

The Little Church of Hamilton Square

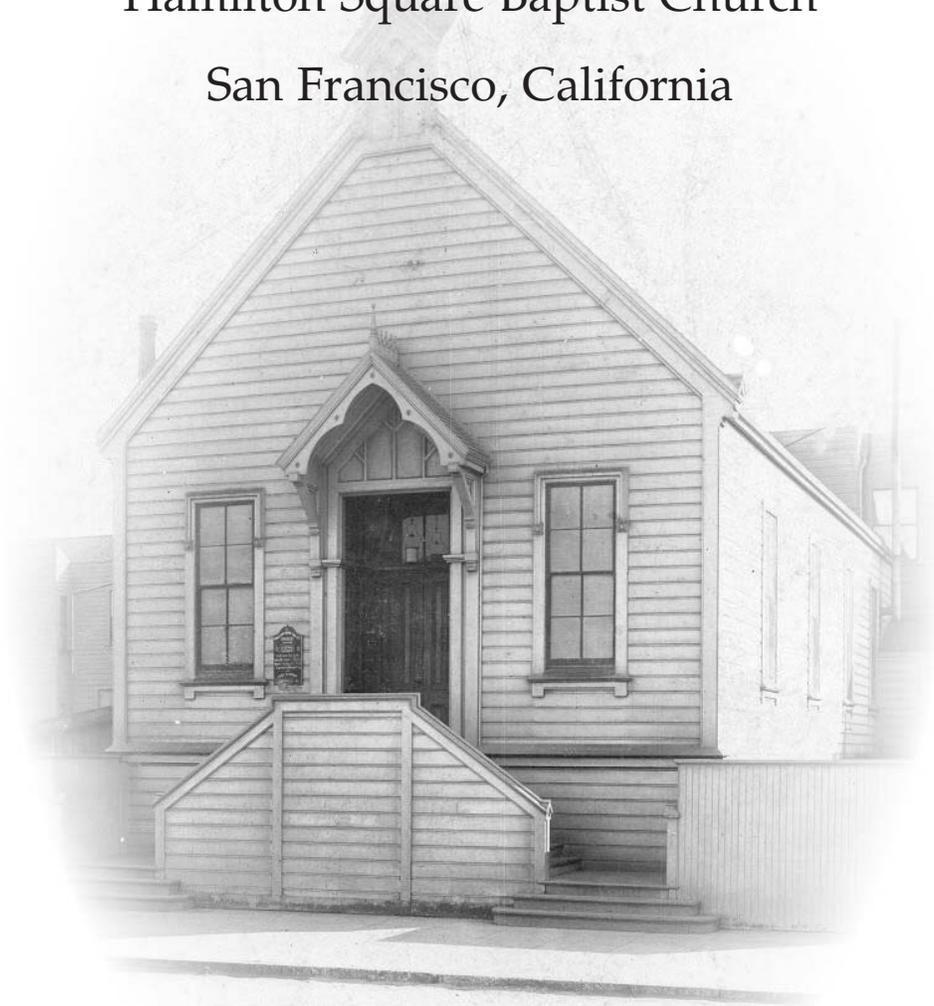


A Grand History of 120 Years

*Hamilton Square Baptist Church
San Francisco, California*

THE LITTLE CHURCH of HAMILTON SQUARE

A Grand History
of 120 Years:
Hamilton Square Baptist Church
San Francisco, California



Second Edition .

Edited by Dr. David C. Innes

*"He it is that doth go before thee;
He will be with thee, He will not fail thee."*

Deuteronomy 31:8



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Introduction

The following includes a composite of all the previous historical narratives from various publications that we have located in our archives. In addition to our own archives, we did limited researching on the Internet for further information about G. W. Schroeder. We also researched the archives of the California Historical Society's North Baker Research Library for information about the Hamilton Square area during the late 1800s. Time did not allow a thorough search of the resources at the Civic Center Main Library here in San Francisco. With rare exception, all of the photographs in this publication were taken from our own church archives.

This second edition has a number of corrections and additions which improve the accuracy and completeness of the record. Several sources in our own archives were initially overlooked. In addition to these sources, we have been providentially blessed to find a number of other sources of information and photographs which have given us a more accurate understanding of facts and events. Among these is the "History of the Swedish Baptists in Sweden and America" written by our founder, Captain Gustavus W. Schroeder and published in 1898. This book was a gold mine of information on the personal life of Captain Schroeder.

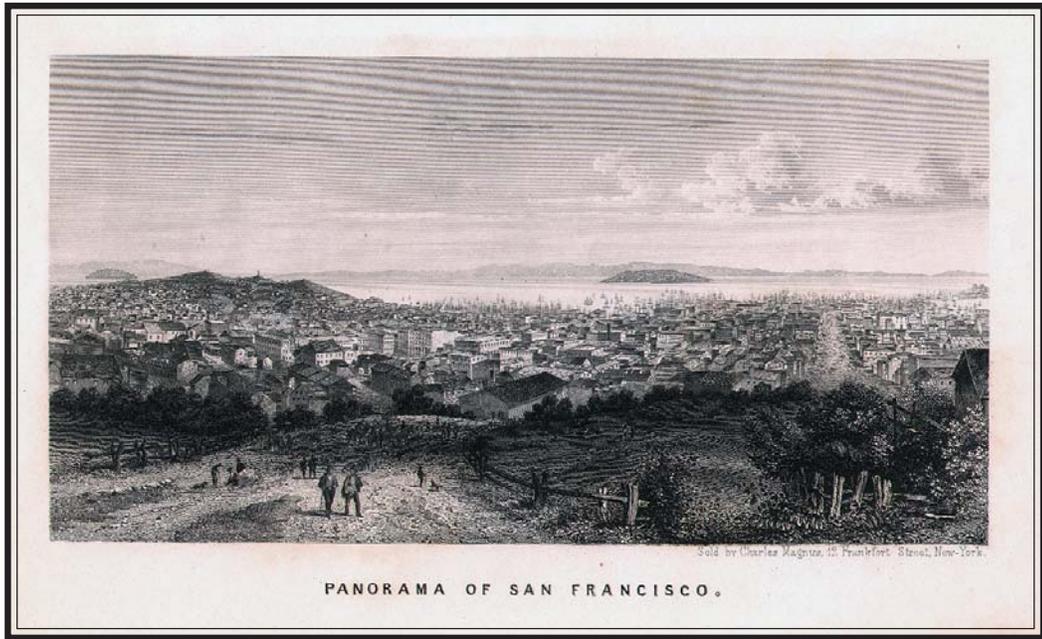
We desire to provide for our present membership a good understanding of the historical and spiritual underpinnings of our church. We also feel it is important that this information be made available for those who will follow in years to come.

A special word of thanks goes to Mrs. Deborah Kelly and to Pastor Tim Sneed for the many hours they gave in research, writing and layout work to make this undertaking possible. Several others also assisted in significant ways. Mr. John Auld of Pace Publication Art, Anaheim, California was of invaluable assistance in making possible the printing of this publication.

The Hamilton Square Baptist Church remains unashamedly devoted to the doctrines and purposes on which and for which it was founded. We remain to this day a church that does not waver from the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God and one that continues to stress evangelistic outreach to our great city. We purpose to pass onto the next generation, undiluted and intact, both *the faith* and *the evangelistic fervor* that G. W. Schroeder and the others of the "original seven" sought to perpetuate through the formation of a new church in 1881. To God be all the glory!



Dr. David C. Innes
April 2003



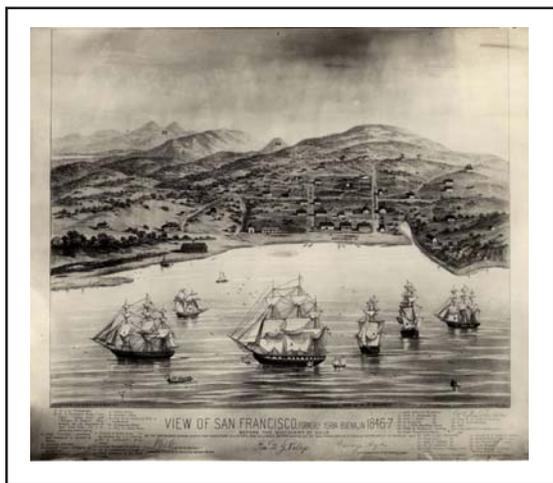
Top: Panorama - 1850
Lower: San Francisco Harbor - 1851 with Many Ships Abandoned during the Gold Rush in the Background



HAMILTON SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH

A Grand History of 120 Years

A Growing and Thriving New City at the Golden Gate



In 1846, the year the United States took over the northern portion of California,* San Francisco, as a city, was virtually non-existent. Only 200 people, living mostly in tents and other temporary structures, were scattered through the area now known as the *business district*. The gold rush of 1849 brought an explosive influx of people from many nations around the world. Soon thereafter the small town grew into a city of tens of thousands. By 1850, eighteen churches and 537 saloons served a population of between twenty and thirty thousand.

By the time of the official formation of the City and County of San Francisco in 1856, it was rapidly in transition from a city of tents and shacks to one of brick and stone buildings. It wasn't until the year 1869 that the transcontinental railroad was finally completed, connecting San Francisco with the rest of the nation.

Initially, there were very few women among the men. Drunkenness, immorality and wickedness abounded. Those who lived here came seeking gold and riches and intended to stay only temporarily. Soon after its beginnings, the city developed the cultural touch of New York City, set in the rough and tumble climate of a newly developing western town. There was a mixture of velvet and mud, opera and gun fights.

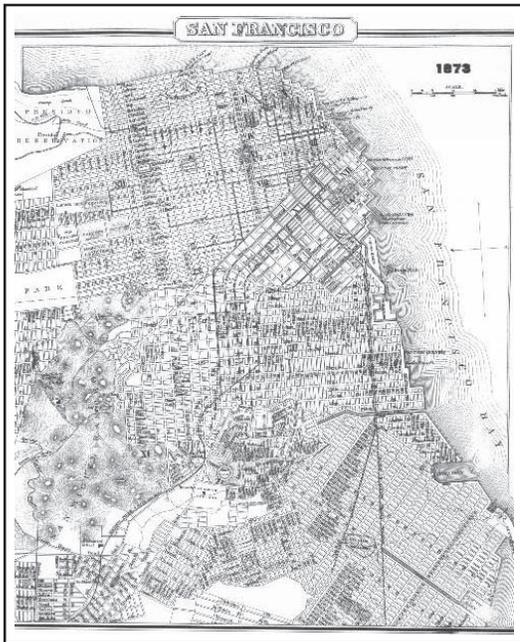
On several occasions, *Committees of Vigilance* were formed to deal with persistent lawlessness and official corruption. In the years 1849 through 1851, six great fires destroyed entire sections of the city. Following the last of these fires, the people of the city began to build more permanent homes and buildings. Bankers and railroad barons dominated both the financial and a very corrupt political scene.



* California was granted statehood by Congress in 1850

By 1870 San Francisco was the tenth largest city in the United States. The population in 1880 numbered 233,959 and was growing at a rate of about 6,500 per year. By the time of the founding of the Hamilton Square Baptist Church in 1881, the city had so grown and developed that it had become *the* center of finance and commerce on the West Coast.

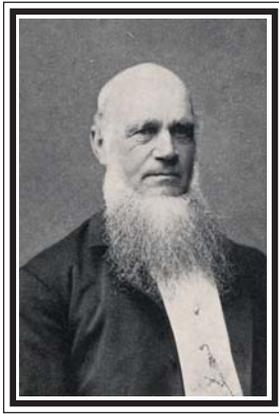
Top: Independence Day - 1862
Second: California Street - 1863
Third: Geary & Franklin - 1864
Fourth: North Beach - 1870



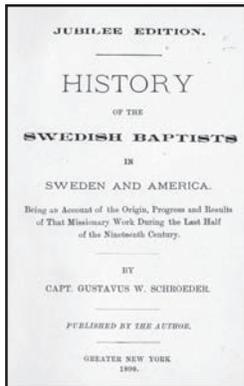
This was the environment in which a godly seaman with missionary zeal was stationed for a few years, where he lived and served God. ✍



The Founder's Zeal



*Top: G.W. Schroeder
Lower: Book Authored
by G. W. Schroeder*



The Hamilton Square Baptist Church (originally Zion Baptist Church) was born in the heart and mind of Gustavus W. Schroeder. In April of 1844, as a 23-year-old seaman, he went on voyage from New York City to New Orleans. He was converted in New Orleans at a Methodist church in response to a sermon preached on the text Isaiah 45:22 "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." He then studied the Scriptures concerning believers baptism, and after his return to New York City, was immersed in the East River on November 3, 1844 by Ira R. Steward (whose daughter he later married).

