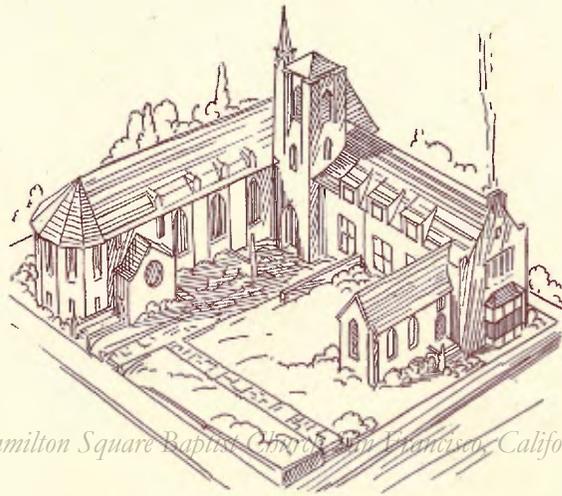


Hamilton Square Baptist Church

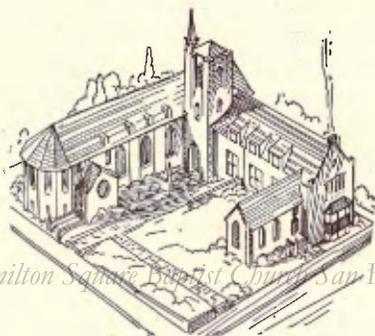


Property of Hamilton Square Baptist Church, San Francisco, California

San Francisco, California

HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH

Geary and Franklin Streets
San Francisco 9, California



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ARNO Q. WENIGER, D.D., *Pastor*

Residence: 666 - 37th Avenue
San Francisco 21, Calif.
Phone EVergreen 6-5444

MRS. EDOUARD BRYANT *Choir Director*
MISS ELIZABETH BRYANT *Organist*
MISS EDNA SAHL *Secretary*

Office in the Church
Phone ORdway 3-8586

"A Bible Church with a Cordial Welcome"

OUR HISTORY . . .

On February 7, 1831 inspired by Captain Gustavus W. Schroeder, one of the pioneers of Baptist history in Sweden, six persons gathered in his home at 1812 Geary Street and organized the Zion Baptist Church. The following persons were present: Captain Schroeder, Mrs. Margaret A. Clay, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bennett, Miss M. I. Lever, and J. B. Whidden. This was the beginning of what was to become the Hamilton Square Baptist Church.

Prior to this there appeared in "The Watchman," published in Boston on November 25, 1830 the following appeal: "Is there not in all the Eastern states a man of God, a Baptist minister with necessary qualifications to preach the Gospel of the Son of God to the people of San Francisco,—one willing to trust God and His people for his support, without waiting for any particular call from any particular church for any specified salary? If there is, for such a field and for such a work, such a man as the situation demands, he may come at once and have his hands full and be received with open arms. Should any sterling Baptist minister feel disposed to take up his cross and follow the example of the apostles of Christ, he may address Captain G. W. Schroeder, 1812 Geary Street, San Francisco."

The first services of this new group were held in the Hamilton Hall at the corner of Steiner and Geary Streets. Later they moved to the Western Addition Music Hall and then to the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Laguna Street, near Golden Gate Ave. Finally in 1834 they moved to Mowry's South Hall on Laguna and Grove Street.

The first Sunday School was begun July 7, 1831 with David Sawtelle as the first superintendent. The church was recognized by a council on October 13, 1831.

During the pastorate of Rev. Bunyan Spence two lots 55x75 feet on Post Street near Steiner were purchased for the sum of \$1,500.00. Upon these lots a house was erected in which the first services were held on April 4, 1836. For nearly fifteen years the church struggled with its indebtedness, finally wiping it out after paying more than the original investment in interest. On February 11, 1836, the name of the church was changed to the Hamilton Square Baptist Church of San Francisco. In 1904 an additional lot 27x75 adjoining the two previously purchased was secured, making a total ground area of 81x75.

During the first pastorate of Dr. Louis J. Sawyer the original building was remodeled and later entirely removed to make room for the third structure which this church was to occupy.

