

## THE ROOTS AND HISTORY OF TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Trinity Baptist Church of Grand Rapids, MI was brought into being in the providence of God in October of 1948. At that time there were 73 baptized believers who made up the role of charter members and meetings were held in the Stryker Building at 1420 Plainfield Ave. NE. This building was directly across the street from the flatiron building which is so readily recognizable where Coit Ave. comes into Plainfield Ave. Per historical records researched in 2009, the known charter members of Trinity Baptist Church of Grand Rapids were:

BAXTER, Guy & Edith, Helen	MOHR, Fannie
BOONE, Richard & Mrs.	MURRAY, Elizabeth
BROM, John & Mary Jane	OLESON, Boie & Mrs.
BROM, Julia	ORPHAN, Emma
BROM, Robert & Gertrude	PIERSMA, Ben & Dora, Bonnie, Ben Jr., Marvin
BUSMAN, Caroline	SCOTT, Rev. W. Herbert & Pauline
CHAMBERS, Kathleen	STRICKWERDA, Gerrit & Mrs.
DE GROOT, Anna	STRICKWERDA, William & Mrs.
DE MAN, Jay & Marguerite	SWEENEY, Agnes
DE YOUNG, Nick & Ruby	TUBERGEN, Christina
ENSING, Duane, Gerald, Geneva	VELDMAN, William & Mrs.
GAUW, Albert & Jessie	VISSER, Maaiké & Mrs.
HAAKSMA, Tony & Ruth	VOGEL, John & Katherine
HAAN, Minnie	VOS, David & Jackie
HILL, Susan	WIERS, Elizabeth
HOOGERWERF, Richard & Cornelia	WILLIAMS, Theresa
KELLEY, Winifred	WILLS, Darren & Ruth
KUIECK, Herman & Clara	WOLTERS, Margaret
LARSON, Elizabeth	WOODWORTH, Mrs. Dale
MC CORMICK, Elizabeth	

The church called its first pastor, the **Rev. W. Herbert Scott** and wife Pauline almost immediately after its inception. The membership of Trinity soon grew to more than 175 and a permanent home was acquired at 1331 Plainfield Ave. NE. Dedication services of that property (the old 2nd Congregational Church) were observed on Sunday, April 30, 1950 in the 11:00 AM worship service. At 3:00 PM, the Baptist churches of the Grand Rapids Association of Regular Baptist Churches united in a service of praise with Trinity. Rev. W. Herbert Scott served the church until August 1, 1953 when he resigned to become the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Elkart, Indiana.

**Rev. Mark Dickerson** and wife Ann assumed the pastorate of Trinity on December 1, 1953 coming here from Detroit, Michigan where for 9 years he occupied the pulpit of Berean Baptist Church. On March 1, 1955, Trinity completed an addition to the 1331 Plainfield building which served as an educational building and provided some 20 additional Sunday School rooms, a church office and two large assembly rooms.

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During the summer of 1962, ten acres of property was purchased at 2050 Aberdeen NE, which is the present location of the church.

Rev. Mark Dickerson left Trinity on November 1, 1962 to assume the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church in Midland, Michigan. **Rev. Herbert Vander Lugt** and wife Ginnie became the third pastor of Trinity on September 19, 1963. Previously he served the First Baptist Church of Spring Lake, Michigan. Construction of a new church on the Aberdeen property was started in 1965 and on Thanksgiving Day 1965, a cornerstone ceremony was held in conjunction with a prayer and praise service. This was the first service held in the new building. This building was formally dedicated in the spring of 1966. The former property at 1331 Plainfield Ave. was sold to the Children's Bible Hour. During this time we also enjoyed the ministry of Assistant Pastor Donald Poole and wife Darlene. On May 6, 1973, Rev. Vander Lugt left to assume full-time duties in research and writing at the Radio Bible Class.

**Rev. Jack A. McCurry** and wife Lynwood accepted a call to the ministry of Trinity and became our 4th pastor beginning on May 20, 1973. Before coming to Trinity, Rev. McCurry ministered to the First Baptist Church of Romeo, Michigan for 9 years. In 1977, the Lord allowed us to add a much needed addition of approximately 4600 square feet that included office space, a large fellowship area, kitchen, restrooms and a fireplace room. During this time, we also employed Assistant Pastor Jeff Messer and wife Donna.

After the resignation of Pastor McCurry, a call was extended to **Rev. Larry D. Rowland** and wife Sandy. Larry was a popular professor at Grand Rapids Baptist College and attracted many students to Trinity. His ministry began in March 1980 and was centered around solid Bible teaching with an emphasis on discipleship. Rev. Rowland resigned in June of 1985 responding to a call from First Baptist Church of Wayne, Michigan.

**Dr. Kent A. Pool** and wife Sandra accepted a call to be our 6th pastor in the fall of 1985 and began their ministry on December 31, 1985. All aspects of Dr. Pool's ministry were based on or centered around missions. During this time we also enjoyed the ministry of Youth Pastor Craig Brundage and wife Jackie. A remodel of the front of the sanctuary plus major reconfiguration of the basement classrooms was completed in 1993. This provided a fresh look for the auditorium, included updating of main floor restrooms, plus better utilization of basement space for current programs.

Although enjoying the Lord's work at Trinity, the Pools accepted an invitation to speak for a week at Doane Seminary in the Philippines in February of 1997. The Lord used that experience to later call them to full time service at Doane and Dr. Pool resigned as Pastor of Trinity in early 1998.

After Pastor Pool's resignation, the church leadership decided to hire an interim pastor that could not only assume pastoral duties but also assist in the search for a new pastor. The Interpas organization supplied the church with **Rev. Tom Dolph** and wife Jean. Rev. Dolph was with us for about 1-1/2 years and was very helpful in leading us through the process to find our next pastor.

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**Rev. David G. Somers** and wife Robin accepted the call to be our 7th pastor and began their ministry in November 1999. The Somers came to us from the east side of the state and we enjoyed good bible teaching plus their unique creativity in many aspects of our church life. During this time the church called Kurt Ellis from within the congregation to serve as the Pastor of Youth. Pastor Kurt served on staff from July of 2000 to September 2005, after which he continued to faithfully attend and serve at Trinity. Pastor Somers resigned in February of 2006 and later accepted a call to First Baptist of Vassar, Michigan.

Once again the church called upon the services of Interpas and enjoyed 9 months of leadership from **Rev. Duane McNeil** and wife Edie. Pastor McNeil was instrumental in guiding our search process as we sought the Lord's will for our next spiritual leader.

**Rev. Brett A. Boomsma** and wife Ami accepted a call to Trinity in the Fall of 2006 as the 8th pastor in our 60 year history. Pastor Boomsma's energetic preaching style and solid Bible application soon showed results in moderate church growth. Increased youth attendance led the church to hire Pastor Jory Trim and wife Andrea in 2008 to lead Youth and Christian Education. Limited facilities for our youth program led to a total audit of the church programs and facilities during the Spring and Summer of 2009 which concluded with the building of a new sanctuary and youth center. Pastor Jason Hsieh was called to Trinity in the Fall of 2016 to serve as the Pastor of Discipleship and Counseling.

Continued growth led the church to begin the process of evaluating its current facilities and programs. In 2017, the church voted to enter into a capital campaign to address the need for more sanctuary space, parking, children's classrooms, storage, and a remodel of the kitchen.

Revised 10/7/2009  
Sam De Man

Revised 10/11/2017  
Jory Trim