He then united with the Baptist Seamen's Bethel church, later renamed The First Baptist Mariner's Church of New York City. Later, he was promoted to the rank of Sea Captain (Master Mariner). Captain Schroeder was 60 years of age when he founded the Zion Baptist Church. He passed away in Brooklyn, New York, on March 3, 1914, at the age of 93, after an exceptionally fruitful life and ministry.

Captain Schroeder is one of the first Swedish Baptists of historical record, and was a prime mover in the establishing of Baptist churches in Sweden. Baptist historians are not aware of the existence of any Baptist churches in all of Sweden at the date of his conversion.

A historically significant contact between Captain Schroeder and another native of Sweden, F. O. Nilson, took place in the city of Gothenburg, Sweden, in 1845. Through the direct impact of Schroeder's life and testimony, Nilson was won over to Baptist views. Nilson then went to Hamburg, Germany, where he was baptized as a believer on August 1, 1847. Soon thereafter, he returned to his homeland of Sweden, where he established the very first of the Baptist churches in Sweden near Gothenburg in September of 1848.

From Captain Schroeder, the founder of Hamilton Square Baptist Church, a direct line can be traced to the Swedish Baptist movement, both in Sweden and in America. Schroeder always retained his membership in English-speaking churches, but whenever visiting his homeland of Sweden, he made strong and self-sacrificing efforts to win others to his faith in Christ. *✍*



*Top: F.O. Nilson
Lower: Childhood
Home of Schroeder*



Captain Schroeder Lives in San Francisco 1877-1881

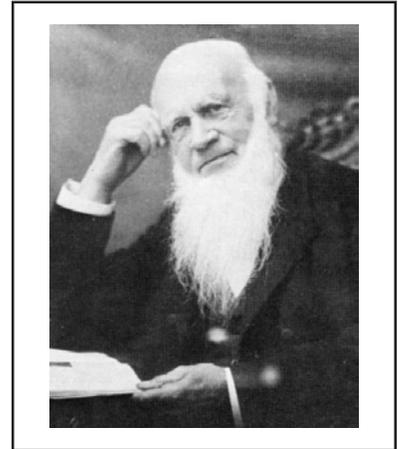
The Captain established his residence in San Francisco in 1877 and lived here through 1881. He initially lived at 118 Eddy Street and moved soon thereafter to 1812 Geary Street, where the church held its first organizational meeting. Though he lived here only a few years, his passion and zeal to win the lost for Christ and to plant local Baptist churches led him in the establishment of the new work in San Francisco. *✍*

The Famous "Call"

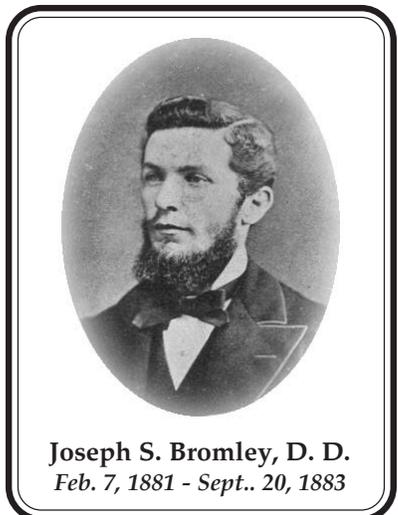
To this end, the famous "call" was placed in the Baptist publication, "The Watchman" in Boston, Massachusetts in the November 25, 1880 issue:

"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 Rev. Joseph S. Bromley, a young Baptist minister, read and promptly responded to Captain Schroeder's call. After corresponding with the people in San Francisco, Pastor Bromley moved West from Uniontown, Pennsylvania to assume his first pastorate. It is most likely that he traveled to San Francisco over the newly completed transcontinental railroad. *✍*



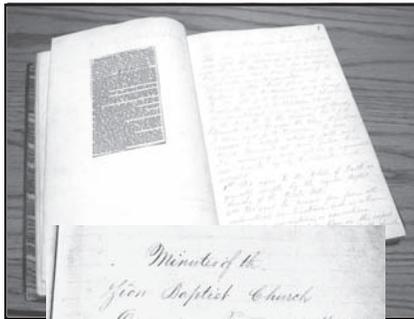
Top: G.W. Schroeder
Middle: SF Cable Car - 1880
Lower: 1st Pastor
Next Page: Newspaper
Announcement of the New
Church; First Minute Book;
First Communion Set; Com-
munion Dedication Letter



Joseph S. Bromley, D. D.
Feb. 7, 1881 - Sept. 20, 1883

A New Church Begins

On February 7, 1881, inspired and led by Captain Gustavus W. Schroeder, seven persons gathered in his home on Geary Street and organized the Zion Baptist Church. Present at that meeting 120 years ago were: Captain Schroeder, Rev. Joseph S. Bromley, Mrs. Margaret A. Clay, Mr. John R. Bennett and Mrs. Hattie E. Bennett, Miss May I. Lever, and Mr. J. B. Whidden. With the exception of Rev. Bromley, all were originally members of the First Baptist Church. They appealed for "letters of dismissal," in order to establish a new church on what was, at that time, the far western reaches of San Francisco. The request was flatly denied, because the new venture was deemed to be an utterly hopeless venture, which proposed to form a church out in the "sand lots." The group proceeded to form the new church anyway.



Members of the
Zion Baptist Church
Organized February 7th 1881
100 Francisco
California
First Meeting held
in Hamilton Hall
on Geary & Steiner Sts)



The new church adopted seven "articles of agreement," which were prefaced with this resolution:

"We . . . holding the faith of the regular Baptist Churches of the United States as generally accepted, do hereby form ourselves into an independent Baptist Church, to be located in the upper part of the city of San Francisco, commonly known as the 'Western Addition.'"

One of these articles stipulated that they would be an independent Baptist church, which could be changed only by unanimous vote of the church. Another stipulated that the financial needs of the church would be supported solely through tithes and offerings, not by the pew-rent system used in many other churches, which would effectively provide a place of worship free of charge to all who came. This was the beginning of what was to become Hamilton Square Baptist Church.

On April 3, 1881, the Zion Baptist congregation met for their first communion and were surprised to receive the gift of a beautiful silver communion service from Mrs. Margaret Clay, accompanied by a note which read: *"This service is respectfully presented to the Zion Baptist Church with the earnest wish that the Church, thus started in weakness may grow to be a power in the land, and that the service thus dedicated may yet be used to hold wine and bread for many thousands who may be brought from darkness into the light of the Gospel of our Christ."*



The first official service of this new group was held on June 5, 1881 in the Hamilton Hall located at the southwest corner of Steiner and Geary Streets. After four months, the congregation moved for one month to the Western Addition Music Hall and then, in July, to the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Laguna Street, near Golden Gate Avenue.



David Sawtelle

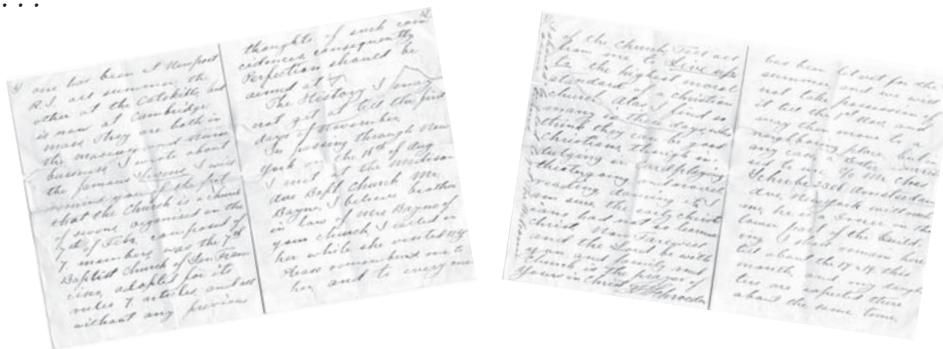
From its earliest days, the church had emphasized the teaching of the Word of God and evangelistic outreach. To further these worthy goals, the church's Sunday School was launched on July 7, 1881, with Mr. David Sawtelle serving as Superintendent.



On October 13, 1881, the church was officially recognized as a "regular Baptist Church" by a *Recognition Council* convened at the invitation of Zion Baptist Church with representatives from four Baptist churches: two from San Francisco, and the others from Brooklyn* and Alameda. ✍

Captain Schroeder's Love for the Church

Captain Schroeder left San Francisco sometime in late 1881 or early 1882, but his continuing care and concern for the church was evidenced in a personal letter he wrote years later: "I will remind you of the fact that the church is a church of sevens, organised on the 7th of Febr., composed of 7 members, was the 7th Baptist church of San Francisco, adopted for its rules 7 articles, and all without any previous thoughts of such coincidences. Consequently, perfection should be aimed at . . .



"Please remember me to . . . everyone of the church. Tell all from me to live up to the highest moral standard of a Christian Church. Alas, I find so many in these days, who think they can be good Christians though indulging in card playing, theatergoing, and novel reading, dancing etc. I am sure the early Christians had not so learned Christ." ✍

* Brooklyn was the area situated immediately around Mills College, which is now incorporated into the city of Oakland, California.

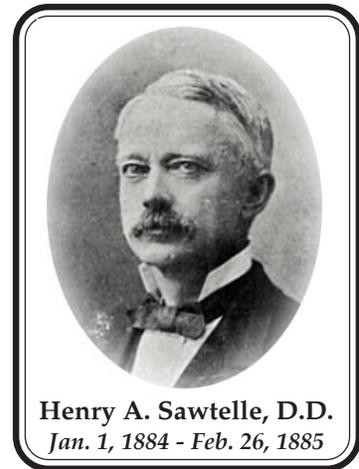
Struggles in the Early Years

Previous Page: David Sawtelle, First Sunday School Superintendent; HSBC Children; Portions of a Letter from Captain Schroeder to HSBC Member



For nearly two and one-half years, Rev. Joseph Bromley led the fledgling congregation. During that time, the Lord rewarded Pastor Bromley with a wife and in time, with a daughter. On September 20, 1883, Pastor Bromley resigned to become pastor at St. Helena, in the Napa Valley north of San Francisco. Nearly 50 years later he wrote: *"Many ministers are what their first pastorate made them. That, I believe, is largely true of the writer. I have never been able to get away from the helpful influences which surrounded me while I lived and labored in the city at the Golden Gate."*

Dr. Henry A. Sawtelle succeeded Dr. Bromley as pastor of the Zion Baptist Church. Dr. Sawtelle had for 14 years been pastor of both the Second and Union Square Free Baptist Churches of San Francisco, beginning in 1862. On January 1, 1884, after several years in an eastern church, he returned to San Francisco to begin a brief pastorate of just 14 months at Zion Baptist Church, in which time he greatly endeared himself to the people. It was on November 1, 1884 that the congregation, which had outgrown the Seventh Day Adventist Church, moved to Mowry's south hall on Laguna and Grove Streets.



Henry A. Sawtelle, D.D.
Jan. 1, 1884 - Feb. 26, 1885

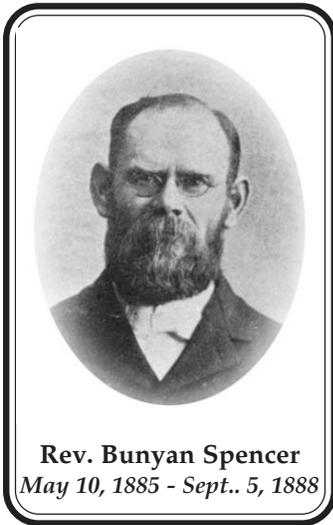


Because of ill health, the church released Dr. Sawtelle from service with great regret on February 26, 1885, and deeply mourned his death on November 22 of that year. Dr. Sawtelle's pastorate was one of the most fruitful in the church's early history with 49 members being added during 1884. ❧

*Top: SF Cable Cars
Second: 2nd Pastor
Third: Mowry's South Hall
Fourth: Church Members*



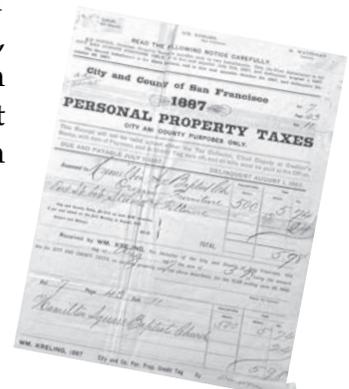
A New Church Home and a New Name



Rev. Bunyan Spencer
 May 10, 1885 - Sept. 5, 1888

Top: 3rd Pastor
Right Hand Column:
Sketch of 1st Building;
HSBC Personal Property
Taxes - 1887; Real Estate
Taxes - 1886
Below: Inside Original
Building
Lower: Undeveloped
Block in Front of HSBC

The Zion Baptist Church, yet without a home of its own, invited Bunyan Spencer, a graduate of Morgan Park Seminary in Chicago, to become its third pastor. He accepted their call, and began his ministry on May 10, 1885. He was ordained by the church in the facilities of the neighboring First Baptist Church on June 25 of that year. In 1885, during his pastorate, two lots on Post Street near Steiner were purchased for \$1,500.00. On these lots, the first two-room church building, with an auditorium seating 150, was erected at a cost of \$2,606.00.



