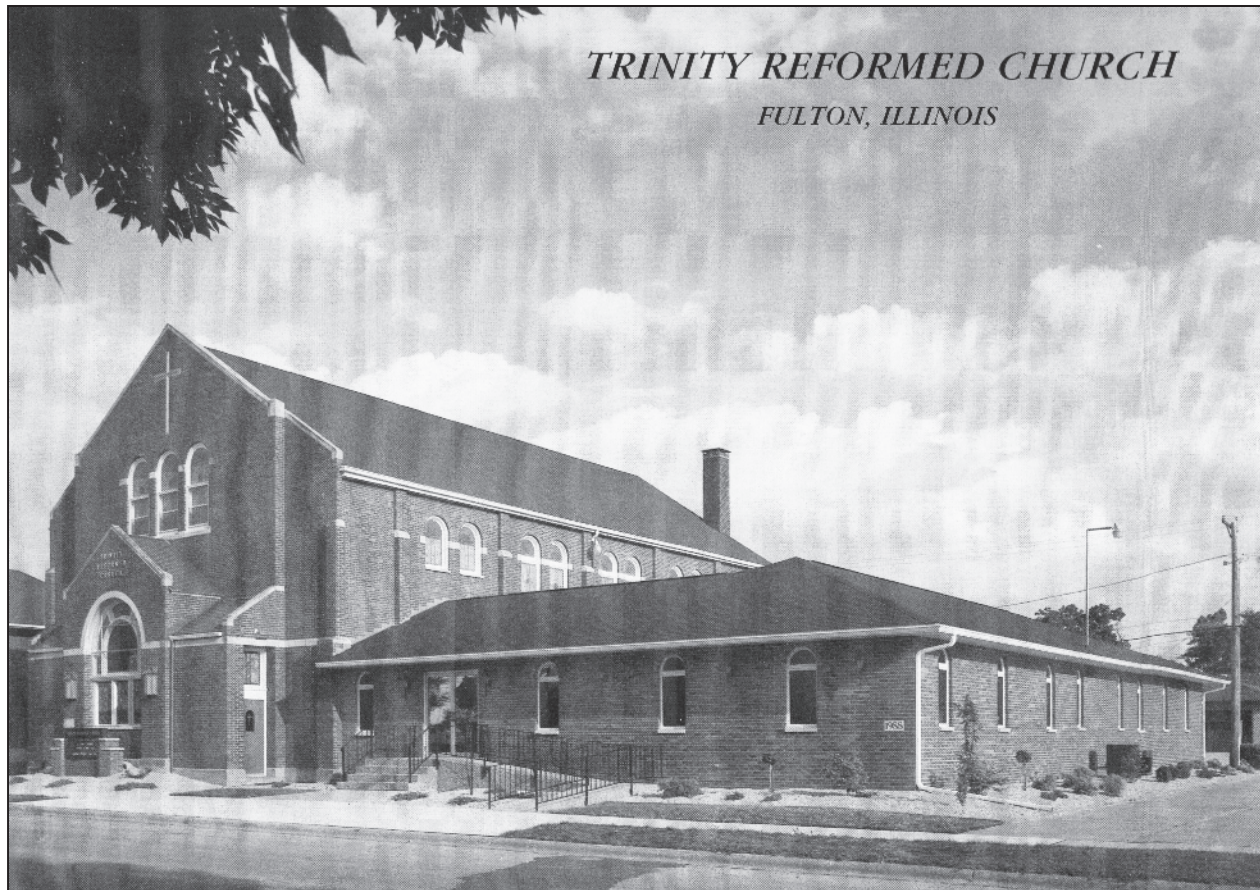


Fulton Dutch Days 2013

“Churches: Steeped In History”

TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH



Trinity Reformed is located at 514-13th Avenue. The educational addition was completed in 1988.

As Dutch Days 2013 approaches, a series of articles will focus on this year's theme, "Churches: Steeped in History." This week's article was written by Judy (Renkes) Vanderploeg.

