudmundsson was called to be the new minister for the Church, and on Sunday May 15, 1949, the Recognition Service for the Rev. Mr. Gudmundsson was held.

Under the gentle, kindly touch of Rev. Gudmundsson the Church rallied and began to move forward again.

Many improvements in the Church building have been completed, and more are contemplated. The sanctuary has experienced many changes and is being made more attractive each year, through the labors and gifts of members and friends.

A fine Choir under the capable direction of the Organist, Mrs. J. T. Blackmarr, is supplying music for the Church.

The Rev. Mr. Gudmundsson presented to the Church a handsome speakers desk, which he had built, to be placed on the table in front of the speaker. On the front of the desk is a painting of the "Mayflower" the work of Mrs. Frank Bath. A very fine brass layman's bell was also given by the minister.

In June, 1952, the Women's Fellowship had a potluck dinner on the lawn after morning service, honoring the Rev. Mr. Gudmundsson and Mrs. Gudmundsson on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Good reports of progress from all departments of the Church were given at the Annual Meeting, January 14, 1953.

23 new members have been added during the past year. The membership report gave a total of 166.

Mr. Frank Hopkins, Church Treasurer, reported a balance of \$678.95.

The Sunday School has gone forward with renewed vigor, completing many projects with great success. This group has set aside \$300 toward a building fund, and their financial report shows a balance on hand January 1, 1953, of \$385.10.

On Sunday morning February 1, 1953, the newly elected Church Officers were installed at the morning service by the Rev. Mr. G. B. Gudmundsson. With this final entry in the written record of the Brea Congregational Church, this report on Church History is completed.

This material was taken from the records of the Brea Congregational Church now on file. It was compiled by:

Mossie Wallace Barnett

Kathryn Mitchell Wise

December 6, 1953.

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Mimeographing, courtesy of Mrs. Beatrice Helmick and the following typists:

- May Shinomiya
- Joan Hunker
- Maureen Hooten
- Barbara Northcliff
- Janice Strickland
- Shirley Abbey
- Rose Marie Thomson
- Beverly Schmidt

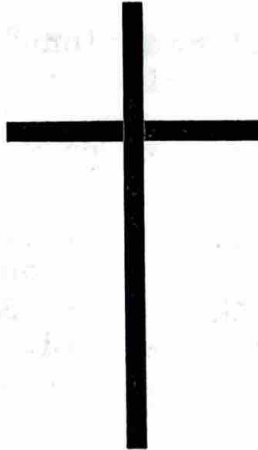
# The Brea Congregational Church

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*"It's Better to Light a Candle Than to Rail at the Darkness"*

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Imperial Highway and Flower Avenue, Brea, California



**Rev. Fredrick Barnhill, Minister**

Douglas Horton, D. D.

*Secretary, General Council, Congregational Churches*

Nelson C. Dreier

*Superintendent, Southern California Congregational Conference*

Leland Auer . . . . . *Director of Music*  
W. D. Shaffer . . . . . *Organist*  
Don Critchlow . . . . . *Assistant Organist*  
T. Elwood Moore . . . . . *Sexton*

*Church Phone, Brea 43*



**A COLLECT (To be used on entering the Church)**

O GOD OF PEACE, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength; by the might of thy Spirit lift us to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

MORNING WORSHIP, June 14, 1942

**THE CHIMES**

ORGAN "Prelude et cantalene" Rousseau

HYMN 33 "When morning gilds the skies"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (All standing)

THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: WE LIFT THEM UP UNTO THE LORD.

Minister: O Lord, open Thou our lips.

People: AND OUR MOUTHS SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

Minister: Praise ye the Lord.

People: THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED.

THE DOXOLOGY (After which, let the people be seated)

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

St. John 15:1-8

THE MEDITATION UPON THE CROSS

Spoken - Silent - Organ

"In the Cross of Christ I glory" Conkey

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND RESPONSE

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "The Shepherd and the Mocking Bird" Berwald

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 42 "From every stormy wind that blows"

THE SERMON "PRAYER'S KNOTTY PROBLEMS"

Second in series: PRAYER IN THESE TIMES

"Behold, I go forward, but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him... but He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:8,10.

A MOMENT OF CONSECRATION

HYMN 94 "More love to Thee O Christ"

THE BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

ORGAN

9:45 A. M. Church School, Classes for all ages. Superintendent, Elmer F. Bakkedahl.

CALENDAR FOR THE CHURCH WEEK

Tuesday: 7:30 P. M. Advisory Board, Quarterly Meeting in the Guild Room.

Wednesday: 6:30 P. M. Wifani Class Outdoor Supper at the Church.

Thursday: 8:00 P. M. High School Graduation, Brea-Olinda High School Auditorium.

Friday: 10:00 A. M. Holy Communion in the Guild Room.

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE TONIGHT at 5 P. M.

The Annual Baccalaureate Service for the High School graduating class will be held this evening in the High School Auditorium. The combined choirs of the Churches of Brea will sing, led by Leland Auer. John Swinehart will be soloist. Your Pastor preaches the sermon. The time 5 P. M.

MEMBERS OF THE WIFANI CLASS and their friends are invited to an outdoor supper at the Church on Wednesday evening at 6:30. This is the last meeting before the vacation period and a large attendance is anticipated.

CHILDREN'S DAY will be observed in this Church next Sunday at the 11 o'clock service. A special dramatic program is in charge of Mrs. C. R. Negley and other Church School teachers and officers.

SUMMER CAMP FOR OUR YOUTH

Some ten of our Young people want to go to Summer Camp at Camp Arbolado, July 13-20. The Church is desirous of providing \$5.00 scholarships to defray half the cost. A good number of the members and friends of the Church could not be present at the special service and tea provided by the young people recently where an offering was received. Those desiring to help the young people are urged to make their gifts, large or small, as soon as possible. In these uncertain days, young people desperately need this camp experience.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28-- At the Morning Service we will honor Mrs. Phoebe Spensley, our Life Deaconness. All of her many friends are urged to be present for this occasion.

## **Officers and Organizations for 1942**

**CLERK**—Mrs. O. S. Close, 122 South Pomona Avenue

**TREASURER**—A. F. Beckman, 509 East Birch Street

**CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**—Elmer F. Bakkedahl,  
228 South Pomona Avenue. Phone 189-W

**DEACONS**—T. Elwood Moore, Forrest Gordon, J. H. Griest;  
J. C. Gourley, Honorary Deacon-for-Life

**DEACONESSES**—Mrs. W. D. Tremaine, Mrs. Forrest Gordon,  
Mrs. J. H. Griest; Mrs. Phebe Spensley, Honorary Deacon-  
ess-for-Life

**TRUSTEES**—J. D. Neuls, W. D. Shaffer, A. D. Yost, Melvin  
Russell, Dr. D. W. Goodwin, Karl Kiolstad

**ADVISORY BOARD**—Representatives from various Boards and  
Organizations. Frank Hopkins, Member-at-Large

**MUSIC COMMITTEE**—Mrs. J. H. Hansen, Joseph Cummings,  
Mrs. Bruce Taylor

**WOMEN'S GUILD OF SERVICE**—Mrs. C. O. Harvey, President;  
Mrs. Fredrick Barnhill, First Vice-President; Mrs. W. D.  
Tremaine, Second Vice-President; Mrs. Elmer F. Bakke-  
dahl, Secretary; Mrs. A. A. Voorhees, Treasurer; Mrs. Phebe  
Spensley, Benevolence Treasurer

**JUNIOR GUILD**—Mrs. G. H. Shadforth, President; Miss Alice  
Rouff, Vice-President; Miss Thelma Robinson, Secretary;  
Mrs. Howard P. Barnes, Treasurer; Mrs. Clarence Ander-  
son, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Stewart Cox, Hospital-  
ity Chairman; Mrs. Arnold Berry, Sunshine Committee;  
Mrs. Melvin Russell, Custodian of Hospital Loan Chest

This Church is affiliated with the Los Angeles Association of  
Congregational Churches, the Southern California Congrega-  
tional Conference, the Federal Council of the Churches of  
Christ in America and the World Council of Churches.

