

History of Exposition Park Presbyterian Church Dallas, Texas



The name "Exposition Park" Presbyterian Church was chosen due to its proximity to what is now called The State Fair of Texas, but was then known as "Exposition Park." The little white frame church was located at the corner of Third and Parry Avenues. The property on which the church was built was given to the church by the Gaston family, the deal for which was negotiated by the Parry brothers. Parry Avenue was named for the Parry family. Two of the Parry boys attended Exposition Park Church for a number of years.

The Beginning

On the 5th Sunday of March 1890, in a small two-room frame building Mr. R. C. North and Mrs. H. L. McCorkle started a Sunday School with only 12 members. Sometime later a small white frame church was built. Mr. North and Mrs. McCorkle were the first Sunday School Superintendent and Primary Department Superintendent, respectively. Eight months later, in November 1890, Exposition Park Presbyterian Church was organized as a Mission Church of the Second Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Warner Riggs, then Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, and his Officers. There were 14 charter members of Exposition Park but the names of only 10 of them are known, since the early records of the church were destroyed in the fire of 1912, referred to later. They are:

Mrs. H. L. McCorkle,
Mrs. S. N. Wright,
Mrs. M. C. Parry,
Mrs. Mary Spillman,
Miss Thompson,

Mrs. F. M. Wilson,
Mrs. Harry Penniman
Mrs. Elizabeth Carr,
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gross,
(first name or initials unknown.)

Rev. Warner Riggs acted as Moderator and preached the first sermon, taking as his text 1st. Cor. 12:12.

Exposition Park did not long remain a Mission church but soon developed into a full-fledged church. There were two Stated Supply Pastors for the church, namely:

Rev. H. D. Dodson, 1890, and
Rev. M. Spinning, 1903.

The first 5 Pastors which the church had are listed with dates. It might be well to state that the dates are approximate due to the loss of records in the fire of 1912, and have been arrived at by contacting some of the early-day members of the church and from Mrs. McCorkle's diary referred to near the end of this paper.

Rev. Montgomery May,	1891 -
Rev. S. W. Patterson,	1895 - 1902,
(The first meeting of the Ladies' Missionary Society was held on April 29, 1897.)	
Rev. Robert Carson,	1902 - 1903,
Rev. W. B. Preston,	1904 - 1906,
Rev. J. H. Curry,	1906 - 1913.

During the time the Rev. May was Pastor Mr. Sam Gross had a large buggy (or possibly a wagon) which he used in connection with his work at the church. This he called his "Gospel Chariot." This bit of information has been furnished by Mrs. A. R. King, nee Linda Wright, who joined Exposition Park in 1896.

Rev. Montgomery May
1891 - ?



Montgomery May Jr. 3 years old in 1904. Born Oct 6 1901



*W.C. Leach,
Greenville & Vandalia,
Illinois.*

And we thought calendars with pictures was a new idea!



*Rev. Montgomery May - Family
Pastor of Epse Park Presby
Church*

DECEMBER, 1906

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
Use Quar. 1st	New Moon 10th	Full Quar. 22nd	Full Moon 30th			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 ³⁰	24 ³¹	25	26	27	28	29