The church's name was officially changed to The Hamilton Square Baptist Church of San Francisco on February 11, 1886, because its new location was just across the street to the east of the city's Hamilton Square park.

Services in the church's first building on Post Street were held beginning April 4, 1886. Prayer meetings were held in a smaller room at the back of the building, with a kitchen and lavatory off to one side. By an ingenious arrangement, the entire pulpit platform with its furnishings of pulpit and chairs, could be conveyed into the back room, thus exposing the baptistry. The church occupied this building for 18 years. *B*



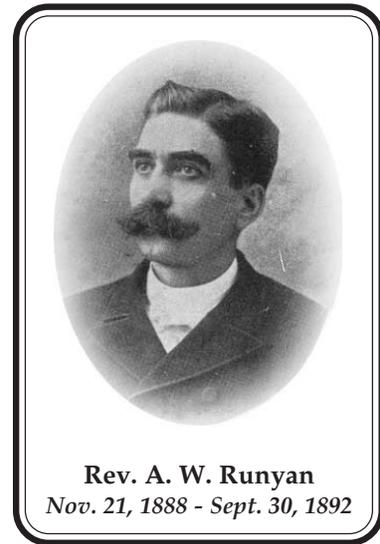
The Church "Getting on its Feet"



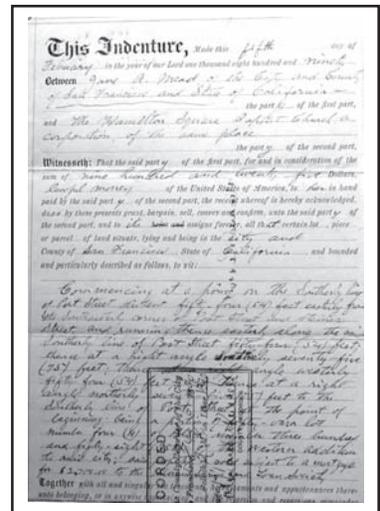
The first years in the congregation's new house of worship were marked by the usual trials and difficulties attendant upon a church that was weak numerically and poor financially. For the following 15 years, the church struggled with its indebtedness, finally eliminating it after paying more than the original amount of the loan in interest alone.

In spite of these adverse conditions, the church made considerable progress: attendance increased, the Sunday School became prosperous, and quite a number of members were received by letter and baptism. Without exception, each of the pastors during the early years enjoyed the universal respect and affection of both the congregation and the community. Pastor Spencer resigned on September 5, 1888.

The Rev. A. W. Runyan became pastor on November 21, 1888. For nearly four years, he labored with abundant energy and fruitfulness, building faithfully on the foundations already laid and preparing well for the work of his successors. The fruit of his labors resulted in a large increase of members. One hundred and eighteen were added to the church during the three years and ten months of his pastorate. ✧



Top: 1st Building - 1902
 Above: 4th Pastor
 Lower Left: Montgomery Street-1886
 Lower Right: Deed for Church Property - 1890



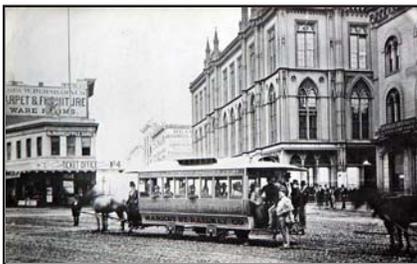
The 10th Anniversary



The church celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in 1891. Though additions by baptism and letter had been made consistently during these years, many who had identified with the church had moved from the city for various reasons. The membership at the time of the Tenth Anniversary numbered 147 with 150 “scholars” enrolled in Sunday School. The property of the church was valued at \$5,000.

Looking toward the future, the congregation strongly and clearly affirmed its purpose and vision: *“It shall be the purpose of the Hamilton Square Baptist Church to preach the Gospel to all classes of people, and to care for the Temporal, Moral and Spiritual welfare of all who would come within its jurisdiction, and to have a special watch care for the Children.”*

Their field of work encompassed an immediate territory of about 75,000 people, in the midst of a growing and prosperous population of both rich and poor. Their burden for the great city was strong, along with their understanding of the strategic position into which God had placed them. *“What the character and what the influence of the cities which are destined to overshadow and shape and determine our political, social and religious development as a nation in the near future is to be therefore a question of supreme moment.”* ❧



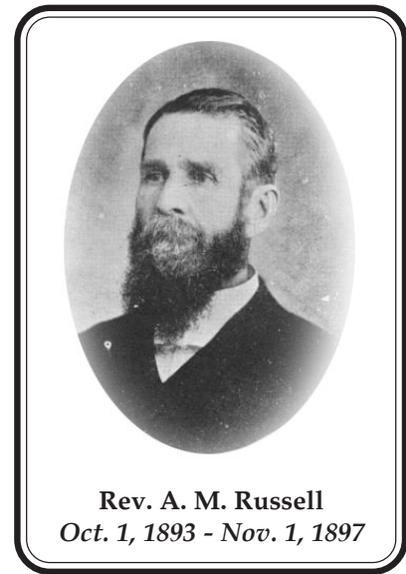
*Top: Boys at the Beach
Second: Filmore Street
Third: SF - 1890
Lower Left: Boys on Seesaw
Lower Right: Original Church Auditorium*



A New Mission Sunday School

Pastor Runyan resigned on September 30, 1892 and was succeeded by the Rev. A. M. Russell, who arrived a year later. Pastor Russell, a native of Wilson County, Tennessee was 21 years of age at his conversion. In spite of a lack of formal education and only a private course in Systematic Theology, his was the longest period of service in the early years of the church. Pastor Russell successfully led the church through periods of severe financial difficulty and welcomed a number of members who, for many notable years, were strong supporters of the work.

The four years and one month of his ministry were uneventful but productive years, given in building well for the future. During his ministry, a mission Sunday School was started in the newly developing Richmond District at 229 Third Avenue near California Street, which soon flourished and continued for a number of years. Following his resignation on November 1, 1897, Pastor Russell ministered to neighboring congregations and, at the same time, continued his deep interest in the church, visiting often. *B*

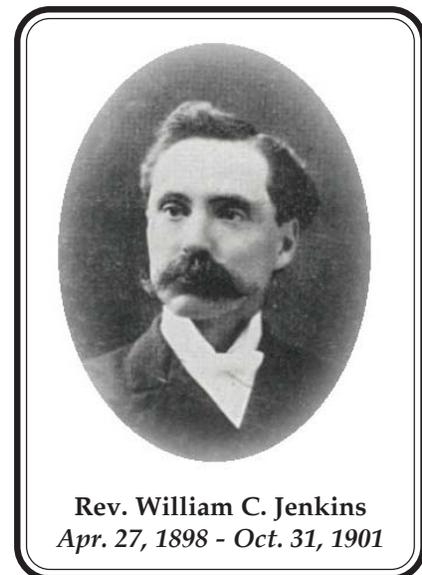


Top: 5th Pastor
Next: HSBC Directory - 1895
Left: Anniversary Celebration
Right: Church Members
Lower Right: 6th Pastor



A New Century - The 20th Anniversary

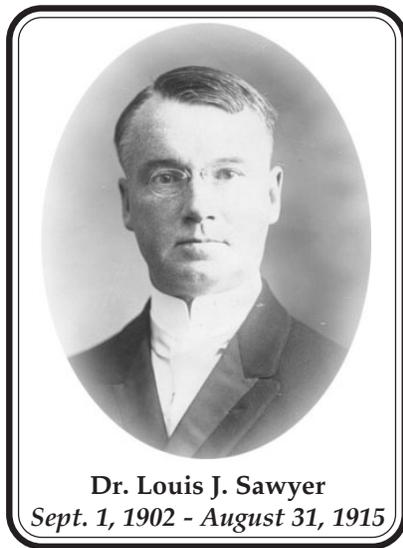
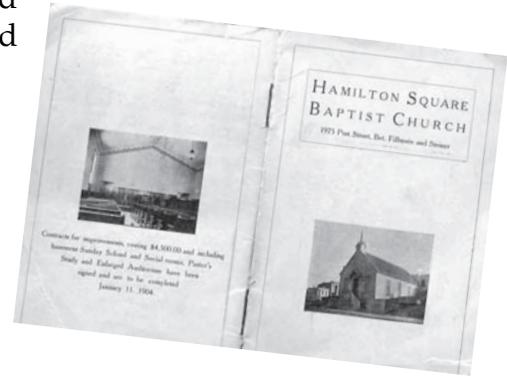
The Rev. William C. Jenkins led the congregation into the new century. His pastorate extended from April 27, 1898 to October 31, 1901. During that time, the original debt was paid, and the church prepared for future building needs. On February 3, 1901, the church celebrated the 20th anniversary of its organization. The pastor burned the mortgage and the congregation sang the Doxology. From the church's beginning, a total of 189 people had been baptized, 292 were received by letter, and 57 were received by experience (statement) for membership. The membership of Hamilton Square now stood at 538.



In the midst of a rapidly changing population, the church had stood for the truth of the Scriptures and its people had been consistent in their ideals of spiritual life and practice. The congregation, *“thankful that every pastorate had evidenced the presence of the Holy Spirit in converting power, and glad that the work proceeded with the abundant testimony of spiritual progress,”* pressed on. The church entered its 21st year with perfect harmony between pastor and people with better prospects than it had enjoyed at any time during its somewhat varied and trying history. ✍



Top: 3rd Street - 1900
Second: HSBC Directory - 1904
Lower: 7th Pastor
Lower Right: Market Street - 1900
Opposite Page: Building Renovations;
Lower Fellowship Hall and Sunday School
Classrooms



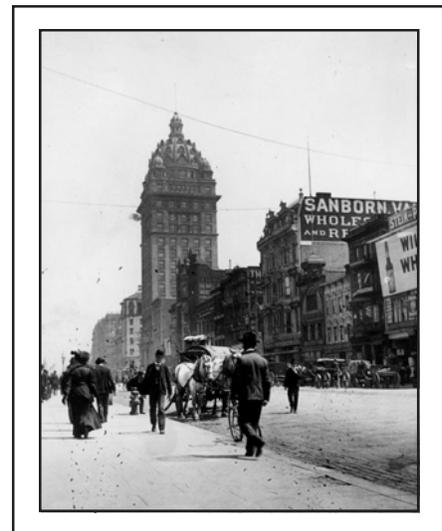
Dr. Louis J. Sawyer
Sept. 1, 1902 - August 31, 1915

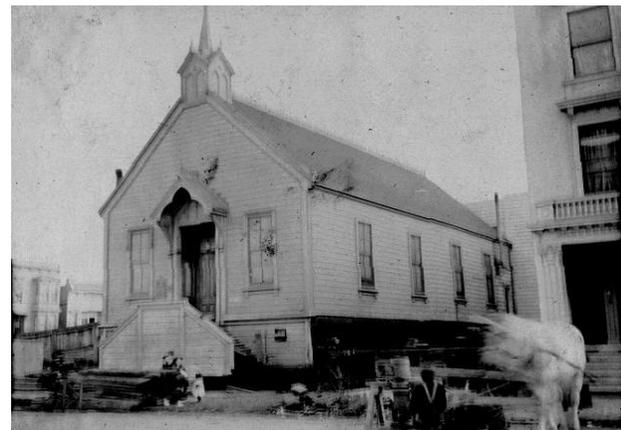
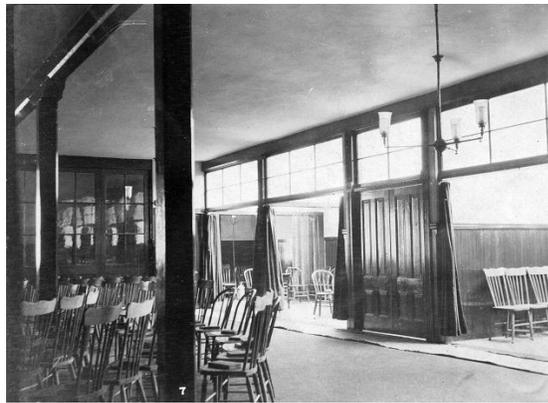
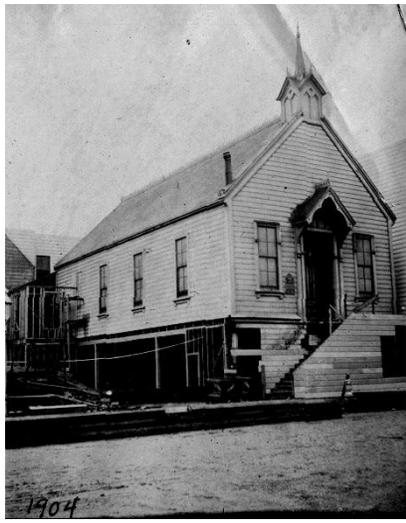
Progress Under a New Pastor

