July 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

First worship service was held in the New Groningen School on May 27, 1951, under the unofficial name of “Waverly Heights Reformed Church.” Ground was broken for a new building in April 1952, and the first worship services were held in the new building on December 21. Sixth Reformed Church merged with Calvary in 1995. The church has been served by Senior Pastors Denekas (1952-1958), Leonard Weesies (1958-1963), Howard Maatman (1964-1975), Dennis Wilcox (1975-1982), David Smits (1983-1992), and Blaine Newhouse (1995–2011). Collection contains records and papers dating from its organization in 1951 to the present day, material pertaining to the organization procedures and early history of the church, complete record of the anniversary celebrations from the 25th anniversary in 1976 to the 50th anniversary in 2001, a chronology containing the important events in the history of the church drawn up in 1998, church directories from 1959 to 2000, copies of The Spire (later Inspired) (monthly newsletter), photographs of some of the important events and activities.

Accession No: W02-1268
Provenance: Calvary Reformed Church
Custody Agreement: Calvary Reformed Church
Photographs: 215 images
Processed by: Lee Witteveen, May 2002

History

In 1951, the Extension Committee of the Holland Classis of the RCA conducted a survey of the Holland Heights and recommended the organization of a new church in that area. The first worship service was held in the New Groningen School on May 27, 1951, under the unofficial name of “Waverly Heights Reformed Church.” Student pastor Roger Hendricks led it. A meeting was held on September 6 for the purpose of organizing the church. The name selected at that meeting was “Calvary Reformed Church.”

The congregation extended a call to the Rev. Raymond Denekas to become the first pastor in 1952. Ground was broken for a new building in April 1952, and the first worship services were held in the new building on December 21. The dedication service was held in March 1953. Additions to the church were built in 1961, 1989, and 2000. In 1990, the new Allen Digital Computer Organ was installed. Sixth Reformed Church merged with Calvary in 1995.

Scope and Content

The Calvary Reformed Church collection contains records and papers dating from its organization in 1951 to the present day. Of particular interest is the material pertaining to the organization procedures and early history of the church. There is a rather complete record of the anniversary celebrations from the 25th anniversary in 1976 to the 50th anniversary in 2001. A chronology containing the important events in the history of the church was drawn up in 1998.

The collection also contains most of the church directories from 1959 to 2000, and copies of The Spire, the monthly newsletter, from 1980 to 1995. Photos of some of the important events and activities are also included, as well as a group of slides dating from 1957 to 1987. The directories, the newsletters, the photographs, and the slides are arranged chronologically.

Container List

Box 1

Article, Organization, Church Herald, 1951
Booklets and Brochures
   Church Ministries, 1978
   Gifts of Hope & Joy, 2008-2010
   Holland Heights Fest!: Bridging Community, 2008
   Kentucky Spring Break Service Celebration, 2008
   New Heights Campaign, 2007 (2 folders)
   Run with Faith, The Legacy Project, 2011
   “Step by Step,” Capital Stewardship Campaign, 1998
Boy Scouts
Budgets
   General, 2009
Bulletins
   1951-1953
   Special, 1985-1989
   Calvary Pulpit, 1987-1989 (3 folders)
   Calvary Seniors On the Go!, 2011
   Chronology, 1951-1998
   Circles, 1962
   Clipping, Singspiration Quartet, 1953
   Consistory Members, 1966-1987
   Cookbook, c. 1955
   Cradle Roll, 1952
   Directories, 1959-2000 (5 folders)
   Filmstrip Listing, 1969
Garden Heights, 2010
Get Acquainted Fellowship, 1973
Guild for Christian Service Minutes, 1961-1969
Job Descriptions
   Custodian, 1973
   Youth Pastor, 1977
Kids Hope USA Ministry, 2011
Leadership Summit, 1999
Membership Changes, 1966-1968
Mortgage, 1960
“One Vision,” packet, 2005
Ordination Service, Bakker, Steven J., 1981
Outreach, 2008
Pastors
   Associate, Stegenga, Henry A., Installation Service, 1979
   Interim
      Coughenour, Robert A., Report on Organization for Ministry, 1993
      Van Kempen, Case, 2011
   Senior
      Denekas, Raymond, Farewell, 1957
      Newhouse, Blaine C., 1995-2011
      Smits, David C.
         Farewell Sermons, 1992
         Installation Service, 1983
      Wilcox, Dennis B., Installation Service, 1975 (1 image)
   Youth, Edgerly, Daniel D., Installation Service, 1997
Photographs (in chronological order)
   Building and Sanctuary, n.d. (25 images)
   Charter Members, 1951 (2 images)
   Sanctuary, 1953 (6 images)
   Camp Geneva, 1956 (1 image)
   Burning of the Bonds, 1978 (19 images)
   Youth Club, Farewell to Children’s Ministries Director Joyce Sluiter 1987 (19 images)
   Family Camping, Cran-Hill Ranch, 1987 (26 images)
   Record Attendance in Sunday School, 1990 (1 image)
   Vacation Bible School, 1995 (26 images)
   45th Anniversary, 1996 (26 images)
   Calvary Kids, Padnos Picnic, 1996 (7 images)
   Groundbreaking Ceremony, 1999 (7 images)
   Slides, Miscellaneous, 1957-1987 (45 images)
Poem, “Echoes of Calvary”, 1965
Programs, Anniversaries and Dedications (chronological order)
   Dedication of Sanctuary, 1953
   Dedication of Organ, 1954
   Ground Breaking for New Addition, 1960
Cornerstone Laying for New Addition, 1961
Dedication Service for New Addition, 1961
25th Anniversary, 1976
Organ Dedication, 1979
Dedication of Stained Glass Window, 1982
35th Anniversary Program, 1986 (includes audio cassette of worship service)
   (1 image)
Foundation Laying of New Addition, 1988
Dedication of New Addition, 1989
Organ Dedication, 1990
Dedication of Stained Glass Windows, 1992
40th Anniversary Program, 1991
Merger with Sixth Reformed Church, 1995
45th Anniversary, 1996
Dedication of New Addition, 2000
50th Anniversary, 2001
Christmas Musicals, 2007

Box 2

Statistics, 1964
*The Spire* (later *inSPIred, InSpire*) (newsletter), 1980-2009 (17 folders)
Sunday School
   Constitution, 1953
   Teachers Meeting Minutes Book, 1951-1978
Tulip Time Meals, 2011
Women’s Missionary and Aid Society, 1951 (3 images)
Worship Arts
   Dancing Lambs, 2010
   Director, Milo, Michael, 2011-

Box 3

Abstract of Title, Sixth Reformed Church
Architect Sketches
   Original Building, 1953
   New Addition, n.d.
   Sign, 1985