1960's



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** — A Pilgrim dinner in November and a tea and musicale in December are events coming up for the Women's Fellowship of Brea Congregational Church, 300 E. Imperial. Included in the Women's Fellowship are three church circles which meet regularly, Mary Martha, Naomi Ruth and Priscilla. Holding a planning ses-

sion are (from left) Mrs. Ruth Templeman, cochairman of Mary Martha; Mrs. Rex Farmer, chairman; Mrs. Dorothy White, president of the Women's Fellowship; Mrs. Winnie Hancock, cochairman Priscilla Circle; and Mrs. Wesley Emerson, treasurer for the fellowship.

1960's



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** — A Pilgrim dinner in November and a tea and musicale in December are events coming up for the Women's Fellowship of Brea Congregational Church, 300 E. Imperial. Included in the Women's Fellowship are three church circles which meet regularly, Mary Martha, Naomi Ruth and Priscilla. Holding a planning ses-

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**LANDMARK GOES** — The Rev. Charles Harlow, pastor of the Brea Congregational Church studies plans for a Christian education building, construction of which is slated to begin next month. He is pictured before

a fireplace in the old "parsonagette" built in 1928 as a combination parsonage and school room. It is one of three buildings to be destroyed to make way for the project.

(News Tribune Photo)

## 'Parsonagette' Razed for Hall

BREA — Construction of a Christian education building at the Brea Congregational Church will require the destruction of Moore Hall, a landmark in Brea for more than 40 years.

Named after Theodore Moore, a charter member of the church and one of the original members of the Brea School Board, the building will be razed along with two other structure near the corner of Imperial Hwy. and Flower St., according to the Rev. Charles Harlow, pastor.

One of the buildings to be eliminated by the new plan will be what is referred to in church minutes as the "parsonagette."

While no one can find the term in the dictionary, it described a small building constructed in 1928. It had two rooms, one with a fireplace. The minister at that time lived in one room and the second was used for church school.

A contract for \$35,600 has been let for the project. This does not include a large amount of work scheduled to be done by church members. The building will include 10 classrooms in the 4,400 square feet of space.

Each room is large enough for the modern concept of team teaching of students, said Mr. Harlow.

The new building will be constructed facing Flower St., and a "meditation garden," will be placed at the rear between the school and the sanctuary.

The old church, moved to the site in 1928 from its original location on Brea Blvd., will receive some re-design as part of the project. An office room that extends toward Imperial Hwy. will be removed to make way for widening of the right-of-way.

The Rev. Mr. Harlow's office, along with other space, will become a nursery. In honor of a former church member, James Little, who died two years ago, the room will be titled, "The Little Crib Room."

Mrs. Lloyd Reese, building committee chairman, and William Whitehill, finance committee chairman, said plans are now complete for the addition and they hope to begin work next month.

Church members are now being organized for such jobs as painting and finishing of both new and old buildings. Structures will be painted to match the new sanctuary.

# Historic organ once again to pipe music

By LAURA WINGARD  
News Tribune Writer

BREA — About 50 years ago — no one knows the exact date — the late W.D. Shaffer and his wife donated a pipe organ to Brea Congregational Church in memory of their deceased son.

Since then, the melodic strains of the complicated instrument have greeted the church's parishioners.

But in recent years the pipe organ has begun to sound a different kind of strain — the strain of age — and the church leaders had to decide whether to restore it or replace it with a computerized organ.

The leaders opted to rebuild the historic organ, which should again be fully piping out sacred songs by Easter.

The organ is an important part

of Brea history for a couple of reasons.

## ONLY ORGAN

First, it is the only pipe organ in Brea's churches today. The others are electrical and computerized.

But, more importantly, the instrument was given to the church by one of Brea's first industrialists, W.D. Shaffer, founder of Shafco Industries.

Earlier this year, the building

that housed Shafco Industries at 201 Redwood Ave. was demolished as the firm moved its headquarters to Anaheim.

So, while the company started in Brea by Shaffer moved elsewhere, the pipe organ remained. And so did some of his family.

## CHILDRENS' EFFORTS

It is mostly through the efforts of Shaffer's daughter Esther "Honey" Shaffer Sandman and son Don Shaffer that the instrument will be restored.

The Rev. Ronald Riggs, pastor of Brea Congregational Church, is proud the family has kept the tradition of the pipe organ alive in the church.

Beyond its historical significance, the instrument also sounds much better than an electrical organ, Riggs claimed.

"To ears that have been raised hearing a pipe organ, they can tell the difference in sound," he said. "You just can't duplicate it (a pipe organ) with computers."

Part of the reason a pipe organ produces fuller, more melodic tones is because it is all hand-made, unlike modern counterparts, said Frank Kieran, who along with Bob Eby is restoring the organ.

## CONSOLES SAME

"The consoles are all the same, but it's what's behind them that counts," Kieran said.

This is true of the Brea Congregational Church pipe organ.

The light oak console looks like any other frame with gadgets, keys and buttons.

But hidden behind a wall and the musical chorus' risers are 1,280 pipes, which make the sounds and make the difference for the listeners.

When Kieran and Eby began work on the organ two months ago, only about 600 of the dust-covered, aging pipes were working.



## HIDDEN PIPES PRODUCE THE MUSIC

Frank Kieran works to restore pipe organ

Although about two more months of rebuilding are needed for the organ to begin full use again, Kieran and Eby have postponed the work so at least some of the pipes can pump out music during the Christmas season.

## WIFE HAPPY

This should make Riggs' wife Diana happy since she is the church's musical director and organist.

While the restoration is going on, Riggs jokingly admitted, "The minister has to take a lot of flak from the organist."

But he also has had to contend with some of the church's 210

members, who have missed the pipe organ's music on Sundays.

However, Riggs is confident the restoration of the organ, which was bought for about \$7,000 and now is valued at \$135,000, will pay off as a worthwhile venture.

"When this process is done, a lot more people will appreciate what it means," he said.

And the public as well as church members will have a chance to hear the improved sounds of the historic pipe organ at a dedicatory recital set for some time in the spring.

"We want to share it with the community," Riggs said.



JUST TESTING WITH A TUNE  
Bob Eby's hands glide over keys

News Tribune Photos by Jess Andresen Jr.



**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS** — This weekend marks the highlight of Brea Congregational Church's 75th anniversary celebration. The church will open its celebration with a founder's dinner Saturday, with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. A celebration worship service will be held Sunday at 10 a.m. A reception and presentation of the church history will be conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. According to a history compiled on the church, the history of the church could well be the early history of the city of Brea. Brea Congregational Church was organized on April 13, 1913, when a group of 15 people met for the first time. The first meetings were held in a pool hall in the 100 block of South Pomona Avenue (now Brea Boulevard). On June 18, 1914, the

church filed papers of incorporation with the state. The church received its first members — 21 people. In 1915, 25 people met to lay the cornerstone for the church's first building. Since then the original church was moved, a parsonage was built in 1919, a new sanctuary was built and opened in 1961. In 1965 a Christian education building was opened by the church. In 1979, indebtedness for the buildings was erased and a mortgage-burning ceremony was held on Jan. 21 of that year. Current membership of the church is 160. The Pilgrim pre-school/day care has an enrollment of 58. The church is located at 300 E. Imperial Highway.

# Community Involvement Integral Part Of Congregation

Involvement in community programs has long been an integral part of the Brea Congre-

gational Church located at 300 E. Imperial Hwy. TLC Senior Citizens program is conducted

each noon at the church facility, becoming one of the more popular meeting places in Brea for the elderly. In a younger dimension, Pilgrim Preschool annually enrolls 90 children, including some on scholarships.

Other community service programs include the YMCA 'Latchkey' unit held every weekday from 2 to 6 p.m. for children of working mothers; Alcoholics Anonymous which meets each Thursday at 8 p.m.; a concern for world hunger through support for the Watts children; recycling projects; and Fast for Hunger Lenten program which this year accumulated \$777 for the One Great Hour of Sharing event.