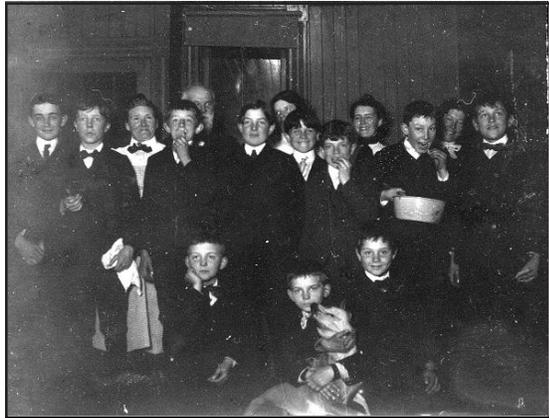
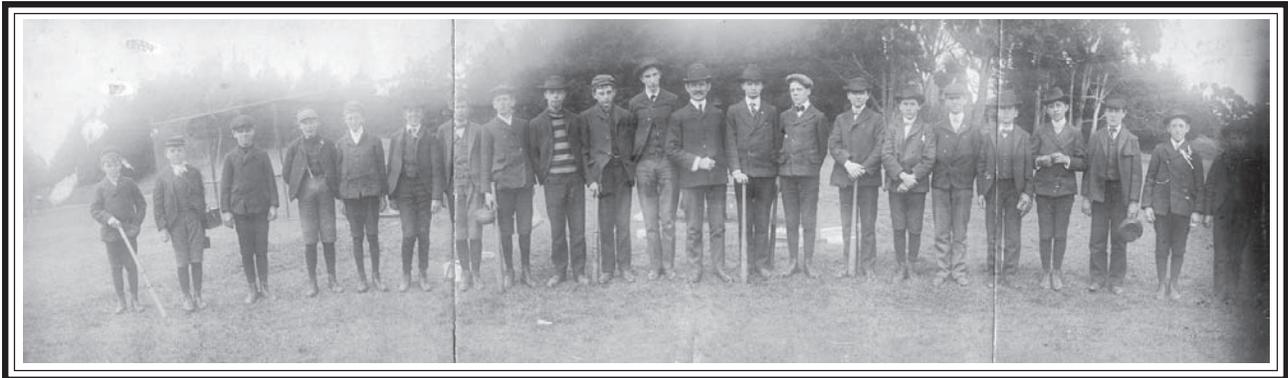
After nearly a year without a pastor, Dr. Louis J. Sawyer was called from the North Church of Seattle. On September 1, 1902, he began his ministry at Hamilton Square. During the 13 years of his first pastorate here, the church moved and remodeled the original building, then later removed it and constructed in its place a large, beautiful new building; celebrated its 25th anniversary and survived the devastating earthquake.

In 1904, the church purchased an additional lot adjacent to its original property. The existing building was moved onto the new property and raised so a lower story could be added. This area contained ten rooms arranged for the Sunday School and social purposes. On the upper floor the partition was removed, a pastor’s study built and an attractive auditorium provided. The additional lot and improvements cost \$6,011.00, payment of which was completed just before the 1906 earthquake.

✍







Photos from HSBC Photo Album



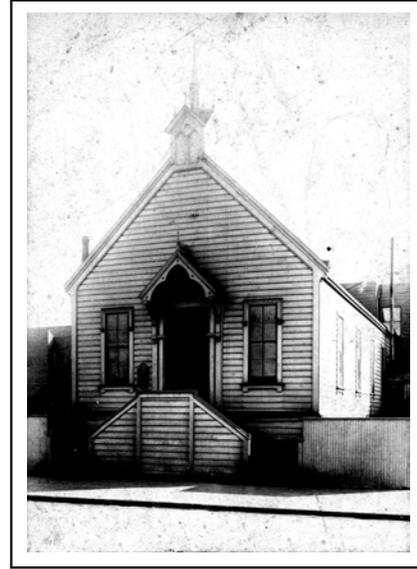
The Little Church of Hamilton Square

A fitting tribute to the church titled, "The Little Church of Hamilton Square" by California poet Fred Emerson Brooks, from his book, "Old Ace and Other Poems," published in 1894, was featured as a 25th Anniversary memento.

*The poor man paused, for the church was new:
They put him back in the hindmost pew
Because his raiment was somewhat old,
For there they worshipped not God, but gold.
Where Christians bow in jewels and lace
The Lord and the beggar seem out of place;
For pride and vanity worship there -
Not so in the church of HAMILTON SQUARE.*

*The beggar sighed as he bowed his head,
"If faith is heavenly wealth" he said
"The poor are rich and the rich are poor."
And out he went through the great church door.
"I'll seek a certain chapel I know
Where all are welcome, the high and low;
For pride sits not with a scornful air
In the little church of HAMILTON SQUARE.*

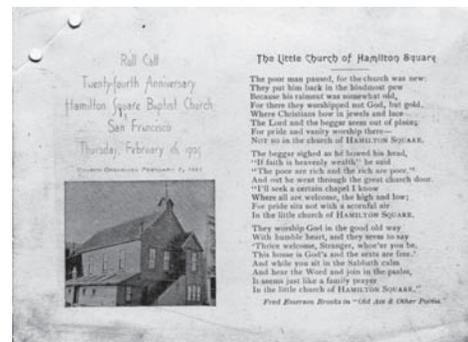
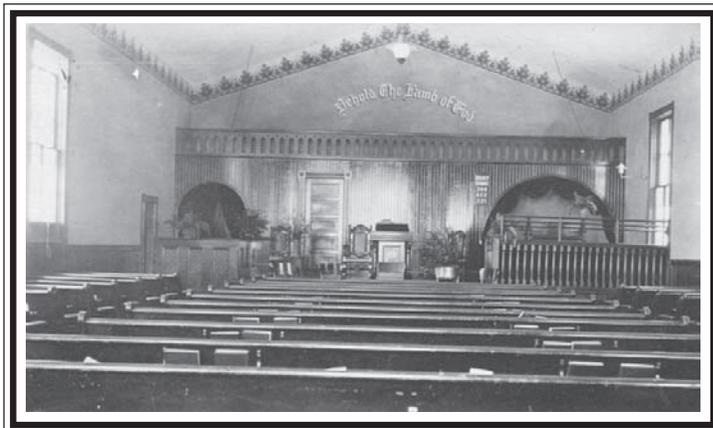
*They worship God in the good old way
With humble heart, and they seem to say
'Thrice welcome, Stranger, who'er you be,
This house is God's and the seats are free.'
And while you sit in the Sabbath calm
And hear the Word and join in the psalm,
It seems just like a family prayer
In the little church of HAMILTON SQUARE."*

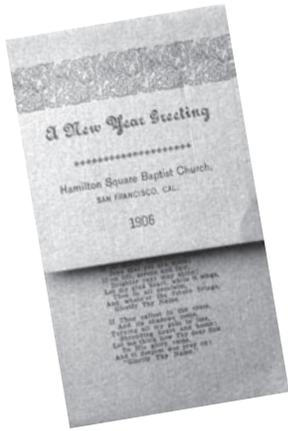


Top: First Building



Lower Left: Remodeled Auditorium in First Building





25th Anniversary Celebration - A Sweet Fellowship

In February of 1906, Hamilton Square celebrated its 25th anniversary with this testimony: "While these twenty-five years of history exhibit the customary variations, yet there is no page of bitterness in their record. The Church has been blessed with great unanimity of action and never more so than now." In a short three years and five months since the last accounting, 64 persons had been baptized, 176 received into membership by letter and 13 by experience—a one-third increase in the total membership since 1881. Former Pastor A. M. Russell delivered a sermon for the celebration entitled, "The Christian's Portion," dwelling on the heritage of the Christian and the privileges and blessings that come with faithful service.



Top Left: New Years' Pamphlete by Dr. Sawyer - 1906
Top Middle: 25th Anniversary Keepsake
Top Right: Newspaper Articles from the Chronicle and Call on HSBC Anniversary - February 6, 1906
Left: Sawyer, Sawtelles, Cases, Sempeys, Roberts
Lower: 25th Anniversary Celebration





During the roll call, the varied and numerous ministries of the congregation were reviewed and included the following: Deacons, Trustees, Financial Stewards, music ministry, ushers, extension ministries, Sunday School, Baptist Young People's Union, Ladies Aid Society, Women's Mission Circle, Social Committee, Israel's Missionary Society, delegates to San Francisco Church Federation and the Baptist Church Extension Society, San Francisco Bible College, Japanese-English school, sewing school, Men's Free Reading Room, and Boy's Recreation Room. *ℵ*

Deacon Photos (left top column): William Barnes, George Case, and John Sempey (right top column) Fred Gentle, Hallett Smith, and Caleb Lundquist
Right: Japanese-English School
Lower Left: Barnes. Case Families and Others
Lower Right: Boys Recreation Room



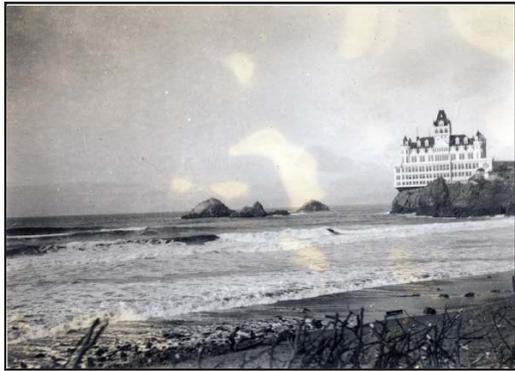
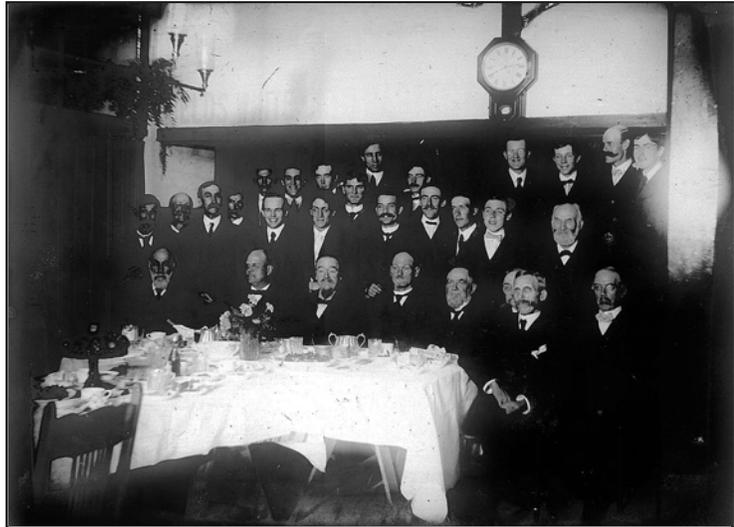


Top Row (left to right): Sunday School Class - 1903; Sawtelles, Sempeys, Sawyer, Cases and Others