Pastor after Rev. Montgomery May
Rev S. W. Patterson
1895 - 1902

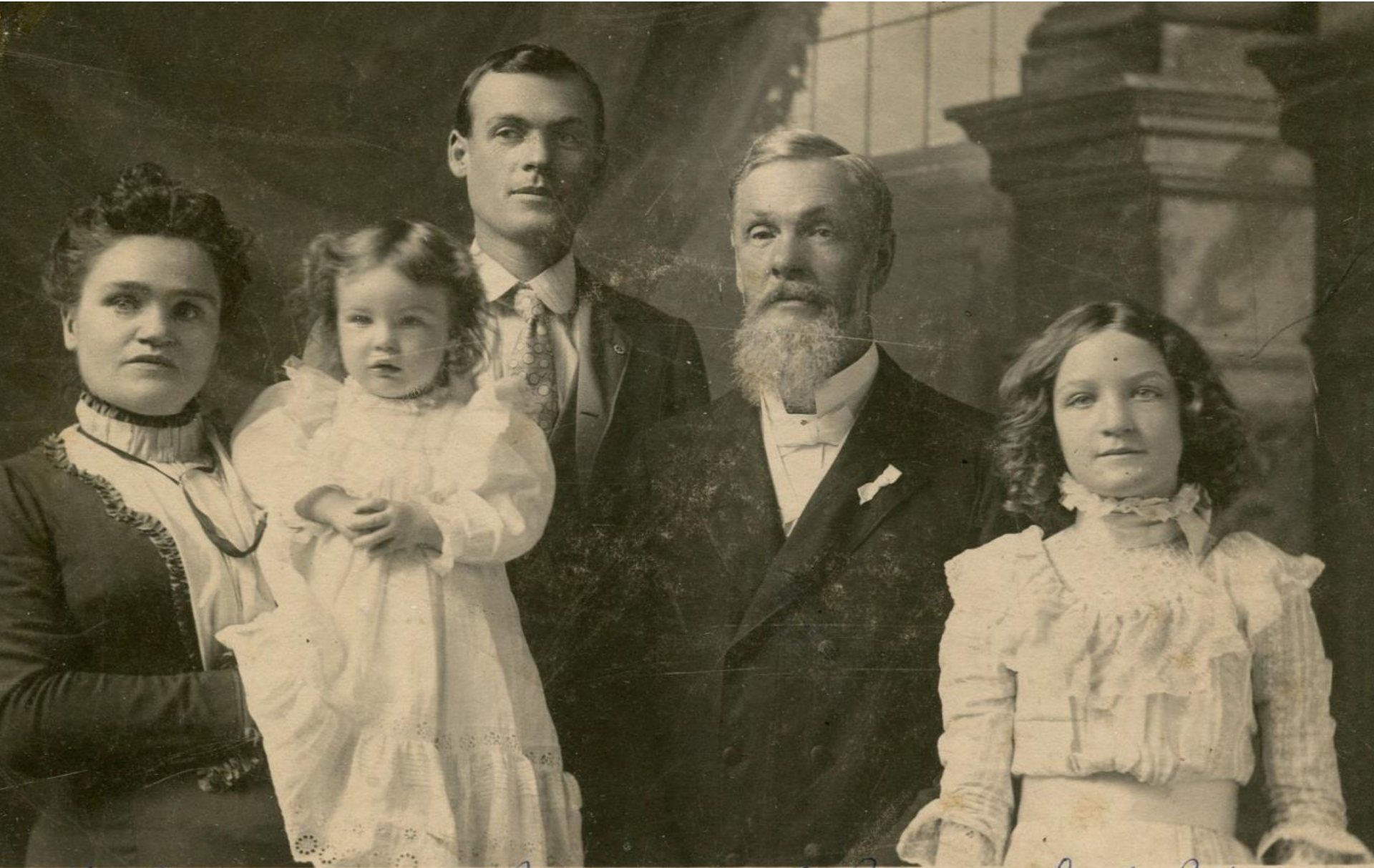


Rev S. W. Patterson

Pastor of Exps Pk. Church.

Frank
TOWNSEND

Rev. S. W Patterson and family – Children Grace, Robert, Lucille



Mrs Patterson Grace Robert by 1st wife Rev Patterson Lucille Patterson

**Rev Robert Carson
1902-1903
And family below**



SCHUBERT
NO 02 BAYTON
DALLAS

Rev Robert Carson & daughter & wife

From 1906 to 1913 the membership of the church increased from 60 to 200 under the leadership of the Rev. J. H. Curry.

On Sunday morning, January 7, 1912, less than an hour before Sunday School would have started, many hearts were saddened to see their beloved little church burned to the ground. That afternoon a Building Committee was appointed and the work of planning the new church began.