Brea Congregational Church was founded in 1913 with the original building situated at the corner of Birch and Brea Blvd. It was moved to its present site in 1928 with two additional buildings having been added in 1958 and 1964.

Biblically inspired sermons are prepared weekly by Rev. William Meyer, a Magna cum

laude graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York. He has recently served on the Conference Stewardship and Finance commission and is currently chairman of the Ecology Task Force.

Serving as youth minister is Rev. Warren Taylor, a Ph.D. candidate at Claremont.

A varied schedule of activities throughout the Spring has been planned for every age group within the church. Holy Thursday Communion will be celebrated April 7

at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary as the minister speaks on "Meditations on the Cross." The choir will offer several anthems including William Billings "Easter Anthem" and the spiritual "Calvary."

On Easter morning, everyone is invited to bring a flower from their garden to help form a flower cross. "The annual ritual provides double meaning for the congregation: the ugly wood cross is changed into a thing of beauty as before the yes the flowers are added, just as the renewing and forgiving love of Christ can transform and

cover weakness and sin and offer newness of Life and Joy," related Rev. Meyer.

"A second symbol of the transformed cross is that our one little flower cannot do it alone; but in the church if each one adds his little gift, the total result is strength and joy for all of us together in Christ," state church members.

Church women will share the spotlight May 6 as the annual Mother - Daughter Banquet sponsored by Priscilla Circle is staged. Models will show dated wedding gowns in a lovely formal setting.

## Brea Congregational Church

300 E. Imperial Highway Brea

REV. WILLIAM W. MEYER,  
Minister

Easter  
Worship  
at 10 AM

Sermon:  
"The Power  
and the Glory"

Ceremony of  
Floral Cross

Child Care  
Provided

Choir and Pipe Organ  
Special Easter Music

WORSHIP WITH US  
THIS EASTER SUNDAY



Rev. Wm. Meyer



This came in a  
recent donation  
from Contacta the  
Church but they  
didn't return my  
call. Hope you  
can use it or pass  
it on appropriately  
Fullerton Public Library  
Cathy Morris

STORY

1913 - 1953

e-53

Compiled from the records of the Brea Congregational Church files

by

Mossie Wallace Barnett  
and  
Kathryn Mitchell Wise

December 6, 1953

BREA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HISTORY  
1913 - 1953

When the population of this community numbered approximately five hundred, a group of fifteen people met in the old Sewell building on April 13, 1913, for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School. Two weeks later with twenty-five present, The Rev. Mr. Case helped to complete the organization which was called Brea Congregational Sunday School. Their first Sunday School Superintendent was Mr. T. E. Moore, who served for many years.

Some effort was made near the end of that year to start a church, but they ran into difficulties and it was not until April of 1914, that plans for a Church finally matured.

Much credit for the early efforts of the Church is given to Mrs. Sadie E. Russell, wife of the late J. E. Russell and mother of Melvin Russell who is still an active member. It is said that she would stop every person she met upon the street to ask them if they were interested in starting another church group in Brea, and invite them to services. The first substantial contribution to the building fund was \$500.00, which Mrs. Russell solicited and received from Mr. A. O. Birch, of the Birch Oil Company. The first gift to the Church was a christening bowl, presented by Mrs. Russell's Sunday School Class. The first recorded christening was that of Caroline Grace Moore, daughter of Mrs. and Mr. T. E. Moore.

When the temporary meeting place of this Sunday School group was destroyed by fire, they were forced to meet for a short period in a tent. Other temporary quarters followed, but they were a forward looking people not easily discouraged and determined to have a Church of their own.

Easter Sunday 1914, Dr. N. L. Rowell began his work as their first permanent Pastor, serving until the end of that year.

May 10, 1914, a reorganization of the Church was effected. The Rev. Mr. Ralph B. Larkin, Superintendent of the Southern California Congregational Church Conference, being present to assist.

The meeting was opened with songs and prayer, after which Mrs. Spohn was appointed clerk, pro-tem. The Rev. Mr. Larkin then read the Doctrinal Statement of the Church and after a few remarks asked for names of any desiring to join the Church by letter or confession of faith. Twenty-one became members of the Church at that time. Fifteen by letter, six on confession of faith.

The following names were presented for membership:

By letter,

Dr. N. L. Rowell  
 Mrs. Maud M. Rowell  
 Mrs. E. Cecelia Miller  
 Mr. T. Elwood Moore  
 Mrs. Isabelle Moore  
 Mrs. Mabel Tallman  
 Miss Hester Tallman  
 Mr. J. P. Hoffman  
 Mr. J. E. Russell  
 Mrs. Sadie E. Russell  
 Mrs. Bertha Bergsten  
 Dr. V. C. Charleston  
 Mrs. Ethyle Charleston  
 Mrs. Arne Pridham  
 Mrs. Margaret G. Hoffman

On confession of faith,

Mrs. Elizabeth Sutherlen  
 Dale Hoffman  
 Mr. J. O. Tallman  
 Mrs. Margaret Spohn  
 Mrs. Rosalie Rankin Williams  
 Mabel Bush

On behalf of the Church the Rev. Mr. Larkin extended the right hand of fellowship to Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Rowell, after which Dr. Rowell extended the right hand of fellowship to the other members.

Election of officers followed. The first Board of Directors were the following:

J. O. Tallman  
H. C. Van Hoorebecke  
W. A. Culp  
W. N. Sutherlen  
J. P. Hoffman  
Dr. V. C. Charleston  
J. B. Pridham

Mrs. Margaret Spohn elected to serve as Clerk, and Mr. J. E. Russell, Treasurer.

Papers of Incorporation were obtained during the latter part of the year 1914, and plans for the purchase of the lot at the southwest corner of Pomona and Birch Streets were made.

The year 1915 was one of achievement. Mr. Thomas M. Lineweaver came as pastor. His membership was transferred from Boston, Mass. He was paid a salary of \$60.00 a month. There was an agreement that he reside in Brea, but should have the privilege of continuing his studies in Los Angeles three days each week.

By May of that year we find that final possession of the building site had been obtained and the cornerstone laid. On June 8, 1915, Craig and Bird, Building Contractors began construction of the Church, which was completed and dedicated in August.

It was during that same month that Mr. Lineweaver became an ordained minister. The Church was also recognized by the Ecclesiastical Council of Churches and the Brea Church and Pastor were admitted as members of the Los Angeles Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers.

The reports at the annual meeting at the close of that year showed that the sum of \$2,759.90 had been received into the building fund and \$723.85 into the general fund. There was a balance on hand of \$1.50 in the building fund and \$4.26 in the general fund. The Sunday School was reported to be in excellent condition with 100 enrolled. Thanks were extended to the Ladies Aid Society for their splendid work during the year. They reported \$260.35 contributed to the building fund, \$189.25 to the general fund.

The year 1916 find progress continuing with the Rev. Mr. Thomas M. Lineweaver as Pastor. Business and social meetings are being held in the "Social Hall". A music committee is now functioning.

The records show that in April 1916, an invitation was read and accepted from the Christian Church of Brea to the Pastor and Congregation, to hear a sermon on Christian Unity. Brea now had three churches, for the Nazarene Church had been dedicated in 1913.

At a business meeting in June 1916, the Pastor's salary was advanced from \$60.00 to \$90.00 a month.

The every member canvass plan is now in use.

There was about \$1600.00 indebtedness on the Church. Reports at the end of the year show a balance of \$61.44 in the general fund, and in the building fund the sum of .98 cents.

In February of 1917 a business meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the removal of a miniature replica of an oil field derrick from the top of the Church. Its removal was unanimously voted. No mention is made of why or when it was placed there, or why it was decided to remove it.

The country was now involved in World War I, and the names of those who had answered the call to duty were being placed upon an Honor Roll.

A letter was sent to the City Council protesting a petition which was being circulated asking that Birch Street be narrowed from 80 feet to 60 feet.

At the Annual Meeting the Pastor, The Rev. Mr. T. M. Lineweaver commented on the spiritual growth during the year. Twenty-three additions to the Church were reported with only two letters of dismissal. The building debt was being reduced. The Sunday School showed an enrollment of 176, with an increase of 26 during the year. Everyone felt that the outlook was encouraging.