Second Row: Sunday School Outing

Third Row: Russian Ministry; Boys at the Beach



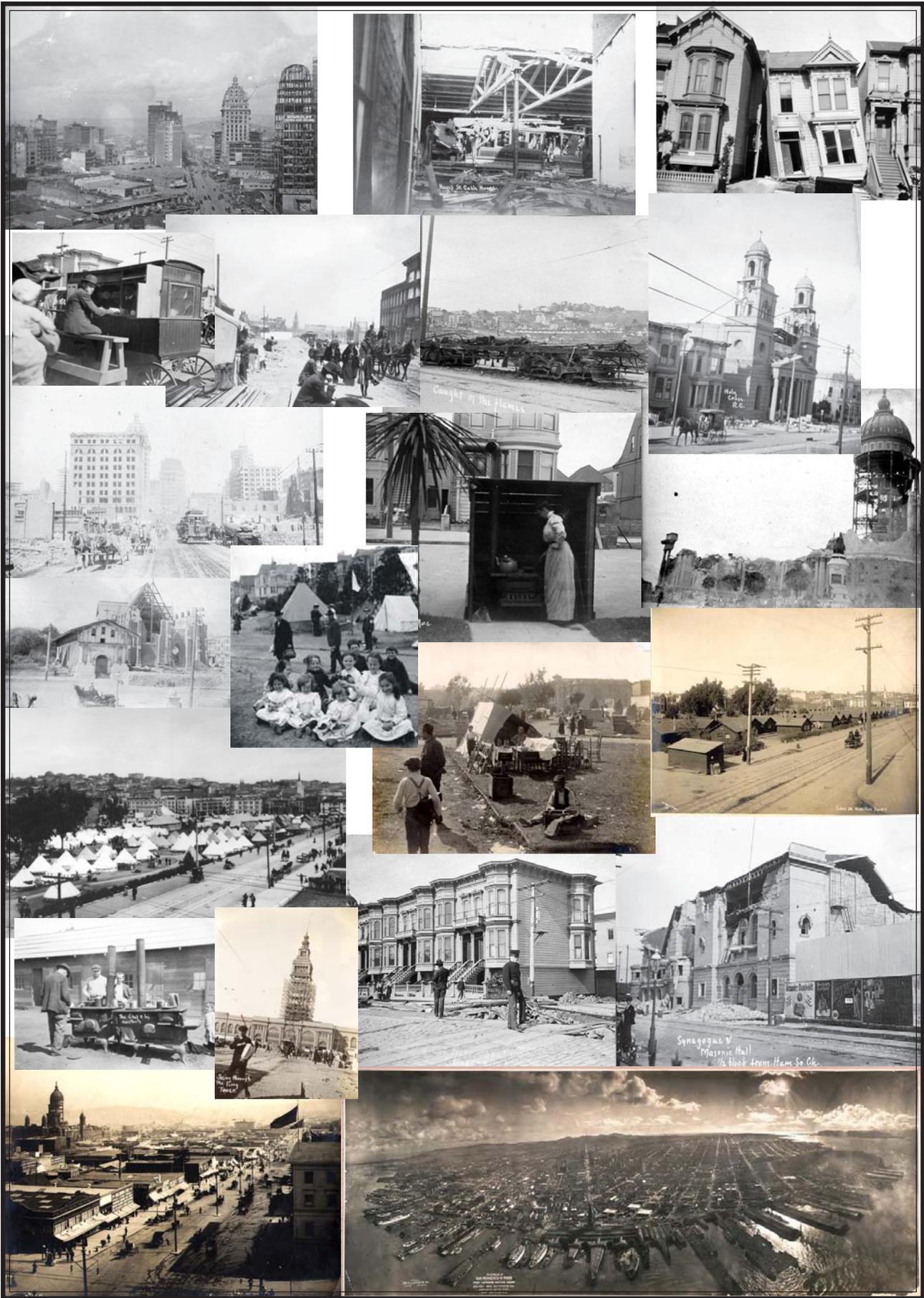


Top Row (left to right): Boys at the Beach; Men's Meeting

Second Row: Cliff House - 1904; Renovated Building - 1905, Adjacent to Apartment Building Owned by the Church

Third Row: Sunday School Outing; Ladies Aid at Mrs. Moss'





Earthquake and Fire!

The earthquake and fire of April, 1906, destroyed five Baptist church buildings in San Francisco and left 250,000, or roughly two-thirds of the city's residents homeless — living in the streets and parks, without shelter, clothing or food. The immediate crisis continued for well over a year and then into the following two or three years, until the city could be rebuilt.

The Hamilton Square building was badly damaged, but was still usable. It became the center of both community relief and rehabilitation of Baptist churches in the city. The basement was full of sleeping men and the auditorium was filled with women sleeping on the pews.

With the generous help of churches across the nation, tons of clothing, bedding, quilts, and other aid, of every possible description, were given by the church during months of twenty-four-hour-a-day service. Of note, was a \$750.00 cash gift from the First Baptist Church of Portland, Oregon, given to help in the relief effort.



Previous Page:

Top Row (left to right): Earthquake Damage Downtown - 1906, Hayes St. Cable Car House, Houses Leaning

Second Row: SF Streets, Cable Car "Caught in the Flames", Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church

Third Row: 3rd Street, Outdoor cooking at 3rd Street, City Hall

Fourth Row: Mission Dolores, Tent City at Hamilton Square Park, HS Refugee Camp, HS Camp 20

Fifth Row: Hamilton Square Refugee Camp; Damage to Cable Car Lines; Synagogue of Masonic Hall (1/2 block from Hamilton Square Church)

Sixth Row: "The Chef and His Assistants" Cooking Outside, "Seeing Through" the Ferry Building Tower under Reconstruction

Seventh Row: Rebuilding on Van Ness Avenue, "Above SF" - Post April 1906

This Page:

Top: Map Outlining 1906 Fire Area

Middle: Hamilton Square Baptist Church Community Relief

Lower: Services in Hamilton Square Park after Earthquake



Many of Hamilton Square’s members lost both their homes and their jobs. Due to their losses in the earthquake, a number of them moved away, leaving the church in a very precarious financial position. In response to the needs created by the earthquake, a nearby furniture firm rented the vacant lot on the east side of the damaged church building and erected a temporary building for a furniture store.



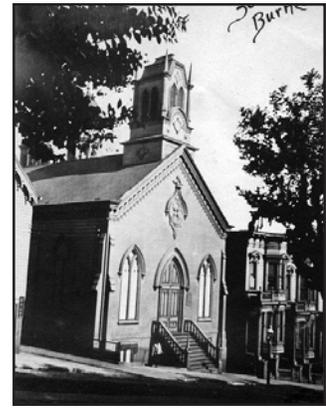
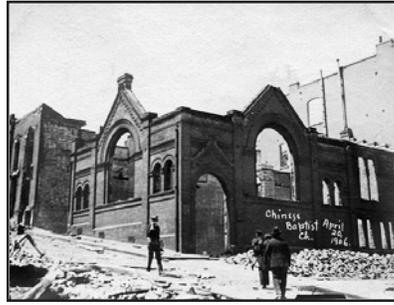
This work of God’s providence brought in \$500.00 per month in rental fees to the financially strapped congregation, enabling them to meet all of their obligations. This building was later used by the church for community outreach as a reading and recreation room and was called, “The Annex.” Behind “The Annex” was a dwelling used for the pastor’s residence, known as “The Castle.” *ℳ*

Even Greater Opportunities

In the aftermath following the great earthquake and fire, the vicinity surrounding the Hamilton Square church was transformed into one of thriving business activity and dense residential development. They were no longer “out in the sand dunes.” Due to their heroic ministry to the community in the aftermath of the earthquake, none of the smaller congregations of San Francisco was more widely or favorably known. The church adapted well to its changed environment and was known as a “center of life,” being located only one-half block from the busiest cross-town street in the city. It’s ministry was challenged by the location of nine of the of the city’s largest amusement houses, all located within four blocks of the church. By the year 1908, the city of San Francisco had become third in commercial importance of all the cities in the nation. *ℳ*

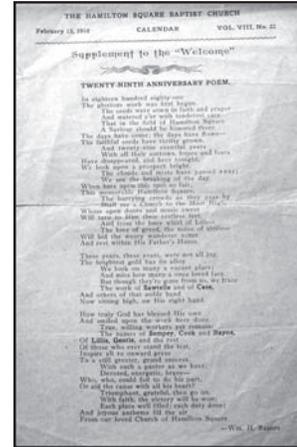
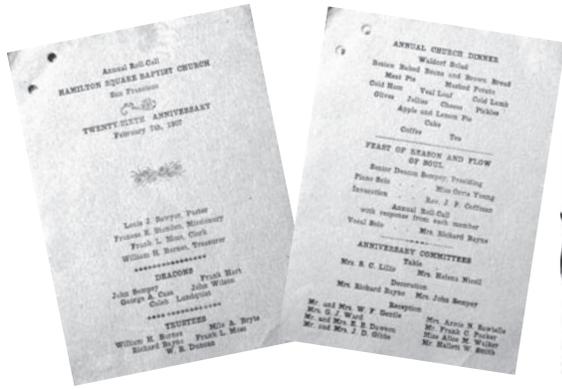
*Top: Relief Housing Tents in Hamilton Square Park
Second: Curtis Auction Parlor (rented space on HSBC lot)
Lower: Hamilton Square Boys on Top of the World*





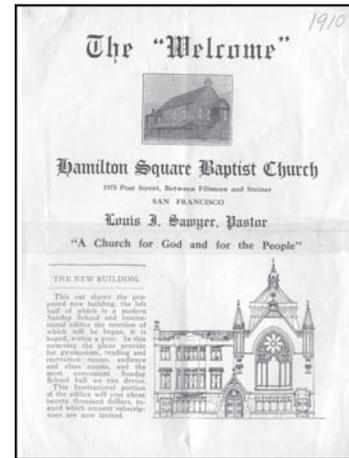
Top Row (left to right): First Baptist Church Pre-1906 Fire, Chinese Baptist Church Post Earthquake and Fire, 3rd Baptist Church Pre-1906 Fire
Second Row: Site of First Baptist after Fire
Third Row: New Lot of First Baptist Church, Chinese Baptist New Building, Swedish Baptist Pre-1906 Fire
Fourth Row: First Baptist Church New Building, Swedish Baptist Church New Building



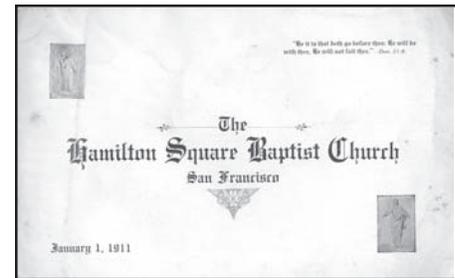


A Beautiful New House of Worship

Finally, after they had helped in the rebuilding of other churches in the city and had tended to their needs, the Hamilton Square congregation considered its own needs. They constructed an impressive new building at Post and Steiner Streets. The total cost of the building was \$43,000, toward which the American Baptist Home Mission Society* contributed \$20,000. This beautiful house of worship was occupied by the congregation in the month of June, 1912.



* The American Baptist Home Mission Society was established in 1832, and was not a part of the Northern Baptist Convention which did not exist until its organization in 1907. The ABHMS worked with most major Baptist groups, assisting them both in planting churches, and in the erection of new church buildings. The Hamilton Square Baptist Church was one of 2,000 churches assisted in the erection of "church houses" through a plan known as the Church Edifice Gift Fund.



This Page:

Top Row: Program from 26th Anniversary - 1907, 27th Anniversary Brochure - 1908, 29th Anniversary Poem - 1910

Second Row: The "Welcome" - 1910

Third Row: January 1, 1911 Brochure

Lower Row: Sketch of Planned New Building

Next Page:

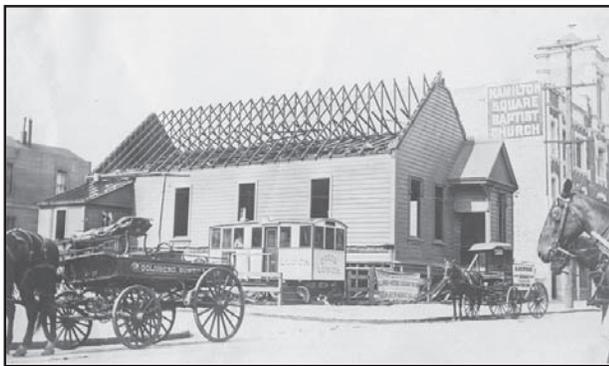
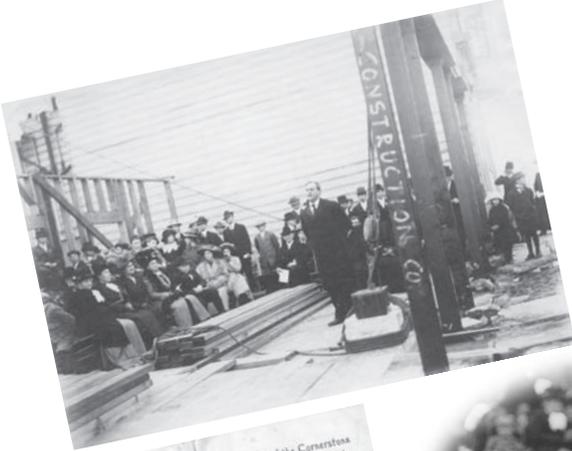
Top Row (left to right): Lot for New Building, New Building under Construction

Second Row: Laying of the Cornerstone Ceremony

Third Row: Laying of the Cornerstone Program; Cornerstone; Second Building under Construction

Fourth Row: Second Building under Construction

Fourth and Fifth Row: First Building Dismantled and Parts Sold, Completed Structure with First Building beyond



The Hamilton Square Baptist Church
announces
The Opening of Its New Edifice,
Nine Ninth to Fourteenth,
1912.
And Invites Its Many Friends
to Share Its Writings.