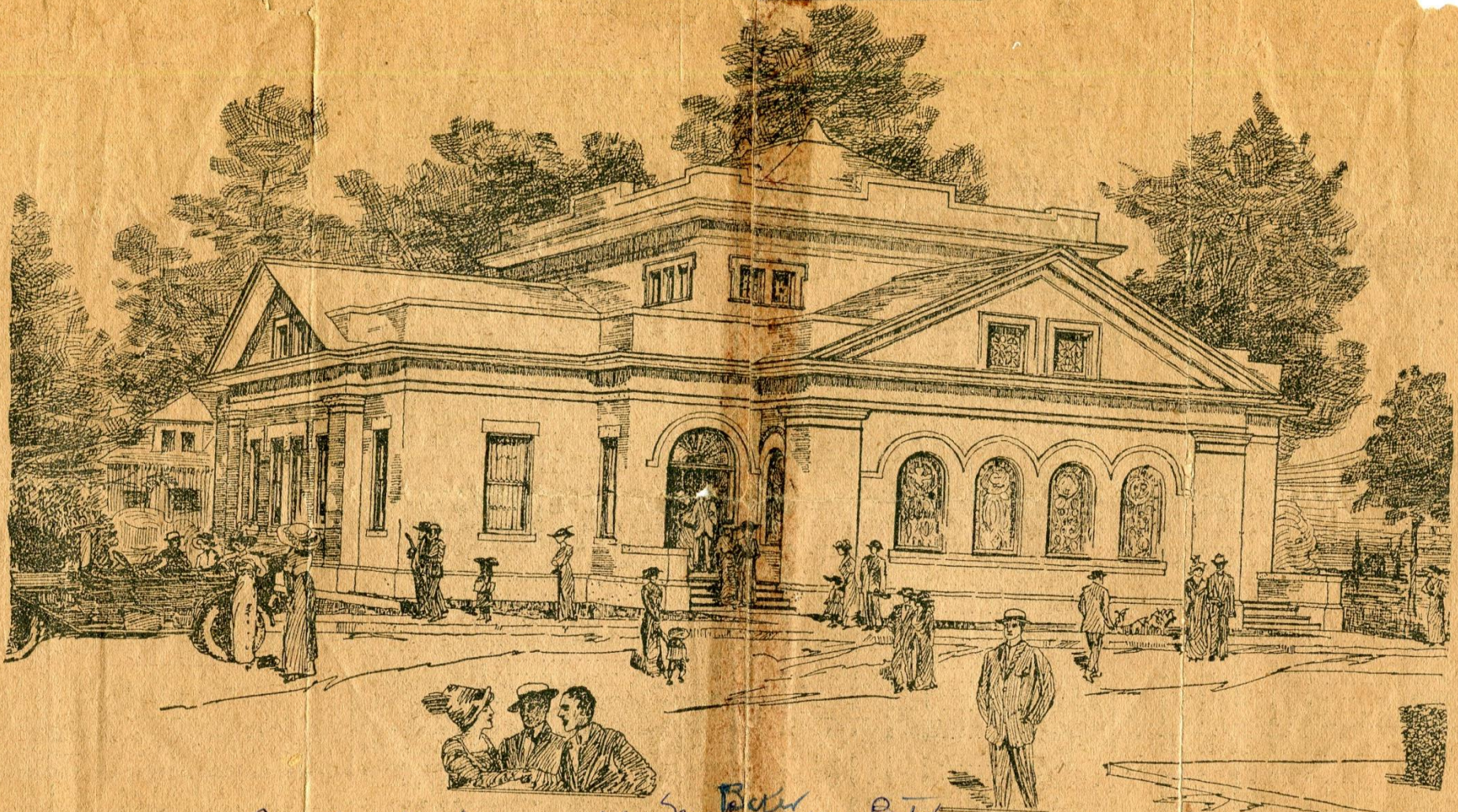
The actual building was started July 1, 1912 at which time the Pastor, Rev. J. H. Curry, turned the first spade of dirt. On Sunday evening, Sept. 10, 1912, at 5:30 the cornerstone ceremonies for the new red brick church were held, with Rev. Curry in charge. Mrs. McCorkle read the history of the church, which was placed in the cornerstone. Elder W. C. North made the principal address. The building was completed in October, 1912





Rev. J. H. Curry breaking ground for Red Brick Building
July 1, 1912

Exposition Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Now Being Built



Red Brick Annex while Mr. Baker was Pastor. He died before the church was burned.