With the aid of money supplied by the American Baptist Home Mission Society the third structure which still stands at the corner of Post and Steiner Streets was built and in the month of June, 1912 the congregation entered that building which served the needs of the membership well for thirty-three years.

As it often happens in a great city such as ours, the population of the neighborhood in which the church was located changed during the course of the years until it became almost impossible to maintain the work which the congregation believed God had called them to perform. After a year or more of negotiations the group voted unanimously on July 5, 1944 to sell its building to the Methodists for work among the Negro people. It was with mingled feelings and a measure of regret that they found it necessary to do this, but believed they were led of God in that step.

On August 9, 1944 the church took action to purchase the site at the corner of Geary and Franklin Streets with ground breaking ceremonies taking place on January 7, 1945 for the first unit of our present plant which was erected during the war years.

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OUR FORMER PASTORS . . .

- 1 REV. JOSEPH S. BROMLEY, D.D. - Feb. 7, 1881-Sept. 20, 1883.
- 2 REV. HENRY A. SAWTELLE, D.D. - Jan. 1, 1884-Feb. 26, 1885.
- 3 REV. BUNYAN SPENCER - May 10, 1885 - Sept. 5, 1888.
- 4 REV. A. W. RUNYAN - Nov. 21, 1888-Sept. 30, 1892.
- 5 REV. A. M. RUSSELL - October 1, 1893-November 1, 1897.
- 6 REV. WILLIAM C. JENKINS - April 27, 1898-October 31, 1901.
- 7 REV. LOUIS J. SAWYER, D.D. - September 1, 1902-August 31, 1915.
September 1, 1922-February 6, 1931.
- 8 REV. CREED W. GAWTHROP - May 1916-September 1921.
- 9 REV. RICHARD ELLSWORTH DAY, D.D. - March 15, 1931-Oct. 1, 1940
- 10 REV. F. I. DREXLER, D.D. - October 1, 1940-July 1, 1941.
- 11 REV. ARNO Q. WENIGER, D.D. - July 1, 1941—.

OUR PASTOR · ·

Dr. Arno Q. Weniger, our pastor, came to Hamilton Square from the capital city of Oregon in the early summer of 1941, commencing his ministry with the first Sunday in the month of July. During the years which followed the work grew steadily under his leadership and direction until today our church is considered one of the stronger churches of the Bay region, the second largest Baptist Church in San Francisco. Early in his pastorate he realized that, if the church was to survive and perform an adequate ministry, it must relocate and build. Our pastor, because of his ability



and experience in this field, faced the task unflinchingly and has led the church successfully through two phases of its building program. He also has marked ability in the pulpit where he always presents a Bible-centered message that appeals to all, both young and old. The vitality of his ministry is reflected in the warm delightful fellowship of our rapidly and steadily growing congregation. You will be interested to learn that he preached his first sermon when he was 17 years of age, was licensed to preach the gospel at 18 years and was ordained to the Baptist ministry at 19 years of age. He graduated from what is known now as the Northwestern School of Minneapolis in the year 1928, received a B.Th. from the Western Baptist Theological Seminary in Portland in 1939 and his Doctor of Divinity from the Northwestern Theological Seminary of Minneapolis in 1947. He has held four previous pastorates in Pipestone, Minnesota; Bend, Oregon; Vancouver, British Columbia; and Salem, Oregon. Unitedly, pastor and people are looking forward to another chapter in the history of our church which we believe will be marked by the blessing of God.

OUR ARCHITECT . . .

Donald Powers Smith was selected as the architect to draw the plans for our new house of worship because of his ability and experience in this field. He is a graduate of the University of California and has studied in Europe in the field of architecture. Mr. Smith is a Christian, an active member of one of our Baptist churches in the Bay region, maintaining his office in San Francisco. His amiable personality and understanding of church needs has won for him complete confidence and warm regard.



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OUR CONTRACTOR . . .