Rev. Lineweaver's work as Pastor came to an end during the latter part of the year 1918, and The Rev. Mr. Jessie Mitchell became the Pastor in October. Meetings were discontinued during the epidemic of Influenza, and churches were closed. There seemed to be an era of discouragement. On January 1, 1919, The Rev. Mr. Mitchell resigned and the Church was without a Pastor of its own for several months.

In August of that year a meeting was held to discuss the advisability of a merger with the Christian Church of Brea. It was decided the time was not quite right for such a merger, and The Rev. Mr. W. J. Marsh of Yorba Linda was called as Pastor. After a short time he found that his health was unequal to the task and had to resign. His brother, The Rev. Mr. B. W. Marsh of Whittier accepted the Pastorate, and his request of \$100.00 a month and parsonage was granted. Plans were immediately laid to build a small parsonage on the rear of the present Church lot. There was an enthusiastic response for funds, \$110.00 being given by those attending that meeting of November 30, 1919.

By 1921 we find the Sunday School has expanded and urgently in need of more classrooms. It was decided to turn the present small parsonage over to the Sunday School and build a more adequate parsonage. Mr. W. A. Culp and Mr. Jay C. Sexton offered to give a lot in the new tract just being opened on Redwood Street. This was accepted and construction began immediately.

The end of the year 1922 found the parsonage completed with only a modest indebtedness. It was a comfortable cottage of five rooms. It at the present time is occupied by one of the offices of the Shaffer Tool Company.

It was early in the year 1922 that The Rev. B. W. Marsh's resignation as Pastor was accepted. He was succeeded by The Rev. Mr. Earl J. Sechrist who accepted at an annual salary of \$1200.00.

The first ten years of the life of the Church were the most interesting because it was a period of great struggle and great inspiration. While there were many requests for dismissal from membership, new people were moving in ready to accept the responsibilities of church membership. A group of 44 applicants were received at a single meeting in August 1924.

The Rev. Mr. Owen Hornburg succeeded The Rev. Earl Sechrist as pastor during 1925. His resignation was accepted before the year had ended. Mr. S. F. Hilgenfeld, a member of the Church, performed the duties of pastor on a temporary basis until The Rev. Mr. W. J. Oldfield became Pastor during the summer of 1926.

Mrs. W. W. Hay as Church Clerk records a gratifying social and spiritual life is being experienced by the membership.

A great amount of interest is being shown in young peoples activities. Melvin Hilgenfeld as President of Senior Christian Endeavor, relates that their membership numbers 30 with an average attendance of 20. A commendable program is outlined.

Mr. W. D. Shaffer as Chairman of Music, pleads for more interest in the Choir especially male voices.

The Women's Society had assisted quite materially in financial support. Mrs. Phebe Spenseley as President of Women's Missionary Society, has outlined and directed some worthwhile reading courses.

The Sunday School with its various departments has ever been an outstanding part of the Church program. The enrollment during this period has gone well above 200.

As the population increased, the Brea Congregational Church began to realize that the location at the southwest corner of Birch and Pomona was not the most desirable one. The newly organized Oilfields National Bank expressed a desire to purchase the lot for the purpose of erecting a bank building. In November 1927, a business meeting was called to hear a report from the Board of Trustees concerning the transaction. At that time the Trustees were granted permission to sell the lot for the sum of \$12,00.00 and to purchase for the sum of \$6,000. the present location, known as the Hambleton Tract, corner of Flower and Cedar (street name being changed to Imperial at a later date).

Now a period of great activity is in progress. Plans for moving to the new site are under way. The residence on the Hambleton Tract must be moved to the south edge of the lot and remodeled into a modern and roomy parsonage. The old parsonage on Redwood Street is sold. It now seems expedient to purchase an additional 50 feet of land lying east of the original purchase and facing on Cedar Street.

The Board of Trustees who undertook the responsibility of these important transactions were: W. D. Shaffer, I. W. Barnett, R. W. Phelps, W. W. Hay and T. E. Moore.

During this, the year 1928 the Church was operating under a budget which required the sum of \$3,683.00.

The Annual Meeting in 1929 finds all the facilities of the remodeled and redecorated additions in full use and greatly enjoyed. The Christian Endeavor Orchestra, directed by Melvin McMechan furnished entertainment for the occasion.



In January of 1931 following the Annual Meeting, Mr. Shaffer invited the members and guests into the sanctuary where he presented a concert on the pipe organ. The organ being a gift to the Church from Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shaffer in memory of their son George William Shaffer. This organ was the realization of a life-long dream of Mr. Shaffer, who instead of installing it in his home chose to share the pleasure of it with everyone by giving it to the Church. He played it regularly for services until the end of 1945. All those present for this memorable concert in 1931 joined in singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" after which the Pastor read the 122nd. Psalm.

The Rev. Mr. Oldfield offered his resignation after five years of service, in March 1931.

A call was extended to Donald H. Gaylord, who came with all the enthusiasm of youth.

A beautiful and impressive ceremony was held at the Church on Tuesday evening November 3, 1931, when Mr. Donald Gaylord was ordained and installed as Pastor.

Present at the ordination were a number of well-known Congregational Ministers of the Los Angeles District Association. A large delegation from the Buena Park Church, The Rev. Mr. Hunt of the Brea Christian Church, and a large number of members and friends of the local Church.

Doctor F. O. Wyatt, Moderator of the Los Angeles Association, was Chairman. The program as follows:

Organ Prelude - W. D. Shaffer

Doxology

Invocation - Dr. Wyatt

Anthem by the Choir

Statement of the Purpose of the Meeting by the Registrar of the Association, The Rev. A. P. Davis.

Ordination Sermon - Doctor Henry Kehdale Booth, of Long Beach  
First Congregational Church.

Solo "This Holy Hour" - Ethel Kuenzli.

Service of Ordination and Installation:

Taking of Vows - The Rev. Perry F. Schrock, of Santa Ana.

Ordination Prayer - Dr. Edward D. Gaylord, Superintendent of  
Southern California Conference.

Charge to the Candidate - The Rev. Holland F. Burr.

Right Hand of Fellowship - The Rev. A. D. Stauffacher, Moderator  
of So. Calif. Congregational Conference.

Charge to the Church - The Rev. W. I. Newman.

Hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have"

Benediction - The Rev. Donald F. Gaylord.

We find many new ventures undertaken by the Church during the years The  
Rev. Mr. Gaylord served as Pastor.

Church Bulletins are introduced and accepted as a permanent part of the  
Church Service.

A Leadership training class in Child Psychology, taught by the Pastor over  
a period of six weeks, proved to be of great interest to the Sunday School  
teachers.

A Junior Choir under the direction of Mrs. A. J. Barnes was organized and  
has given much pleasure to both the Sunday School and Church. Mr. O. A. Andrews,  
teacher of the Adult Class has a fine group of 45 active members.

The Women's Guild of Service was organized in 1934. In August the members  
of the Missionary Society voted to unite with the new Guild of Service.

Leagues of Youth were organized with The Rev. Mr. Gaylord as counselor.  
Lively interest in these groups was shown by the young people.

The resignation of The Rev. Donald F. Gaylord was received in June, 1936. A Pulpit Committee consisting of Mr. J. H. Robinson as Chairman, Mrs. J. D. Neuls and Mrs. O. S. Close were elected.

In September 1936, the Chairman of the pulpit Committee recommended The Rev. Mr. Cecil Prior to fill the vacancy. He with his wife and four children came from Escondido, California, where he had been Pastor of the Congregational Church. It was decided to build an addition to the parsonage to accommodate their needs.

The Junior Guild an interdenominational group of young women was begun about this time, with a membership of 30. Their aims were spiritual, cultural and philanthropic. They sponsored a Girl Scout Troop, and equipped a loan chest of most needed hospital equipment for home nursing. They also contributed to the annual church budget.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shaffer presented the Chimes as a gift to the Church during the year 1937.