Trinity Reformed Church of Fulton, Illinois was organized October 2, 1929, at Second Refomed Church with 65 charter families. A Chicago Classis committee of four pastors and an elder also met to organize this new church. Members of the first Consistory: Elders, Henry Logemeyer, Charles Boelkens, Sr., George Ottens, and Auke Smidt (Smith); Deacons: Peter DeWeerd, Louis Jaarsema, Dewey Renkes, and Claus TenBoer. Moderator was Rev. G. VanderLinden of Second Ref. Church. The first worship service was held October 13, 1929, in the Fulton Coliseum (Fidelity building), conducted by Rev. John Steurenberg. English services were held at 9AM and 7:30 PM, with a 2 PM Dutch service. Three lots at the corner of 13th Avenue and 6th Street (containing the old Tucker Saloon and livery barn) were purchased and razed in the winter of 1929-30 by volunteer labor. Building Committee: Auke Smith, Chairman; Henry Logemeyer, Peter DeWeerd, Louis Jaarsema, and Cornelius Moldermaker.

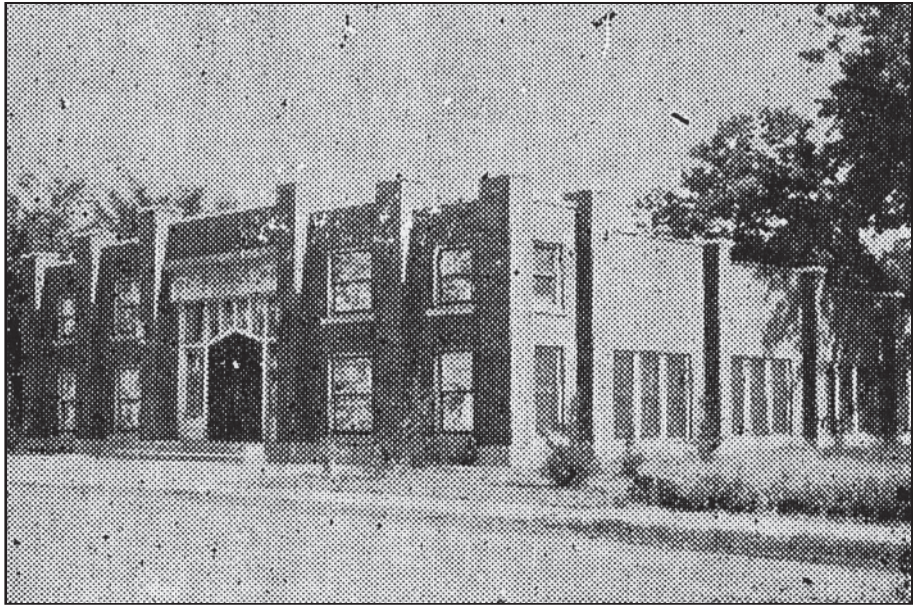
Building of the basement unit began March, 1930, approximately on the saloon location. Members helped in construction, using horses and scraper to excavate the soil. A parsonage was built on the barn site, with dedication of both on July 25, 1930. Total cost was \$23,000.

Rev. Henry Mollema was installed as Pastor on September 5, 1930. During the hard times of the Great Depression, the congregation was unable to meet the pastor's salary, but able members supplied meat and vegetables to the Mollemas. *Pastor Mollema even sifted the furnace ashes – re-burning the cinders to stretch heating resources.*

Soon after organization, a Sunday school, Choir, Ladies' Mission Society, Young Women's Service League, Men's Bible League, and a Ladies' Aid Society were organized, with Catechism classes, Youth Christian Endeavor Societies and a Trinity Guild organized later. On April 21, 1943, the basement and parsonage mortgages were burned. Immediately after, a new building fund to raise money for the upper structure began. The Mollemas retired July 1, 1946. On July 3, 1947, Delbert Vander Haar was ordained and installed as Pastor. He and Trudy saw the need for organizing a Young Couples' Study & Service Club at that time. In 1948, the congregation assumed an emergency share in supporting Miss Jeanne Walvoord, R.N., as Missionary to communist China.

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Construction of the upper structure began April 21, 1949, with dedication December 14, 1949. Building Committee: Richard Drolema, Mino Kooi, Corneil Moldermaker, Everett Housenga and Richard Vogel. In 1959, a Moeller pipe organ was installed—enhancing congregational and choral music that has been an important part of worship throughout Trinity’s history. Trinity’s first and long-term Choir Director was Everett J. (Doc) Housenga. Later, Mother and daughter, Mrs. George (Ruth) Renkes and Mrs. Ron (Gloria) Pessman, provided over 100 years of combined dedicated service as pianist and organist. Mrs. Wilfred (Helen) Sikkema led the children’s Sunshine Choir for many years, with Gloria Pessman later assuming that role, as well as leading the Senior Choir in voicing their praise through worship music, anthems and cantatas for over four decades.