PROGRAM WITHIN

Program of Dedication Week

SUNDAY, JUNE NINTH
8:00 A. M. PRAYER SERVICE, INVOLUTIONARY SERVICE
10:00 A. M. DEDICATION SERVICE IN THE AUDITORIUM
8:00 P. M. DEDICATION SERVICE
SERMON BY REV. C. A. WOODS, D. D., ST. PAUL'S
10:00 P. M. BAPTIST PEOPLE'S UNION

MONDAY, JUNE TENTH
8:00 A. M. DEDICATION TO THE GLORIOUS INVITATION!
10:00 A. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING
SERMON BY REV. C. A. WOODS, D. D., ST. PAUL'S
8:00 P. M. DEDICATION SERVICE WITH BAPTISM

TUESDAY, JUNE ELEVENTH
8:00 A. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING
SERMON BY REV. C. A. WOODS, D. D., ST. PAUL'S
8:00 P. M. DEDICATION SERVICE WITH BAPTISM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE TWELFTH
8:00 A. M. CHURCH BIBLE AND WORKER SERVICE
10:00 A. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING
SERMON BY REV. C. A. WOODS, D. D., ST. PAUL'S
8:00 P. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE THIRTEENTH
8:00 A. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING
SERMON BY REV. C. A. WOODS, D. D., ST. PAUL'S
8:00 P. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE FOURTEENTH
8:00 A. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING
SERMON BY REV. C. A. WOODS, D. D., ST. PAUL'S
8:00 P. M. BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP MEETING



SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, MONDAY

Hamilton Square Baptists Dedicate Their New Church

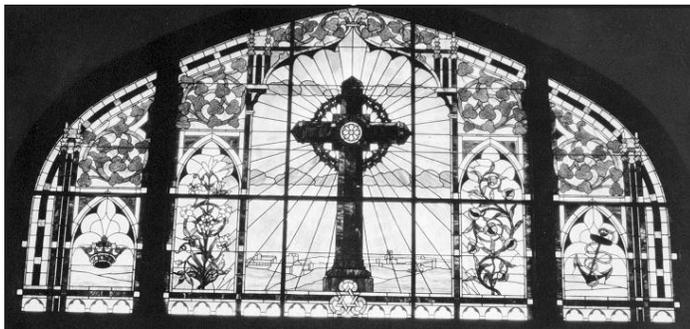
OUT OF THE OLD HOUSE INTO NEW
The Congregation Marches in Procession From Former Place of Worship.

The new edifice shows the procession on its way from the old to the new Hamilton Square Baptist Church. Leading are Mrs. Rankin and Miss Rankin, members of the choir, and Rev. Louis J. Sawyer, pastor. Behind them, from left to right, are Rev. C. A. Woods and Mrs. H. H. Bell. At the right is a portrait of Rev. Woods, who delivered the dedicatory sermon. Below is a view of the interior of the church, showing altar and organ loft.





The building's four floors and 22 rooms included a sanctuary seating 800, a new pipe organ, a series of beautiful stained glass windows, a large prayer room, a Bible study hall, a ladies parlor with beamed ceiling and fireplace, an ample kitchen with adjoining banquet hall, a caretaker's apartment and a gymnasium. A generous gift made possible a facade constructed with bricks, instead of wood. Hamilton Square held services in the new building for the next 33 years. *✍*



Left Page:

Top Row (left to right): Program from Dedication Week - June 1912, Front Door, Article from The Chronicle

Second Row: Pastor's Study, Front Entrance

Third Row: Hall, Organ Pipes, Auditorium from Platform

Lower Row: Pastor's Study, Fellowship Hall, Ladies Parlor

This Page:

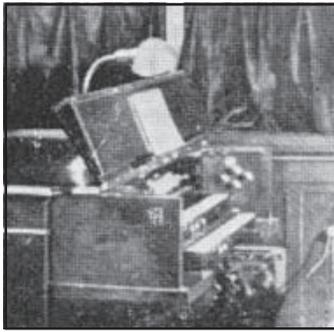
Top Row: Sign from Second Building, Second Building Completed

Second Row: Auditorium from Choir Loft

Third Row: Stained Glass Window, Auditorium from Balcony

Lower Photo: Stained Glass Window





*Top: Harris Pipe Organ in New Building; HSBC Orchestra
Middle: Miss Orrie Young, Organist; Program for Grand Concert, Dedication Week - June 1912; Mrs. Susan W. Blane, Soloist
Lower: Choir at Panama Pacific Exposition- November 1915*



A Standard of Excellence in Music

The new organ, a beautiful Harris pipe organ, was presented as a gift by the women of the church. It symbolized the important place music had played from the very beginning in the life of the congregation. The very first services in the original building were graced by music from an Esty organ donated by Mrs. Margaret Clay, whose husband was co-founder and owner of Sherman Clay and Company. Two other organs were donated to the church after the first one, making the Harris organ the fourth in just 31 years.

The Harris pipe organ was noted for a delightful Vox Humana stop and for its Chimes. The church organist, Miss Orrie E. Young of the American Guild of Organists, known as the finest organist in California, played the organ at its dedication. Up to the time of the 50th Anniversary, she had played the church's organs faithfully for nearly 25 years.

Vocal music also had a very significant role in the ministry of the church. Exceptionally talented musicians, soloists with voices of great beauty, duets, trios and an excellent choir regularly ministered to the congregation. A church orchestra also played in the regular services and for other special occasions. *B*





Dr. Sawyer's Desire for God's People

From the heart of Pastor Sawyer came the following:

*What shall I wish thee? Treasures of earth?
Songs in the Spring-time, Pleasure and mirth?
Flowers on thy pathway, Skies ever clear?
Would this ensure thee A Happy New Year?*

*What shall I wish thee? What can be found
Bringing thee sunshine All the year round?
Where is the treasure Lasting and dear,
That shall ensure thee A Happy New Year?*

*Faith that increaseth, Walking in light;
Hope that aboundeth, Happy and bright;
Love that is perfect, Casting out fear:-
These shall ensure thee A Happy New Year.*

*Peace in the Saviour, Rest at His feet,
Smile of His countenance Radiant and Sweet,
Joy in His presence, Christ ever near:-
This will ensure thee A Happy New Year.*

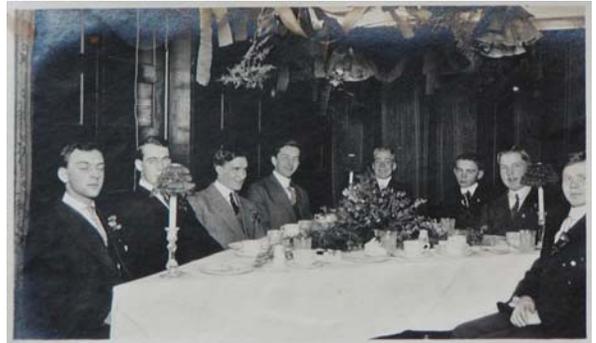


Top Row: Pastor Sawyer Opening New Building; Pastor Sawyer and Family; Pastor Sawyer at Groundbreaking of Second Building

Right Column: Three Legged Race at Church Picnic; Boys under Umbrella at the Beach; Ladies Group; Youth Group with Pastor Sawyer



*Top Row (left to right): HSBC Sign at Night;
Golden Gate Park - 1915; Man on Top of HSBC Sign
Second Row: HSBC at Camp Taylor
Third Row: Heel Toe Race at HSBC Picnic
Fourth Row: Young Men's Outing
Last Row: Ladies Group - 1913; Thanksgiving Play*





Top Row (left to right): HSBC boys at Sutro Baths, Morning Choir

Second Row: Korner Klass; Boys at Rest

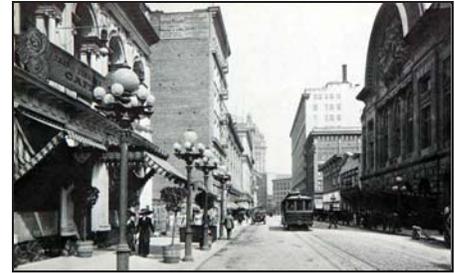
Third Row: HSBC at Camp Taylor, St. Francis under Construction after 1906 Earthquake; HSBC picnic at Bayshore Park

Fourth Row: Youth Group at Mt. Tam

Lower Row: Girls in Fountain at Bayshore Park; HSBC Group



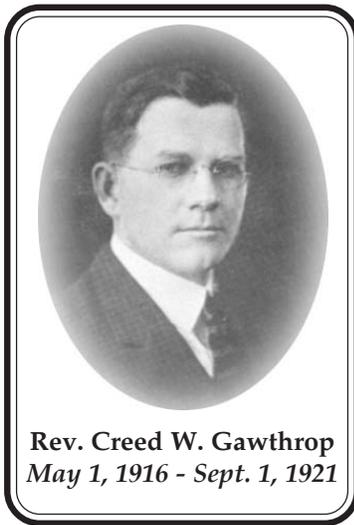
Dr. Sawyer resigned the pastorate of the Hamilton Square church on August 31, 1915 to become pastor of the First Baptist Church of Yakima, Washington. Within a month the Hamilton Square congregation extended a call for his return. He remained, however, with the Yakima Church for seven years. *ℵ*



*Top: O'Farrell St.-1915
Left: HSBC Next to Church-Owned Apartment Building
Right: Philathea Group
Third Row: 8th Pastor
Lower Row: Patriotic Celebration, HSBC Mothers - May 5, 1929*



World War 1



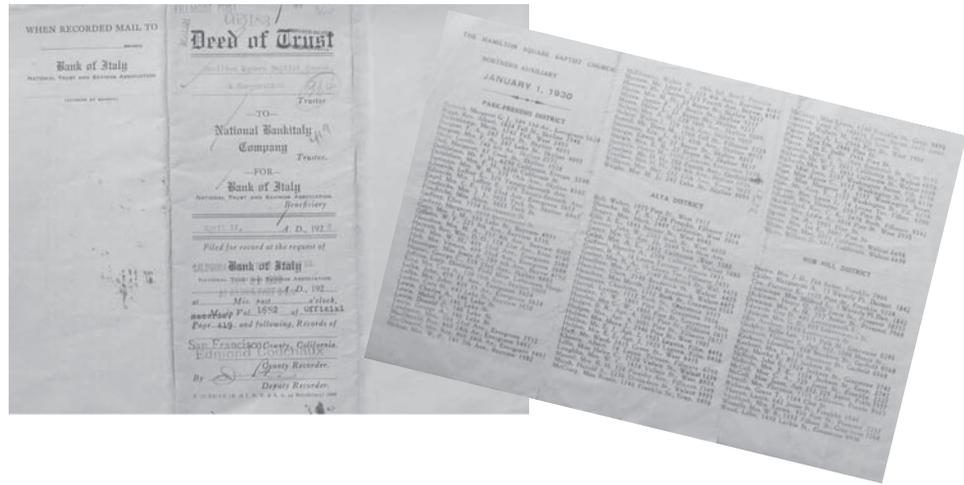
Rev. Creed W. Gawthrop
May 1, 1916 - Sept. 1, 1921

During Dr. Sawyer's years in Yakima, the Rev. Creed W. Gawthrop, who had been called from Indiana, led the Hamilton Square church. Rev. Gawthrop assumed the pastorate on May 1, 1916. This was the difficult period of World War I, a time that tried men's souls and imposed problems with which none of the other eight pastors had to deal. Pastor Gawthrop valiantly brought the church through this time of trouble, increasing the membership and sustaining interest in the spiritual welfare of all.