One feature of The Rev. Mr. Prior's work which was enjoyed by both young and old was the Junior Sermon which was given just preceding the eleven o'clock service. A sermonette was presented with magic demonstrations to hold the attentions of the grammar school age. Attendance increased appreciably.

The Rev. Mr. Prior presented his resignation early in the year of 1941, feeling that he would find a wider field of service as a Chaplain in the Civilian Conservation Corps. The resignation was effective March 23. The pulpit was filled by various supply ministers until Mr. E. F. Bakkadh1, Chairman of the pastoral committee, recommended that a call be extended to The Rev. Mr. Fredrick Barnhill who had been for some time Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Hemet. He began his work as our Pastor July 1, 1941.

He immediately called a meeting of the Advisory Council as a means of getting the will of the people, and get started on a plan of action. It was decided at

this time to abandon the evening service in favor of more work with young peoples groups.

The Baptist Church was without a Pastor at this time and they were extended a cordial invitation to attend any or all services of this Church. Many of them responded.

The work under the Pastor began with a feeling of interest and unity. The Rev. Barnhill organized his work under four heads: Worship, Religious Education, Fellowship and Service.

There was from the beginning a marked increase in attendance. Mr. J. Cymmings was Chairman of Music with Mr. Leland Auer, a musician of much skill, as Choir Director. The Choir productions during this period were outstanding. The special music for Easter and Christmas services was excellent.

A young married couples group known as "Wifani," became a part of the Church program during this period. Much of its success was due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Ambuehl. Meetings were held once each month on Sunday evening. There was a remarkable interest from the beginning. Attendance averaged about 30. The program was educational and recreational. They had interesting speakers, and often conducted discussions by the various members on child psychology, homemaking and family relations.

The Rev. Mr. Barnhill's resignation was accepted with much regret on August 25, 1942, to become effective September 1. He reported for duty as Chaplain in the United States Army, September 5, 1942.

The final decade in the life of the Church begins January 1943, with the acceptance of the pastorate by The Rev. Mr. Harold E. Baber, of Denver, Colorado. The forward movement of the Church continues. We find many youth activities successfully undertaken. The Guild of Service and Junior Guild, as usual under splendid leadership, have completed many worthy projects.

One outstanding activity of the year being the Christmas letters written by Mr. C. O. Harvey and The Rev. Mr. Baber. The letters were written on special Christmas programs of the Church, and sent to our boys in the armed services. They were received with appreciation in many parts of the world.

To Mr. A. F. Beckman fell the pleasant task of informing those present for the Annual Meeting of January 1945, that the Church had recently come to full self-support and is now entirely free of the 1930 mortgage. He also reported a balance in the Church Treasury of \$336.27. Mrs. O. P. Olson, General Hospitality Chairman for the Fellowship Dinners, told of the success of the hostess plan initiated during the past year.

The Rev. Harold E. Baber tendered his resignation as minister of the Brea Congregational Church on Sunday, October 21, 1945. A Pulpit Committee of six members was elected with Mr. Howard E. Bowers as Chairman.

January, 1946, The Rev. Mr. Halsey R. Carstens of Rio Vista, began his service with the Church as Pastor. During the year a committee on Constitution revision set to work, with Mr. Elvin Wilson as Chairman. In December the new Church Constitution was presented and adopted.

The Women's Guild of Service dedicated a page in the Book of Memory in Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California. Our page reads, "In honor of these whom the Brea Congregational Church shall ever hold in loving memory". The names on the page for 1946 are: Phebe Spenseley, William D. Shaffer, Edna U. Shaffer, Kittie A. Marsh, Lillie Mae Griest and Howard E. Bowers.

During the year 1947, the Church purchased the three lots adjoining the present church property on the east.

On September 7, a Memorial Service was held and a bronze plaque, which had been placed on the Shaffer Memorial Organ, was unveiled.

In October the Los Angeles Congregational Church Association met in Brea. The Women's Guild of Service served luncheon to approximately 200 persons attending

the meeting.

The latter part of 1948 Rev. Halsey R. Carstens resigned. Doctor A. C. Hacke served as interim minister.

During November the possibility of a merger with the Christian Church of Brea was discussed, and committees formed to work out plans for such a union. December 28, 1948, a special meeting of the Church Members was held to decide on proposed church merger. Ballots had been mailed out to the church members earlier, and those returned were counted. There were 95 votes - 46 against the merger, 46 votes for the merger. Three agreed to follow the majority. There being no majority vote the Pulpit Committee was instructed to seek a new minister.

January 30, 1949, The Rev. Mr. G. B. Gudmundsson was called to be the new minister for the Church, and on Sunday May 15, 1949, the Recognition Service for the Rev. Mr. Gudmundsson was held.

Under the gentle, kindly touch of Rev. Gudmundsson the Church rallied and began to move forward again.

Many improvements in the Church building have been completed, and more are contemplated. The sanctuary has experienced many changes and is being made more attractive each year, through the labors and gifts of members and friends.

A fine Choir under the capable direction of the Organist, Mrs. J. T. Blackmarr, is supplying music for the Church.

The Rev. Mr. Gudmundsson presented to the Church a handsome speakers desk, which he had built, to be placed on the table in front of the speaker. On the front of the desk is a painting of the "Mayflower" the work of Mrs. Frank Bath. A very fine brass layman's bell was also given by the minister.

In June, 1952, the Women's Fellowship had a potluck dinner on the lawn after morning service, honoring the Rev. Mr. Gudmundsson and Mrs. Gudmundsson on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Good reports of progress from all departments of the Church were given at the Annual Meeting, January 14, 1953.

23 new members have been added during the past year. The membership report gave a total of 166.

Mr. Frank Hopkins, Church Treasurer, reported a balance of \$678.95.

The Sunday School has gone forward with renewed vigor, completing many projects with great success. This group has set aside \$300 toward a building fund, and their financial report shows a balance on hand January 1, 1953, of \$385.10.

On Sunday morning February 1, 1953, the newly elected Church Officers were installed at the morning service by the Rev. Mr. G. B. Gudmundsson. With this final entry in the written record of the Brea Congregational Church, this report on Church History is completed.

This material was taken from the records of the Brea Congregational Church now on file. It was compiled by:

Mossie Wallace Barnett

Kathryn Mitchell Wise

December 6, 1953.

- - - - -

Mimeographing, courtesy of Mrs. Beatrice Helmick and the following typists:

May Shinomiya  
Joan Hunker  
Maureen Hooten  
Barbara Northcliff  
Janice Strickland  
Shirley Abbey  
Rose Marie Thomson  
Beverly Schmidt

1404-1004  
Brea Calif. April 15 1933.

To the Board of Trustees,  
Brea Congregational Church,  
Brea, Calif.

Gentlemen:-

Although the Brea Congregational Church has had possession of the Estey organ which we had installed in the church building December 1930 and it is presumably covered by the mortgage given to the Congregational Church Building Society we hereby take great pleasure in transferring to you complete ownership of this instrument.

This organ is presented to the Church in memory of our son George and a suitable tablet reciting same is to be attached to the console of the organ.

In consideration of this transfer it is understood that we or our immediate family may have access to and use of the organ whenever such use does not interfere with church activities.

It is our hope that for many years this instrument may be a definite aid to the religious exercises and a help to a high ideal of Christian worship.

Yours in Christian devotion

*W D Shaffer*  
*Edna U. Shaffer*



# Set Services In Beautiful New Congregational Church

Marking the culmination of years of planning and high hopes, the beautiful Brea Congregational Church will be unveiled next Sunday when initial services will be held for the first time.

Rev. Charles F. Huddleston will conduct the services in the new sanctuary which has become a welcome reality for members of the church and friends.

The new \$104,000 structure, designed by Culver Heaton, Pasadena architect, will be formally dedicated in a special service on Sunday evening, Jan. 29.

Construction adjacent to the church building which has served the fellowship since 1926, the new edifice is an impressively striking addition to the community.

A gold-tiled Cross which reaches 50-feet toward the heavens at the northwest corner of the building can be seen over a wide area.

Above the west side entrance is a mosaic of the Good Shepherd to further enhance the beauty of the structure.