We were indeed fortunate to secure the firm of Haas and Rothchild to build the facilities we now enjoy. Our relationship with them has been most satisfactory in every way. The building with its lovely appointments gives abundant evidence of their skill and ability as top notch builders. Our particular thanks go to Mr. Phil Bethel, the superintendent of construction, for his constant watchfulness in all the details of construction. We salute this firm with a hearty "Well Done."

OUR PRESENT BUILDING . . .

Those of you who are familiar with the various types or styles of architecture will recognize that our present building is built after the Gothic. It is situated on a site 137½ feet square, strategically located at the heart of transportation, in this great metropolitan city of San Francisco. Up to this present moment the congregation has an investment in the site, building and furnishings totaling \$268,750.00. Our task is not complete for there are certain unfinished areas inside the building that will be completed largely by volunteer labor from the members and friends of the congregation. Work in this direction will commence in the near future.

THE COURT AREA

There are two approaches to the court area from Geary and Franklin Streets. The spaciousness of this area will enable the congregation to spill out following each service into the warm sunshine protected by the building on three sides. At the center of this court area there will be ultimately a spouting fountain and a pool upon which colored lights will play. This is left in its unfinished state and will be completed along with the rest of the court area when flagstone and stone facing will cover the paved area and the retaining walls. On the slopes towards the paved streets grass will be sown, shrubs will be planted and flowers will be placed in the beds provided.

FIRST FLOOR FACILITIES

The Sanctuary and its appointments are such that when one enters it he is immediately placed in a worshipful attitude. The new hardwood pews, the beautiful Philippine mahogany trim and pulpit furniture, the heavy carpeting, the rich velour curtains all help to make the place we call the Sanctuary a beautiful and conducive place in which to worship. The seating capacity with the Gallery, Narthex, and Annex room at the rear filled would approximate one thousand. The suite of offices for the pastor, secretary, the Sunday School superintendent and the assistant pastor are all situated just off the main entrance hall. On this level in the Educational Wing there remain five small rooms to be finished beside the parlor and the Memorial Chapel.

THE CHANCEL

As one enters the Sanctuary and looks towards the front he beholds first of all the Communion Table, which antedated the pulpit, and becomes the center of worship. On either side of the rostrum will be found the Lectern and the Pulpit. Behind the chancel railing is

situated the choir in cathedral fashion accommodating approximately 45 voices. On one side behind the railing is to be found the console of our lovely organ with its chimes and on the other the baby grand piano. Back of the choir and up so that all eyes may behold, is situated the baptistry which is entered from the second floor level.

SECOND FLOOR FACILITIES

On this level will be found a suite of toilets that include stall showers, a mothers' room which will be used by mothers with small babies in their arms during the worship service where they can see and hear all that goes on in the Sanctuary and yet not be disturbing to the rest of the congregation. Back of the gallery, off a hall, will be found five beautifully finished class rooms. In a partially unfinished state there is a large departmental room and six additional class rooms



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The Lower Temple

BASEMENT FACILITIES

We have a full basement under the entire building which provides a lower temple and dining room that will seat approximately four hundred and an additional small banquet room that may be opened, giving added seating and banqueting capacity. In this area of the building we have two departmental rooms besides eight class rooms that are yet to be finished and a large suite of toilets.

GENERAL ITEMS

When the building is ultimately finished in its entirety we shall have fifty-seven rooms and fifteen halls besides the upper and lower Sanctuary. In a completed state now we have the following facilities for our expanding work: thirty-one rooms and eleven halls besides the upper and lower Sanctuary.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS . . .

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Angle, friends of our congregation and former members, for the gift of an upright piano.

Robert Cahill, one of the young men of our congregation, purchased the Speaker's Stand which will be used in the Annex room.

Mrs. Lucille McDaniell provided the large clock that hangs on the rear wall of the Sanctuary above the gallery.

Mrs. Nadyne Nauman, a former member of our church, has provided one of the pews in memory of her mother, Mrs. Lucy A. Box.

The lovely drinking fountain in the Entrance Hall of the church on the left is supplied by Mrs. Jessie Butler in memory of her daughter, Beverly Bundy.