In the years following his resignation from the church in September, 1921, Rev. Gawthrop became Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Northern California and also served as Executive Secretary of the Northern California Baptist Convention from 1933 through 1943. Throughout many years, he continued his personal involvement in Hamilton Square, *"contributing influence and loyalty of great value."* *ℵ*

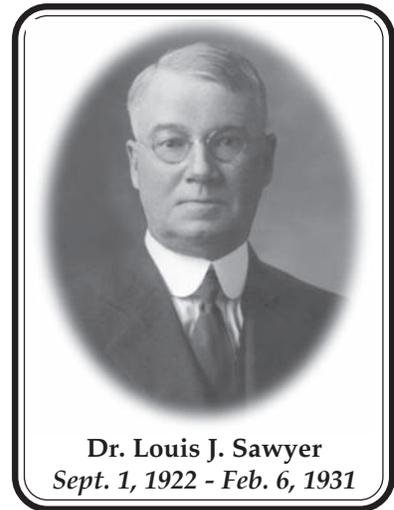


Hamilton Square Baptist Mothers, May 5, 1929

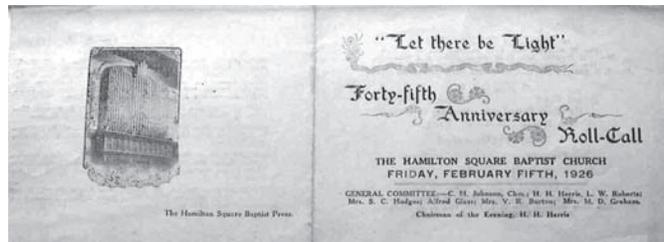


Dr. Sawyer Returns

Dr. Sawyer received yet another call from the Hamilton Square Baptist Church and on September 1, 1922, accepted this call and reassumed its pastorate. He served the Hamilton Square Baptist Church during two eventful periods of its history: September 1, 1902, through August 31, 1915 and September 1, 1922, through February 6, 1931. During Dr. Sawyer's second pastorate at Hamilton Square, the church celebrated its 50th anniversary.



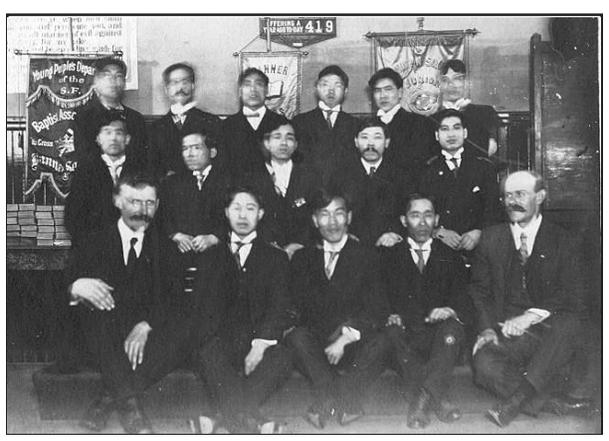
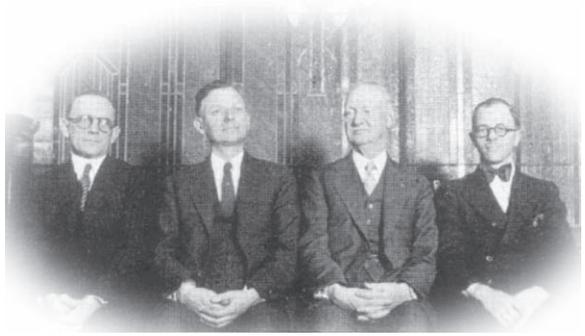
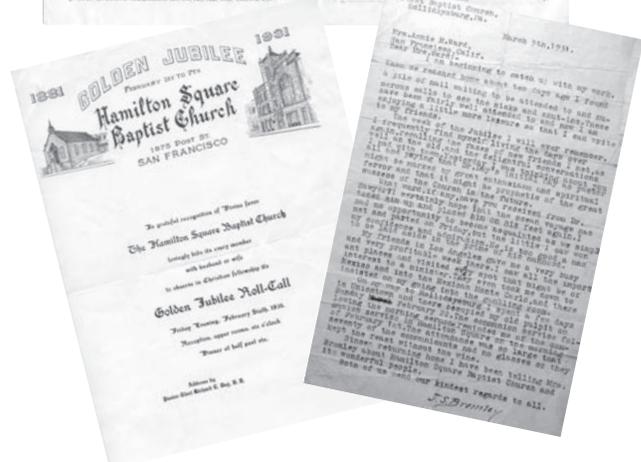
Top Row: Evangelistic Meetings Poster, Deed of Trust - 1928, Church Directory - 1930
Second: Dr. Louis J. Sawyer, Returning Pastor
Third: Forty-Fifth Anniversary Brochure
Last Row: JUG Class; Ferry Building - 1930

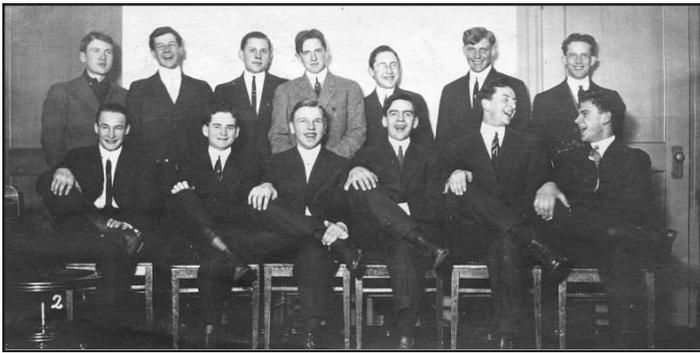


Golden Anniversary Jubilee

On February 6, 1931, the Golden Jubilee Roll Call of the church took place. The church's first pastor, Dr. Bromley, was present and spoke, pleased to meet many old friends and amazed at how the church had progressed. Dr. Richard E. Day, the pastor-elect and Dr. Gawthrop were present to take part in the review of the first 50 years of the church.

Ministries were reviewed with members serving: as Deacons, Deaconesses, Trustees, Treasurers, Bible School Superintendents, Ushers; on Welcoming Committees; in Women's Auxiliaries, Music, Choir, the Baptist Young People's Unions, the Lend-A-Hand Press, Adult Forums, Missions, Jewish Ministries, the Anti-Saloon League, Chinese Schools and Public Education.





During the half-century, 2,242 persons became affiliated as members, of whom 669 came through waters of baptism on profession of their faith. Three buildings had been erected to the glory of God and eight pastors had devotedly served in its pulpit.

One who addressed the Jubilee congregation noted: *“One sometimes wonders when he is facing the great discouragements, tremendous discouragements - wonders if you are doing any good but you know if you could come back fifty years from now and see the results, you would believe after all there was a God in everything, that He hears and answers prayers and that He will add to Himself those who will go along and keep step together and carry on His work.”* ✍



Left Page:

Top Items: 50th Anniversary Bulletin; Golden Jubilee Flyer; Letter from Pastor Bromley - March 9, 1931

Photos (from left to right): Deacons - 1931; Mrs. Lydia Steves, Church Clerk - 1931; HSBC Ladies; HSBC Choir; Japanese Ministry

Right Page:

Top Row: Youth Fellowship
Second Row: Church Group at Camp Taylor; Boys Sunday School Class;
Lower: Philatheas Class - March 20, 1928

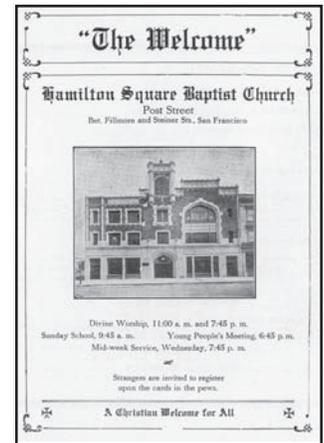


The Printing Press

Significant in the history of the church was a printing and publishing ministry, which had been carried on for over forty years. The church owned a printing press, which was used to publish materials for the church and its various ministries, including the church's weekly Sunday publication known as, "The Welcome." This press also printed materials for missionary work. Dr. Sawyer wrote of "the great place the press has had in the church history."

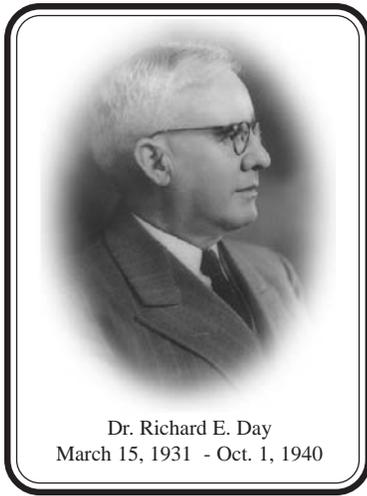


"The Golden Jubilee" Anniversary book noted: "Hamilton Square has always used the printed page. Pastor Sawtelle for several years in the '90s, published 'The Spare Hour' for the Union Square Baptist Church and later in Hamilton Square issued 'The Witness.' Pastor Runyan carried 'The Weekly Gleaner' through several volumes. In 1902 began the publication of 'the Welcome' which has continued through twenty-nine volumes and some half million copies. 'The Lend-A-Hand Press,' whose outfit was the possession of pastor and church, has served every affiliated organization in innumerable publications of every sort during the terms of Pastors Sawyer and Gawthrop. Literally millions of cards and folders have been its product, all of which have been freely produced without charge. The service has been of inestimable value to the church and its organizations."



Because of the prominent place of the press and printed material in the life of Hamilton Square Baptist Church through its early history, the archives of the church are rich with pictures and printed material. In addition, the church still possesses original glass negatives of the first church building with the early workers in the church. Portrait "cuts" of all of the pastors and many leaders of the church through the first 59 years of its history are a part of the collection.





Dr. Richard E. Day
March 15, 1931 - Oct. 1, 1940



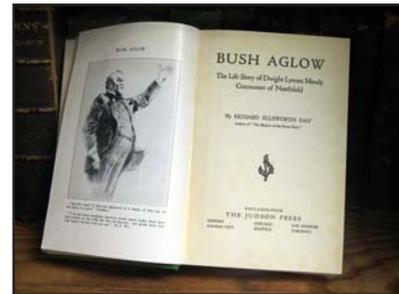
Previous Page: Various Publications from the Church Press
This Page Top Row: 9th Pastor; Sketch of Second Church Building
Right Column: Bay Bridge - 1930; Bush Aglow by Dr. Day; Church Members with Dr. Sawyer - 1936
Lower Row: Ladies Sewing Circle; Mrs. Richard Day; Church Fellowship

Hamilton Square Noted Nation-wide

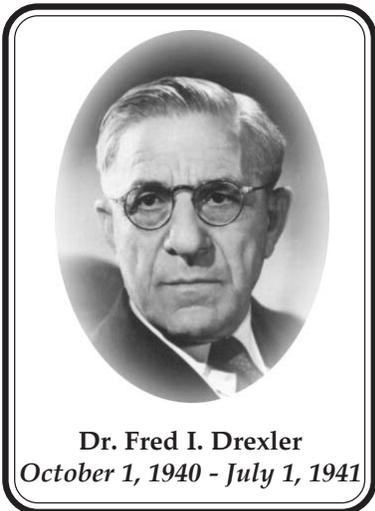
The church entered its second half-century with a new pastor, Dr. Richard E. Day, who was called to San Francisco from a seven-year pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Day served the congregation from March 15, 1931 through October 1, 1940, with wisdom and energy, and the membership increased.

During his pastorate, Dr. Day wrote three outstanding books: *Bush Aglow* (a biography of Dwight L. Moody), *The Shadow of the Broadbrim* (a biography of Charles Spurgeon), and *Filled with the Spirit* (a daily meditation of the Scriptures). He later wrote a book, *Breakfast Table Autocrat*, on the life story of Henry Parsons Crowell, a close associate of D. L. Moody. He also wrote another, a biographical book, *Beacon Lights of Grace*, featuring the lives of 12 biblical figures.

Through the influence and impact of his writings, Dr. Day was invited to preach in places like Chicago, and London in Ontario, Canada. As a result of his writings and speaking engagements, the Hamilton Square Baptist Church began to be nationally known. During times when he was away, Dr. Carey Thomas served the church. ❧



Transition

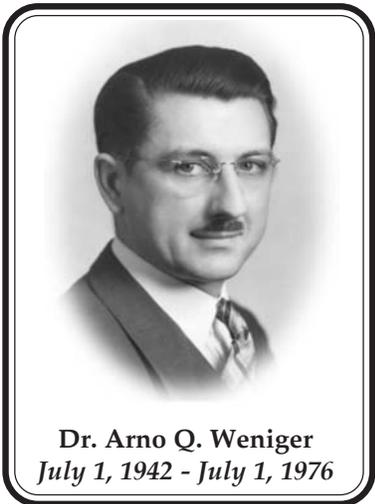


For a brief nine months, October 1, 1940, to July 1, 1941, Dr. Fred I. Drexler led the church as Interim Pastor. He was a native of Hungary and studied for the ministry at American University in Tennessee and Crozier Theological Seminary near Philadelphia.