Interior of the church is simply but elegantly arranged in a modern scheme of beiges, browns and aquamarines and the sunlight sparkling through strips of jeweled windows on the south and north walls adds to the lovely setting.

Seating has been provided for approximately 200 persons on the main floor and the balcony will accommodate a choir of more than 30 persons.

The structure embraces 4,000 square feet and finishing touches are being placed in shape this week for Sunday's

inaugural service.

Wheatland Construction Co. of Whittier is general contractor of the building and the organ rebuilding work was done by Thomas Gagan of Bellflower.

Preliminary planning and arrangements have been the responsibility of the building committee of the church, including Frank Hall, chairman, and Frank Hopkins, Mrs. Harold Yates, Mrs. Charles Robinson, Ernest H. Nelson, Mr. W. Leo West, James Little, Mrs. Donald Hardy, W. E. Messick and Mrs. J. K. Doggett.

A special building fund committee was composed of Alan VanCouvering, Mrs. Gil Straw, Mrs. Howard Bowers, Robert G. Smith, E. H. Nelson, R. L. Rayburn and Kent Kough.

Located at 300 E. Imperial Highway, the new Brea Congregational church holds a

worship service at 10 o'clock each Sunday morning and the church school is also conducted at that time. Nursery care is provided.

A special invitation has been extended to everyone to attend services in the new sanctuary by Rev. Huddleston and visitors are always welcome. An added highlight to the

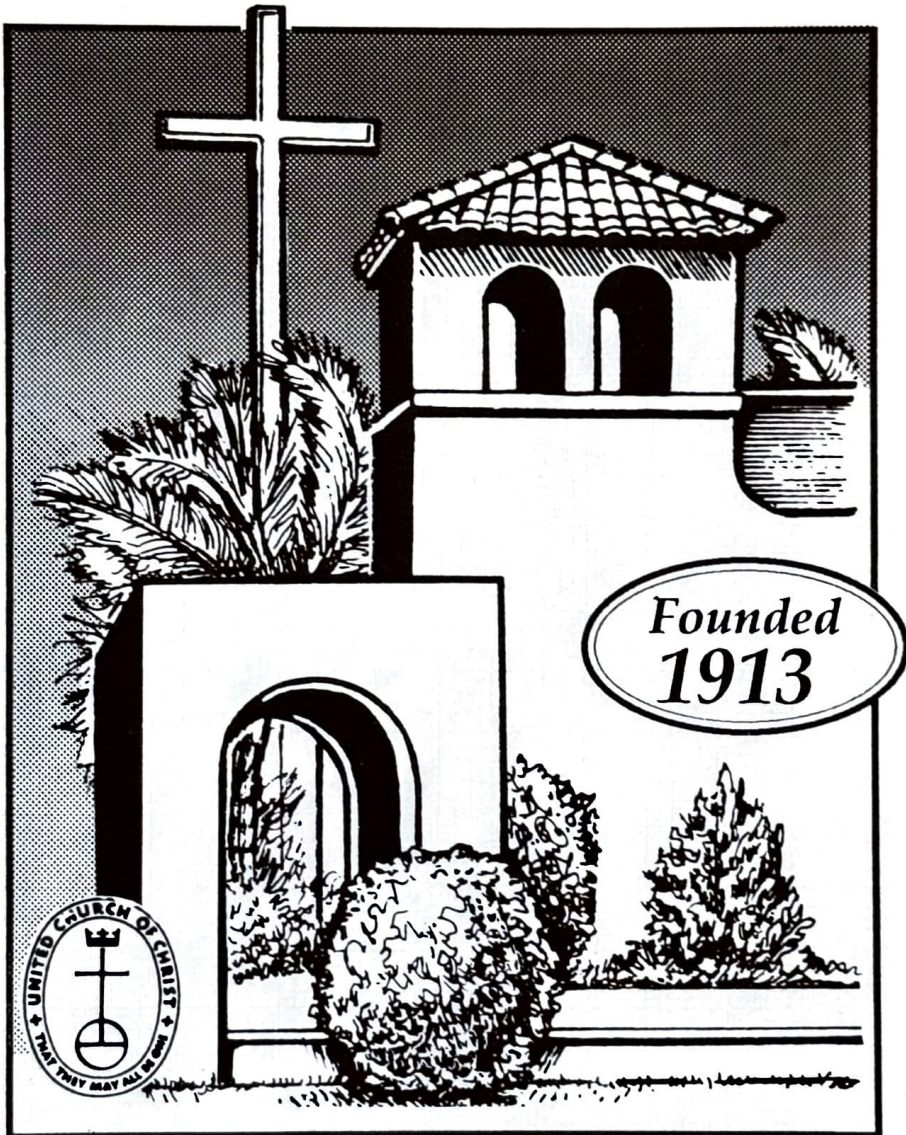


**BREAK GROUND** — First step toward new building was symbolized in ground breaking ceremonies of Brea Congregational Church recently. Shown, from left: Frank Hall, bldg. comm. chairman; Mrs. Thelma Wag-

staff; Mrs. Hugh R. Williams; John Daugherty; the Rev. Charles Huddleston; Frank Sweitzer; Ernest Nelson, church moderator; Mrs. T. Elwood Moore, and Mrs. C. J. Deitrick.

# Brea Congregational Church

*United Church of Christ*



*Founded  
1913*

***Worship 10:00AM***

*The Rev. Rick Marshall, Minister*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 22, 1991

*'I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have.'*

## PRELUDE

## INTROIT

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows and runs upon it.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Leader: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Leader: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

PEOPLE: LET US WORSHIP GOD WITH LOVE, THANKSGIVING, AND PRAISE.

Leader: Come, let us worship together.

## WELCOME

\*HYMN # 195 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name' (Vss 1, 4 & 5)

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM 'The Gift of Love' Hal Hopson

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Marjorie Moureau

\*HYMN 'It Is Well With My Soul' (Insert)

## PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER (Debts and Debtors)

## BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OPENING WORDS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

PRAISE GOD ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW

PRAISE GOD ABOVE YE HEAVENLY HOST

CREATOR, SON AND HOLY GHOST. AMEN.

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 3:1-10

SERMON 'Christianity On the Fringe' Rev. Rick Marshall

\*HYMN 'Sent Forth by God's Blessing' (Insert)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(\* Please Stand)

† † † † † † † † † †

*How shall the mighty river  
reach the tiny seed?*

*See it rise silently*

*to the sun's yearning,*

*sail from a winter's cloud*

*flake after silent flake*

*piling up layer upon layer*

*until the thaw of spring*

*to meet the seedling's need.*

*Make tender, Lord, my heart:*

*release through gentleness*

*Thine own tremendous power*

*hid in the snowflake's art.*

*Antoinette Adam*

## Hymn Sing Begins October 6

If you like to sing, plan to come to church a few minutes early every Sunday to join together in singing new and old hymns. Beginning October 6 at 9:50 AM (that's 10 minutes before our regular worship service) we will sing. Plan to join us!

## New Church Directory In Preparation

A rough draft of the new church directory is posted on the Kiosk. Please take a look at it and make sure it is correct. Make corrections directly on the draft. After today, it will be printed in its final form.

## Adult Study Group

A combination Book/Bible study has begun. Every Tuesday evening in the Pastor's Study. We begin a Bible study with the Gospel of Luke, which is full of surprises! The book we will begin reading is "Where in the World is God?" by Robert Brizee, which can be obtained through the church office for \$5. It looks at life from a Process Theology perspective. The study group is open to anyone, so begin the school year with a fresh commitment to learning more about the Bible and many other issues besides. It's a fun group, and you will be richly rewarded with laughter, new insights and greater confidence with your faith. For more information, contact Pastor Rick.

## Keeping In Prayer

Kristy Fowler had brain surgery last Tuesday. She is doing well, but needs our continued prayers as she recovers. Randy and Sharon appreciate your expressions of love and support. Golda Woolever continues to recover from a broken hip. She is expecting to move from St. Judes to a convalescent home soon.