The accompanying picture represents the structure in its finished detail as furnished by the architects, C. W. Bulger & Son of Dallas, and will occupy the original site on Parry and Third avenue. The old structure was destroyed by fire on the morning of Jan. 7, 1912, and ere the sun had withdrawn its gleaming fingers from the scene a building committee had been organized and plans discussed for replacing the demolished building. Under the supervision of the contractor, Samuel Kirkgard, work is rapidly progressing with the foundation of the edifice. An impressive service marked the breaking of ground for this purification, the new church will be wrought in red pressed brick, relieved with facings of white stone. The outside dimensions will measure 75x76 feet, constituting 44x40 feet, fourteen classrooms and parlors, together with a spacious basement for heating plant and other purposes. The walls inside will be finished with calcium, while a pleasing effect will be produced by an interior finish trimming of light oak and circular pew accommodation. The total seating capacity of the entire building will be 600 and the total estimated cost will be about \$13,000.

The undersigned has a picture taken on the lawn of this church on Sept. 27, 1914, Sunday School Rally Day Service, at which 1205 men, women and children were present. This shows how active and loyal the officers and teachers of the Sunday School were in those days.

I think it appropriate to make a few personal comments about Mrs. McCorkle and Mr. North, who were so active in the work of Exposition Park Church.

Mrs. McCorkle served as Superintendent of the Primary Department for 42 years and was active in all departments of the Church. She was born in Melbourne, Australia, on May 29, 1856. She went to meet her Saviour, whom she loved, on August 17, 1947.

Mr. W. C. North was Superintendent of Exposition Park Sunday School for 21 years. He was born in Birmingham, England, in 1863. He went to his reward in May, 1913.

On May 28, 1916, a bronze tablet in memory of Elder W. C. North was unveiled and placed on one of the pillars of the Church. The inscription on the plaque read, "A workman that needeth not to be ashamed." This plaque was saved from a fire in 1924 and hangs in the lobby of the building later erected.

The Pastors of the Church from 1914 through 1926 were as

follows:

Rev. George Fulcher	1914-1917,
Rev. R. E. Robinson,	1918-1921.

(The Church debt of \$5,000 was paid off on December 14, 1919 and the note burned at an appropriate ceremony.)