The pulpit is given by Mrs. Alberta Louise Moore as a memorial to her husband, Mr. J. Richard Moore, who passed away August 15, 1927.

A generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hawkinson was applied toward the finishing of the Mother's room in the center of the Gallery.

Mrs. E. R. Sturgis, a member, along with Mrs. Wm. Carney, her sister, and Mr. M. H. Myers, her father, gave the Lectern in the Sanctuary in memory of Mrs. Florence Myers, their mother and wife who for many years was a member of our church.

The window above the baptistry is a gift by Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Phillips.

The Chimes of the Organ are a gift by Mr. and Mrs. Mark E. Garrison in loving memory of Private Russell S. Garrison, their son, who lost his life on Bataan.

Mrs. Jack Meyers provides the beautiful stained glass window in the little chapel, which for the present is unfinished, in loving memory of her son, Sgt. Fred W. Clem, Jr., who lost his life in the China Theatre during World War II.

The candlesticks that are to be seen on the Communion Table are a gift from Mrs. Lydia Steves.

The Communion Table that we now use was given several years ago by Mrs. H. A. Pittman and dedicated in memory of her husband, Capt. Harry A. Pittman.

Miss Lois Sloan of Minneapolis, Miss Nettie Guiwits of Oakland and Mrs. Johnnie Richards of Hollywood all forwarded special gifts to be used in the purchase of needed articles and equipment.

Mrs. Emma Greder purchased the card and envelope holders to be found on the backs of the pews.

To Mr. Roy Oliphant we are grateful for the gift of an excellent piano which is being used by one of the departments of our Bible School and youth groups.

Mabel H. Weniger Memorial

Members of the church and a great host of friends have expressed the desire that the little chapel, as we have been calling it, should be established as a memorial to Mrs. Mabel H. Weniger who passed away September 30, 1947 after a long and lingering illness. By action of the church this will be done when it is finished, after which it will be known as Memorial Chapel. A suitably inscribed plate will be affixed and a picture of Mrs. Weniger will be hung to keep in memory the noble life and the sacrificial service she rendered in our midst.

OUR DOCTRINAL STATEMENT . . .

We believe in one God, manifested in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost; that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost, virgin born; and was God manifest in flesh.

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, given by direct inspiration; and is infallible and inerrant.

We believe that Christ died a substitutionary and efficacious death, and that all who believe in Him with their hearts are saved, and have everlasting life.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is teacher and guide, and that He gives power to the Spirit-filled believer.

We believe that baptism is a symbolic ordinance setting forth the death, burial and resurrection of Christ; and the believer's union with Him in death and resurrection.

We believe that Christ will come again to receive His Saints to Himself, and that He will reign on David's throne.

We believe in the eternal life of the saved, and in the eternal punishment of the wicked.

We believe that Sanctification is God's will for all believers, and that it involves the believer's separation from the world, his cleansing in life, and complete dedication to Christ in service; but not the eradication of the Adamic nature.

OUR SCHEDULE OF SERVICES . . .

SUNDAY

Bible School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Youth Meetings	6:30 p.m.
Evening Worship	7:45 p.m.
Sing-Spiration	9:00 p.m.

WEEKLY

Prayer and Bible Study	Wednesday, 7:45 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	Thursday, 7:45 p.m.

MONTHLY

Board of Deacons	Wednesday before first Sunday
Board of Deaconesses	Fourth Thursday
Board of Trustees	Second Tuesday
Woman's Union Circle Meetings	Second Thursday
Woman's Union Meeting	Fourth Thursday
Woman's Union Evening Circle	Third Friday
Council of Youth	Third Wednesday
Brotherhood	Third Tuesday
Amoma Class	First Thursday afternoon
J.O.C. Class	Last Monday evening
The Golden Circle Class	First Friday evening

OUR AFFILIATIONS . . .

As a church we are affiliated with the West Bay Baptist Association, supporting, by designation, work sponsored by the Bay Cities Baptist Union and the Northern California Baptist State Convention, which are agencies of the Northern Baptist Convention. Beyond the local circles we are members of the National Association of Evangelicals and the Conservative Baptist Association of America.