### Flower Chart Signups

September 22 - None  
29 - None

October 6 - None  
13 - None  
20 - None  
27 - VanCouvering

### Refreshment Chart Signups

September 22 - Glaysher  
29 - None

October 6 - None  
13 - Walcott  
20 - None  
27 - Carey

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Unison

1. Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2. With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face.

The ser - vice is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed  
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,  
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;

shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for God's king - dom and an - swer the call.  
give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

# IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

H. G. Spafford

Phillip P. Bliss  
B♭m F7/C B♭m/D♭

Chords: D♭, A♭7/G♭ D♭/F A♭7/E♭, A♭ A♭7, D♭

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like  
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, the tri - als should come, Let this blest as -  
 3. My sin oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous tho't: My sin not in  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith - shall be sight, The clouds be roll'd

Chords: A♭/E♭ E♭, A♭, A♭, D♭, G♭, B♭7/F, E♭m, E♭7, A♭

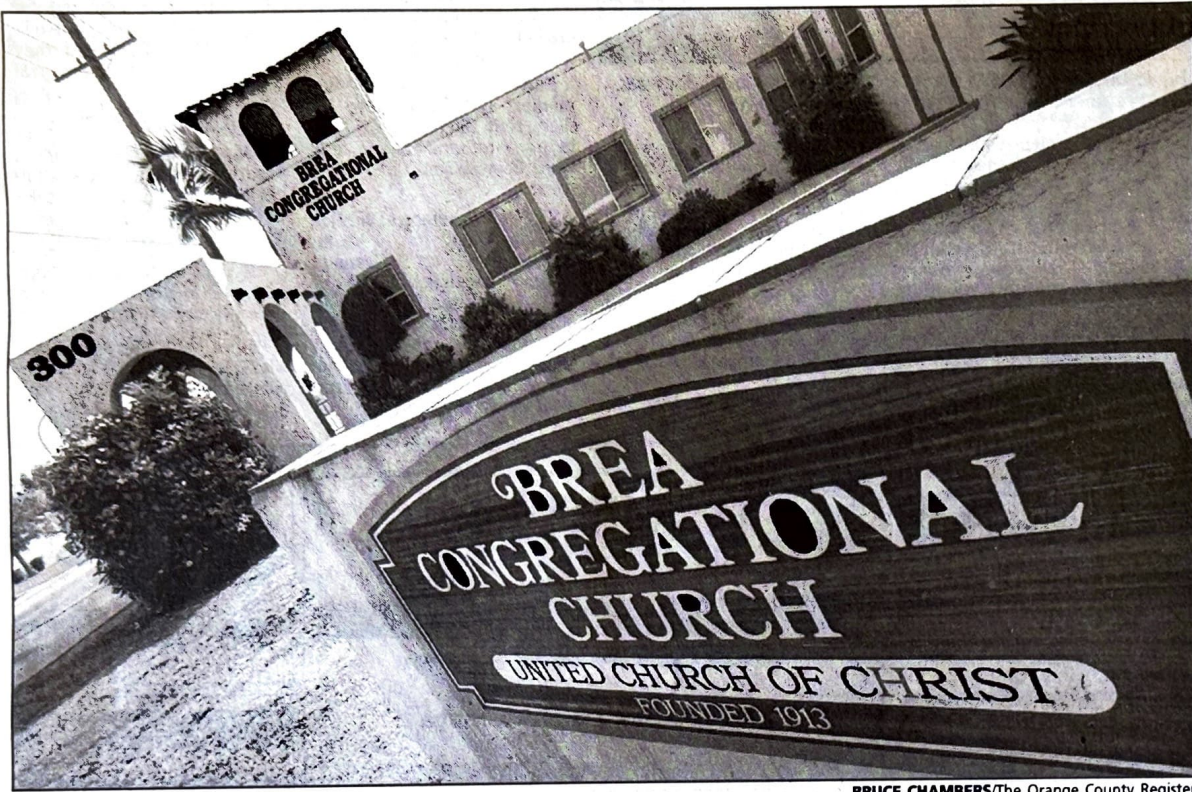
sea bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
 sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,  
 part, but the whole Is nail'd to the cross and I bear it no more,  
 back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

Chords: B♭m/A♭ A♭7 D♭/F, E♭m/G♭ D♭/A♭ A♭, D♭, D♭, A♭

It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 And hath shed his own blood for my soul. It is well with my  
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 "E - ven so," it is well with my soul. It is well

Chords: A♭7, D♭, G♭, D♭/A♭, A♭, D♭/A♭, D♭

soul,  
 with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.



BRUCE CHAMBERS/The Orange County Register

**DIFFERENT DIGS:** Brea Congregational Church, now at 300 W. Imperial Highway, started out in a pool hall in 1913.

# Brea church has long history

## Congregation started as an oilman's gathering place

### THE MOMENT

**B**rea Congregational Church began in a pool hall, where 15 people first met in 1913. It became the



### THE REFLECTION

*Rick Marshall has been pastor of Brea Congregational Church since 1985.*

About 10 years ago, an older couple, both in their 90s, pushed the wrong pedal on their car and ran over me, breaking my knee. The con-

gregation have members who have been coming for decades, who remember when Brea was just a couple hundred people, when there was a single stop sign on the main road.

We've just begun an "open and affirming process."

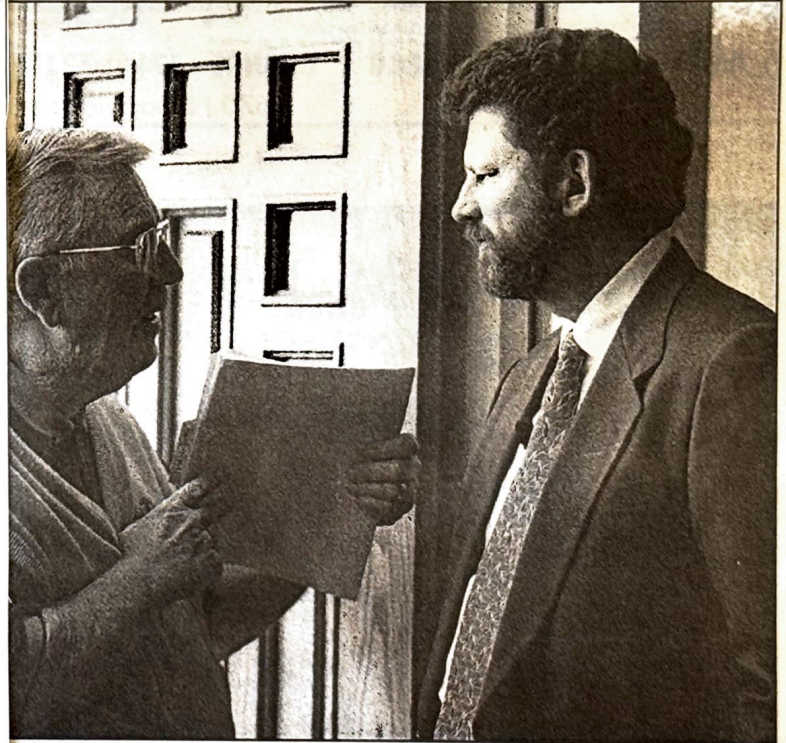


Orange County. Through Nov. 7, we look at some of the

### ABOUT THIS FEATURE...

Millennium Moments are a daily look at the history of

## NG TO A COMMUNITY



Jack E. Hancock Brea Progress  
Rick Marshall, minister of Brea Congregational Church (right), listens to the concerns of

terial Association BMA going to of the people," summing up. up holds meetings nth and elects es each year. rs serving one- were announced 15 meetings and

has members serving with the Youth Advisory Council and Kiwanis Club and on the Big Brother/Big Sister Committee. "They make themselves available to the entire community, be it the Brea Country Fair or the Prayer Breakfast." Mavor Martv