Rev. W. H. Baker	1922-1926.
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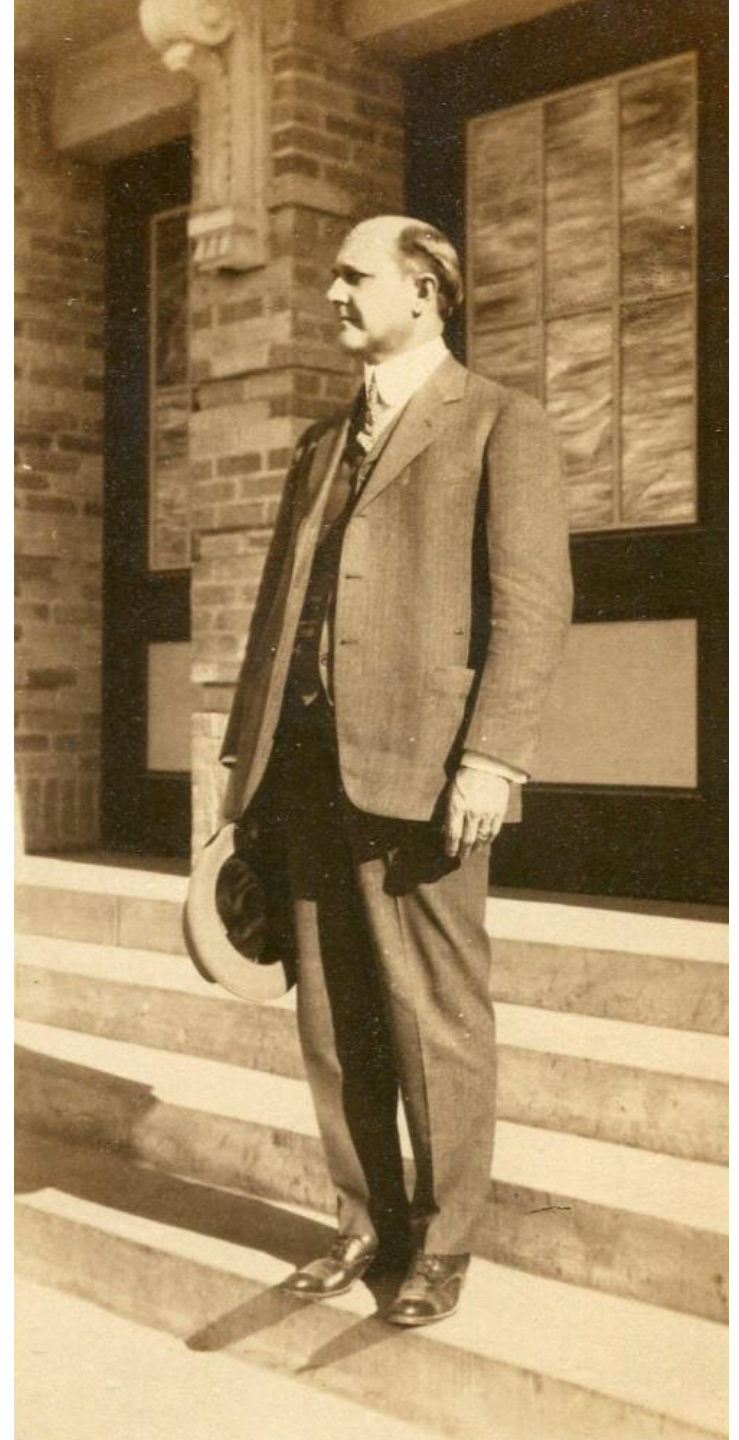
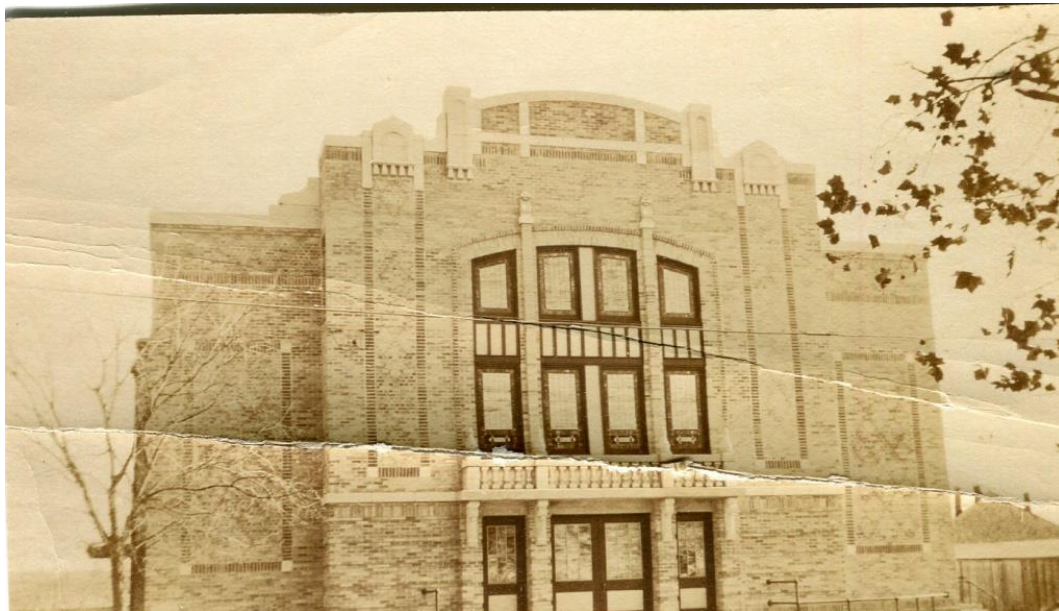
On Monday morning, Feb. 25, 1924, at 2:45 the red brick church burned down. On that same evening, with heavy hearts, the Elders and Deacons voted to rebuild the church and to build a temporary wooden structure in which to hold services until the new building could be completed.

On Sunday morning, Dec. 21, 1924, ground breaking services were held with the Rev. W. H. Baker, Pastor, presiding. Mrs. McCorkle turned the first spade of dirt, followed by Mr. A. R. King, Mrs. W. J. Stone, Mrs. Laura Mills, Mr. Jas. R. Wright and Mr. L. A. Willis, a long-time member of the church.