**The single story church was built in 1930.
The upper structure (sanctuary) was dedicated on December 14, 1949.**

The Holy Spirit moved mightily through a Lay Witness Mission and Kennedy Evangelism Team during Rev. Robert Vander Schaaf’s ministry—greatly increasing the congregation. So, on April 3, 1988, ground was broken for an educational unit containing classrooms, a study, church office, nursery, fellowship area, and prayer room. Dedication was October 22, 1988. Building Committee: Robert Haan, chairman, Stanley Bielema, Beverly Bonheur, Dale Wiersema and Kenneth Vanderploeg.

Vital throughout Trinity’s history has been the giving of prayerful and financial support towards spreading the Gospel in Brewton, Alabama; Annville, Kentucky; the Church of the Good News in Chicago; Macy, Nebraska, and through missionaries in Mexico, China, Japan, Ethiopia, Philippines, India and Africa. In 1980, a 1981 Ford Club Wagon was donated to Andy Kamphuis in Apache, Oklahoma, for transporting families of the Indian Reservation to church and Sunday school. Trinity’s Mission Team has annually touched and improved lives when rehabilitating housing in Jackson County, Kentucky. In 2012, Trinity Church received special recognition from The Reformed Church in America as a Missional Impact Partner for meritorious financial contributions towards mission support, for which all glory belongs to God!

Local outreach has included: Physically and spiritually feeding local families through “Fast Food Fellowship” on Family Nights; a Jail Ministry; Bible Study groups; Moms’ Club; Brown Bag Lunch & Bible Study; rotating Sunday afternoon services at Harbor Crest Home; supporting Self Help Enterprises in Sterling, the Victory Center in Clinton, and local Habitat for Humanity; and assisting the Food Pantry with donated commodities, volunteers, and monetary donations raised through a seasonal Produce Table.

The Men’s Bible League continues in local outreach through prayer breakfasts and the study of God’s Word. For many years, the congregation greatly enjoyed the benefits of the League’s chocolate chip sales—used to fund distribution of devotional booklets.

Hannah Mission Circle has long aimed to spread God’s love both abroad and at home, including a long-standing commitment of preparing loving sustenance for those bereaved following funeral services. The group also ensures that all residents of a nursing home receive a treat or cupcake to join in the birthday celebration of a Trinity member living there.

To benefit organ upgrades, the Glass Art team has utilized their artistic talents to create delightful décor items from the old pressed-glass panes of the replaced basement windows.

Members of The Creative Crew combine their varied abilities to stitch articles of comfort and aid for Harbor Crest Home, The Pregnancy Center, Iowa City V.A. Hospital, and others in need.

Pastors who served so faithfully as spiritual leaders were: Henry Mollema (Anna), 1930-1946; Delbert Vander Haar (Trudy), 1947-1953; Raymond Rewerts (Ruth), 1953-1958; Herman Dragt, (Marge), 1958-1963; Kelvin Kronemeyer, Summer student pastor, 1969; Donald Boss (Ann), 1964-1969; Robert Vander Schaaf (Esther), 1970-1985; Scott Lokers (Susan), 1986-1990; Dennis Foemmel (Mary), 1991-1994; Earl Slotman (Barbara), 1995-2002; Erv Smith (Dorothy), 2003-2004; Bruce Wilterdink (Naomi), Interim 2004-2006; Tom Merchant (Terry), 2006-2013.

Eight sons of the church led into Pastoral Ministry are: Levi Akker, Wilfred Fiet, David Sikkema, Brook Stevens (Carol Dykema); Fred Buseman (Annabelle TenBoer); Michael Shipma, Daniel Wiersema, and Kenneth Renkes.

Trinity’s living Charter Members are: Evelyn (Mrs. Raymond) Damhoff, Katherine (Mrs. Bernard) Damhoff, (Evert) Eugene Bonheur, Harold Bonheur, Allen Dornbush, Robert Merema, Helen (Mrs. Wilfred) Sikkema, DellaMae (Mrs. Allen) Deelsnyder, Harold Renkes, and Lorraine (Mrs. Harold) Huggins.

Through these many years, the Holy Spirit has worked powerfully through a multitude of believers who first sought the Lord’s will through prayer, and then willingly offered their hands, time, and talents to make an impact on lives—a wave that has rippled from 514 13th Avenue to the ends of the earth, and for eternity. The Lord has not failed the congregation, and they rejoice in His guidance and blessings.

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