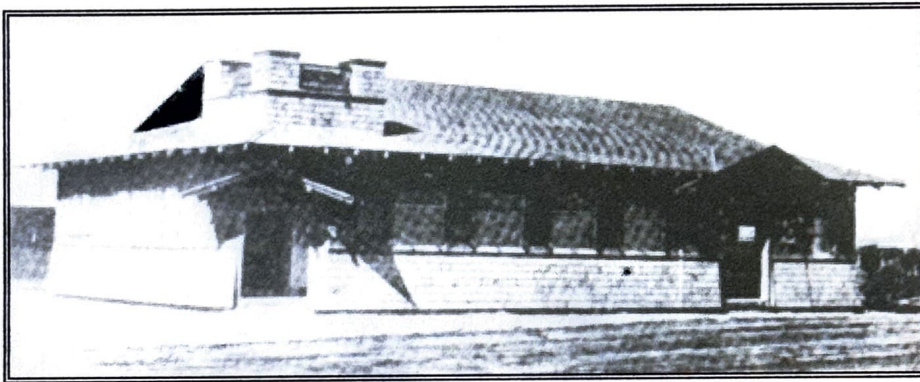
pastors," Rader said. Simonoff agreed. "Publicly, you will see this group having breakfast, attending functions. It goes to a social level," Simonoff said. Rader and Scheibler, who will co-host the next Brea

# Brea Congregational Church

## Our History

### The Beginning

Brea Congregational Church began on April 13, 1913, when a group of 15 people met to organize the Brea Congregational Sunday School. The first meetings were held in a pool hall with Mr. T. E. Moore acting as organizer, trustee, superintendent, and deacon. Moore was the first in a long list of people who dedicated themselves to the growth and prosperity of the church.



### The Oil Man's Church

The cornerstone for a new church was laid on June 8, 1915, and the construction of the "Oil Man's Church" began at the corner of Pomona Avenue (Brea Boulevard) and Birch Street. Building of the church was completed in August 1915, and a miniature replica of an oil derrick was mounted as a steeple. The oil derrick "steeple" was removed from the roof in 1917.

As church membership grew and more space was needed, the lot was sold to the Oil Field National Bank for \$1,200. In 1927, a new plot of land was purchased for \$6,000, and the church building was moved to its present location on Imperial Highway. The building was refurbished in Spanish style architecture, with arches and a red tile roof. The 1929 annual church review meeting, reported that all of the church facilities were in full use and greatly enjoyed.

### The History of Our Church Bell

It is believed that the bell was also acquired in 1927. The bell was first used by the Brea Volunteer Fire Department and later installed at the Randolph Grammar School before being installed in the bell tower at Brea Congregational Church.



### **The Only Pipe Organ Left in Brea**

In 1931, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shaffer purchased and dedicated a pipe organ in memory of their son, and Mr. Shaffer acted as the church organist until 1945.

The Brea Congregational Church evolved from New England Puritanical roots to the American west. It merged in 1957 with three other groups to form the United Church of Christ.

A ground breaking ceremony for a larger sanctuary to be built on the same site took place on June 6, 1960, and the doors of the new building were opened for the first service in January 1961. The pipe organ was moved to the new sanctuary, and is still the only pipe organ in Brea. Behind the grill work in the choir loft are 764 pipes and a set of chimes.

### **And the Last 40 Years . . .**

1965 - The Christian Education Building (currently Pilgrim Preschool) was completed

1979 - A "Burn the Mortgage" ceremony was held when BCC was 66 years old.

1985 - Rev. Rick Marshall installed as Pastor

1988 - Brea Congregational celebrates its 75th year of ministry

2005 - In January, Rev. Dr. Jeanyne Stettom installed as Associate Pastor

2005 - The church celebrates Pastor Rick's 20 year anniversary

2008 - Brea Congregational becomes a UCC "Open and Affirming" hospitality based community of faith.

2009 - In April of this year we dedicated our new Green Garden.



# HIGHLANDER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1987

25¢

## Times may change, but 'Oilmen's Church' endures 75th anniversary festivities planned

By Kim Irwin  
Staff Writer

Long ago—75 years to be exact—Brea Congregational Church was known as the Oilmen's Church.

The majority of its congregation hailed from the Union and Shell oil company fields which abounded in Carbon Canyon and the Brea area. Parishioners trekked miles to the church site, then at Brea Boulevard and Birch Street, from oil lease land to attend Sunday services, ice cream socials and mixers.

Back then, according to Brea historians, everyone knew everyone else and no secret was kept that way for long.

Although the name is different, in some respects, things haven't changed much at Brea's oldest church. Members of the Brea Congregational Church still come from far away to attend services and church activities.

The facility is now at 300 E. Imperial Highway, but the spirit of the church family is still very much a part of Brea Congregational Church, said Rev. Rick Marshall.

Marshall has been with Brea Con-

gregational Church for two years. He said his congregation of about 150 people come from all over North Orange County, including the communities of Brea, Placentia and Yorba Linda.

Established in 1913, the church is kicking off a yearlong 75th anniversary celebration this month. Parishioners are excited about the landmark anniversary, Marshall said.

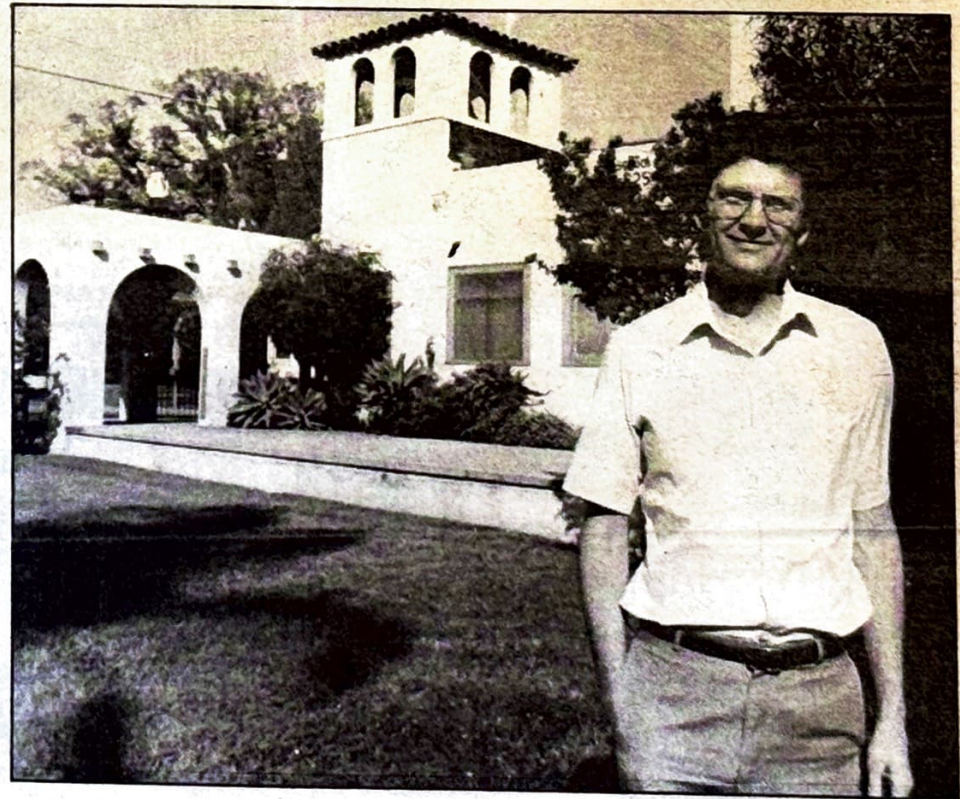
The first in a series of festivities will be held Saturday, Sept. 20. The event will feature a potluck dinner, followed by games and dancing, said Jennifer Wheaton, a member of the congregation.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m. with dinner. Games scheduled include a cake walk, sack races, tug-of-war and relay races, Wheaton said. Guests will be able to build their own ice cream dundaes beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The evening will end with music and dancing for congregation members of all ages. Dancing will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

Another big celebration will be held in May, after a full-scale renovation on all the church buildings is completed.

"This is going to be a big year for us," Marshall said. "It's a very special



Staff photo by David Carlson

**Happy anniversary:** Rev. Rick Marshall stands ready to welcome parishioners to Brea Congregational Church's 75th anniversary celebration. The church is located at 300 E. Imperial Highway, Brea, and serves Congregationalists in all of North County.

time."