On May 10, 1925 at 3 P.M. the cornerstone ceremonies for the new tan brick church were held, with the Rev. W. H. Baker in charge. The principal address was made by Dr. B. P. Fullerton. Mrs. McCorkle again read the history of the church. This and the articles that were in the cornerstone of the former church were placed in the cornerstone of the new church by Elders A. R. King and Jas. R. Wright. (Mr. Wright was received as a member of Exposition Park on Jan. 20, 1895.)

The Rev. W. H. Baker died before the church was completed.

New tan brick church completed after
Rev W. H. Baker died in 1926. He was pastor
from 1922 – 1926.





1st Ind Wheaton D
 J. W. Belden E
 Rev. W. H. Baker P
 Dr. Hornbeck P. E. M.
attending E

2nd
 Bluebird Harris E
 James R. Wright E
 J. W. Curran E
 Jessie Witt D
Laura Smith E

3rd
 Mrs. M. Baldwin E
 H. N. Loggins D
 Jas. Clark D
 J. B. Finkle D
J. H. Burns D

Mr. W. H. Baker
 was Pastor

I am showing the names
 but as I have no personal
 knowledge of these men,
 I am letting the viewer
 look for their family
 names. Hard to read.

1902

Don't think date is
 correct as W. H. Baker
 was pastor from 1922-
 until his death in 1926



pt row
2 row

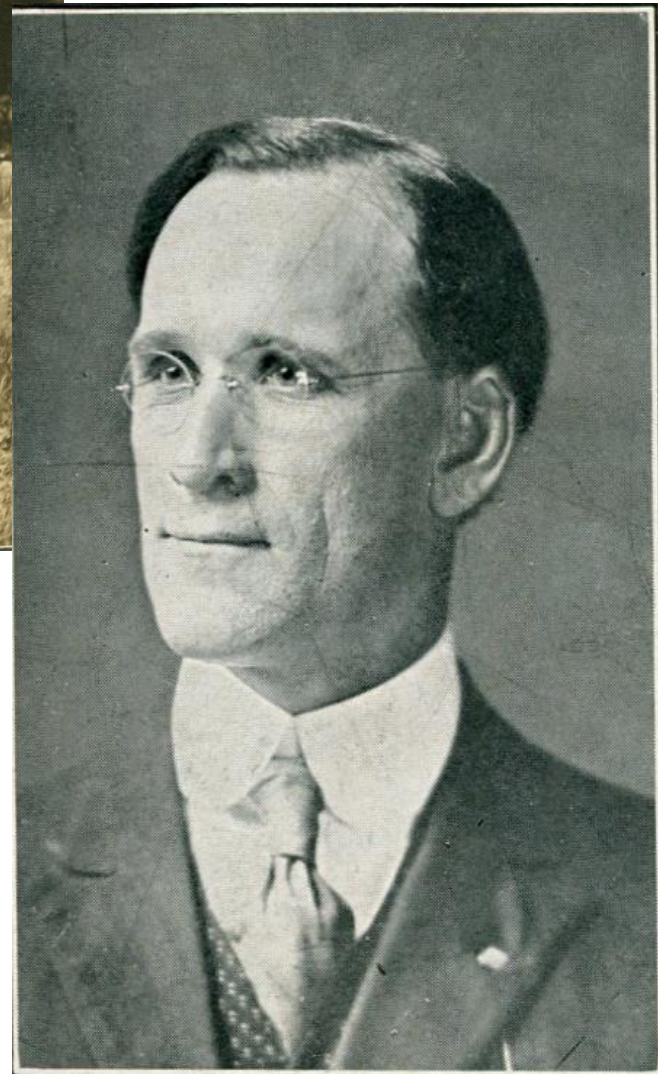
Left tonight → Gordon A. Miller, Mr Leach, Mr Henry, Sam Kirkland -
J H Bronner Jas R Wright, Blanche Harris Ma Currius
J B Finks Albert R King Sam J. Smith C A Fosch

Elders and Deacons—no date



Rev and Mrs. George Fulcher with
"x"s. Not sure of years as Pastor.

Rev R. E. Robinson was pastor after
Rev. Fulcher –again no dates.



The Pastors from 1927 through 1958 were as follows:

Rev. Roy L. Aldrich	1927-1930
Rev. Chas. E. Richter	1930-1936
Rev. David Rees-Jones	1926-1941
Rev. R. N. Benton	1941-1948
Rev. Harry L. Wilbanks	1949-1956

While the Rev David Rees-Jones (pictured below with his wife) was Pastor in 1940 Exposition Park celebrated its FIFTIETH Anniversary. This was quite an elaborate affair, with a large attendance.



Rev. and Mrs. Rees Jones
1936-1941



Brother Reese Jones Pastor
Notice that the Dad and
son of the left of the front
table are in the same spot
when he is in a military
uniform in the next slide



On back of picture
says last year of
Exposition Park
Presbyterian Church



On back it also says last year
of Exposition Park
Presbyterian. Merged with
Calvary Presbyterian
October 5, 1958

Jim Nelson *Mary H. of Remick*

about 1958 from ...

After the Rev. Harry Wilbanks resigned in 1956 to organize the Northminster Presbyterian Church, Dr. Jasper Manton was Supply Pastor for two years and was Moderator until the activities of Exposition Park Church ceased. For the last three months Dr. C. A. Alexander served as Supply Pastor.

At a called congregational meeting on June 13, 1958, the congregation voted to cease operation as a Church and on July 27, 1958, was extended an invitation by the Board of Calvary Presbyterian Church to merge with them.

At a called congregational meeting on August 26, the members of Exposition Park voted to merge with Calvary; services to cease as of the last Sunday in September 1958; all assets to be turned over to Calvary Saturday, October 4, and the first service with Calvary to be held October 5, 1958. At the regular meeting of the Presbytery on September 16, 1958, the merger was approved.

Dr. C. A. Alexander held a special service on September 28, 1958, the last to be held at Exposition Park, and he took part in the first service at Calvary Presbyterian Church with the Rev. John M. Braly, Pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church, located on Military Parkway. A new church has since been built at 5450 Gallion Drive, completed in 1963.

Members of Exposition Park before the fire in 1924 and were still members when it merged with Calvary Presbyterian Church in 1958

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MAIDEN NAME</u>	<u>DATE JOINED</u>
Mr. H. H. Loggins		1891
Mr. J. B. Finks		1892
Mrs. Florence Duecker	(Wilson)	1893
Mrs. S. C. Bovell		1903
Mrs. Dan W. McNulty	(Knott) Still a member	1904
Mrs. Lottie Mae Reaney	(Willis)	1913
Mrs. Nellie Baskett	(Stogsdill) " " "	1917
Mrs. A. R. Hockwald		1918
Mrs. Earl Roe	(Hardin) (Still a member)	1922
Mrs. Florence Lund	(Hill) (Still a member)	1922
XXXXXXXXXXXX		XXXX
Miss Carrie Williamson		1923
Miss Lula Williamson		1923
Mr. Bert Hockwald		1923
Mrs. Bert Hockwald		1923.

Most of the foregoing information was compiled by Elder M. T. Chadwick from the private church diary of Mrs. H. L. McCorkle, without whose foresightedness and her love of God, her church and her fellowman there would have been no early records. Also, special recognition should be given to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roe for having preserved Mrs. McCorkle's diary after the death of her daughter, Mrs. W. J. Stone.

I would also like to mention that Mrs. Minnie Chadwick, who joined Exposition Park while the Rev. R. N. Benton was Pastor and is still a member of Calvary, celebrated her 100th birthday on May 13, 1967.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with Mr. Chadwick in the compilation of this information, by talking with some long-ago members of Exposition Park Presbyterian Church and by furnishing a few dates and personal comments about some of the things I remembered from childhood. I started to Sunday School at Exposition Park in 1897 and have never gone to any other Church until Calvary - of which I am still a member.

Very sincerely,

Massey McNulty

July 12, 1967.

Philis Knox received the pictures from Mae Calvert
I apologize for the crooked placement of the information but had a limited time to work
with this information.