The congregation emerged from the depression with a significant deficit. In addition to serving as its pastor, Dr. Drexler led the congregation in paying off the outstanding debts of the church. ✂



World War 2



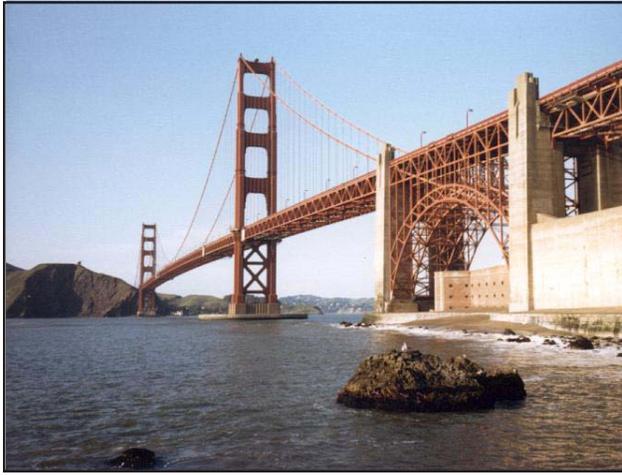
On July 1, just five months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II, Dr. Arno Q. Weniger became pastor. Church membership stood at 458. Dr. Weniger, who led the church through those momentous war years, came to Hamilton Square after pastorates in Minnesota, British Columbia, and Oregon.

Under his new ministry, the work advanced and grew. During his first year there were 121 additions to the membership, and the second year brought an additional 172 members. Rev. Ralph Lutter was called to be the minister of Music and Youth on December 1, 1943, serving for a year and four months. Everyone had a mind to work and God blessed. The outstanding debt, remaining from a \$10,000 mortgage, was paid off on June 19, 1944, and the burning of the mortgage took place on July 2.



*Top Row: 10th Pastor and Mrs. Fred Drexler
Left Column: 11th Pastor; Dr. Arno Q. Weniger and Family
Lower Row: Rev. Ralph Lutter; Mortgage Burning Ceremony*





During the war years, San Francisco was a major staging point for men and material flowing across the Pacific. The Hamilton Square Baptist Church carried on an active and effective ministry among the hundreds of thousands of military personnel to whom San Francisco became a temporary home.

Meanwhile, the great city by the Bay was undergoing the kind of change that is typical of vigorous, dynamic communities. Because dramatic changes were taking place in the surrounding area where the church was located, it became very difficult to maintain the work that the congregation believed God had called them to perform. ✎



*Top Row: Golden Gate Bridge;
"In Memoriam" for HSBC
Members Killed in Action in
World War II*

*Lower Row: Jones Methodist
Church (formerly HSBC) - 1981;
Dr. Weniger and Family*



Relocation and a Third New Building

This led to a year of negotiations to sell the building located at Post and Steiner, with a unanimous decision on July 5, 1944 to approve the sale. The Methodist Episcopal Extension Society of San Francisco had been seeking to purchase a building for a mission work of its own and completed the purchase two months later, on September 1, for the sum of \$47,500. In the year 2000, the present owners, the Jones Methodist Church, demolished this building and replaced it with a new facility.



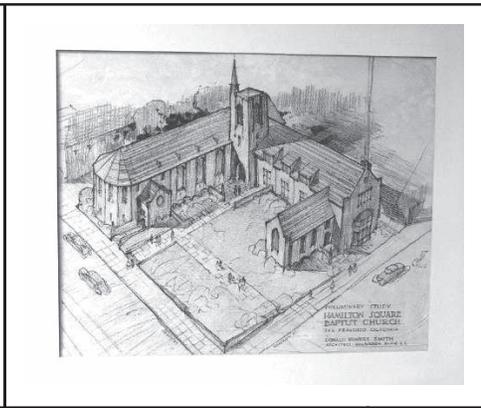
During that same period, on August 9, 1944, the church negotiated the purchase of a new site at the corner of Geary and Franklin Streets. The lot, 137½ feet square, was located strategically at one of the major transportation hubs for the entire city. It was purchased in November, 1944 for \$35,000. Significantly, by the year 2001, the site, without the building, was valued at more than five million dollars. Groundbreaking for the new facility was held on January 7, 1945.



The church negotiated with the War Production Board for a permit to build. Wartime construction restrictions permitted only the completion of the basement portion of the building, which the congregation proceeded at once to build. The congregation at this time (February 1, 1945) numbered 780. On February 10, 1946, the 65th Anniversary of the church's founding, the mortgage on the new property was burned. Membership then stood at nearly 824.

Groundbreaking for New Building on Geary Street





Dr. D. M. Dawson was called to be Assistant Pastor on February 28, 1945 and served until December 19, resigning to enter the field of Deeper Life Bible Conference work. Rev. Max W. Weniger was called to be Assistant Pastor and Director of Youth Activities as of July 1, 1946. He resigned in April, 1947 to become pastor of a church in Woodland, California.

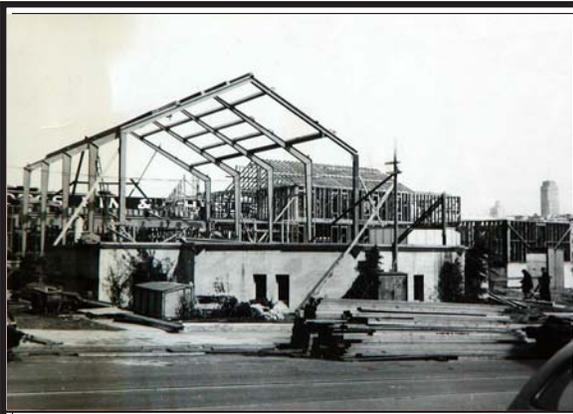
On May 5, 1948, the church voted to join the Conservative Baptist Association of America. For many years previously, the Hamilton Square Baptist Church was a member of the Northern Baptist Convention and its affiliates: the Northern California Baptist Convention, and the San Francisco Bay Cities Baptist Union, of which the church and its pastors were a very active part.

Until the present sanctuary was completed and dedicated on October 10, 1948, the church met in the completed basement portion of the building, which was called the "Lower Temple" (now called the "Lower Auditorium"). A large portion of the new building remained unfinished. During the following ten years, volunteers labored to finish the Educational Wing. ✍



Top Row: Dr. D.M. Dawson; 1212 Geary Proposed Building; Rev. Max W. Weniger
Right Column: Basement Unit Completed May 27, 1945; Lower Sanctuary; Platform of Lower Sanctuary
Lower Row: Bulletin from Open House - May 1945; Permission to Builder - 1948





Top Row: 1212 Geary Top Floors Under Construction
Second Row: New Auditorium from the West; Building Under Construction
Third Row: New Auditorium; Dedication Service - October 10, 1948
Last Row: Handing Over of the Key to the New Building; 1212 Geary Finished Building - 1948





*Top Row:
Married Class;
Church Group*



Right Column:
Article re: new
HSBC Building

Next Row: Mrs.
Bryant, Daughter/
Husband and
Wenigers; Junior
Church

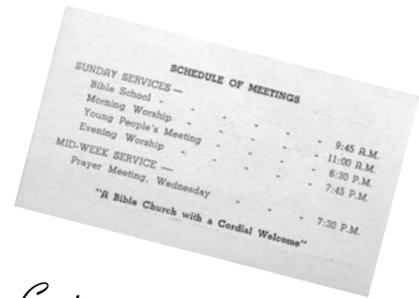
Middle: Ladies
Trio

Lower Row:
Children's Pro-
gram; Trustees
Signing Building
Contract - 1947

Standing By the Original Purpose

The Constitution of Hamilton Square, adopted in 1941 and revised in 1955, still maintained the original purpose of the church: *"The object of this organization shall be: the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His sacred Word; to guard and promote the spiritual welfare and growth of its members; minister to its sick and care for its needy; to seek the salvation of those who know not Christ; minister to the spiritual welfare of the community; promote the missionary aims of the Church; and to do everything possible to make known Christ Jesus our Lord and His Word to a lost world."*





A Long, Fruitful Ministry Continues

Under the leadership of Dr. Weniger Hamilton Square grew to become the second largest Baptist church in San Francisco and became known as one of the stronger churches of the entire Bay region. In addition to the other ministries of the church, Japanese and Russian works were under way. Dr. Weniger's vital pulpit ministry was complemented by the warm and delightful fellowship of the rapidly growing congregation.



*Above: HSBC Group Fellowship
Below: Nativity Play*



*Top Row: Invitation Cards
Above: Dr. Weniger at Dedication of New Building
Lower Row: Mrs. Buddee's Junior Girls; Ladies Fellowship*



*Above: Ella Betger's SS Class
Below: Banquet*





*Row Above (left to right):
HSBC Choir; Weniger
Brothers (Archer, Ortiz, Arno,
Max)
Next Row: Mrs. Hopkins'
Junior Class; Beginners Class*



Right: Diamond Jubilee Bond



Below: 75th Anniversary Play

From Hamilton Square, the Word of God sounded forth to a lost and dying city. Many were saved and baptized under his ministry and many others were brought into a closer fellowship with God. By his faithfulness to the Word of God, he made the name Hamilton Square synonymous with gospel preaching. In 1956, the congregation celebrated its 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary. Ten years into the ministry of Dr. Weniger, over 1,179 people had united with the church.





First Row: Lamplighters - 1966; Cake for Dr. Weniger's 30th Anniversary - 1971
Below: Ladies Group; Middle Row: Golden Circle Class; and HSBC - late 1966



Dr. Weniger did not limit his services to the church alone, but down through the years graciously gave of his time to strengthen the work of the Lord across the country. He served on the Board of Directors of the Conservative Baptist Home Mission Society for five years and was president of the Conservative Baptist Association of America for two years.

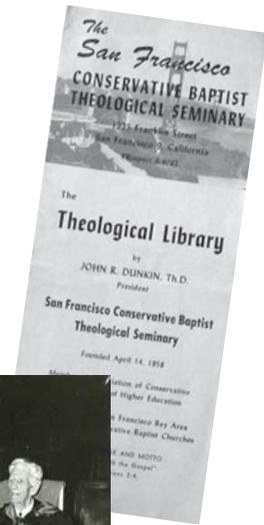
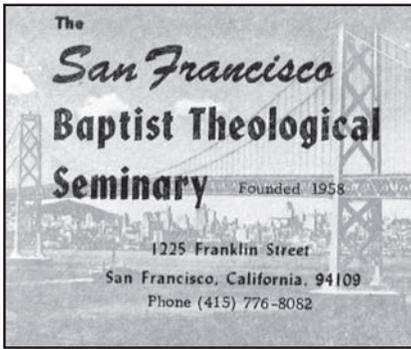


He had been on the board of two seminaries and was one of the founders and president of the San Francisco Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary. He also served on the board of the Baptist World Mission. He was a recognized leader among Bible-believing Baptists. ✍



Above: Young Marrieds - 1966
Lower Row: College Group - 1966; Program in Lower Auditorium





A Seminary in the West

Upon completion of the educational wing in 1958, the San Francisco Baptist Theological Seminary was invited to occupy the East Wing. The Seminary quickly became an important part of the church's life, with as many as 95 graduate students in training at one time. During this time, Dr. Weniger held the office of president of the Seminary. Many outstanding fundamental leaders were sent out to pastor churches, to teach and lead in other Bible colleges and seminaries, and to serve on mission fields around the world over its thirty-two years of ministry. The seminary played an important role providing pastors for existing churches and in planting churches in the West, especially in Northern California.



Top Row: Seminary Brochures; Classroom; Next Rows: Seminary Graduation; Seminary Library

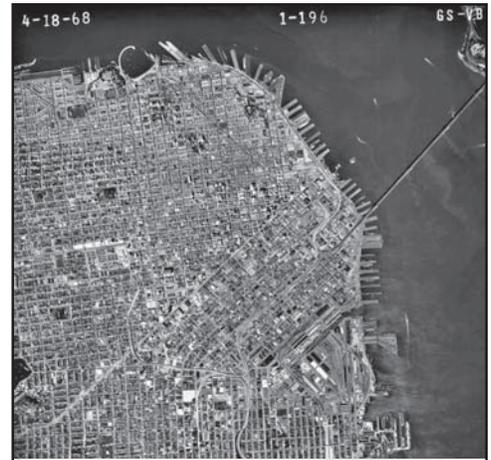
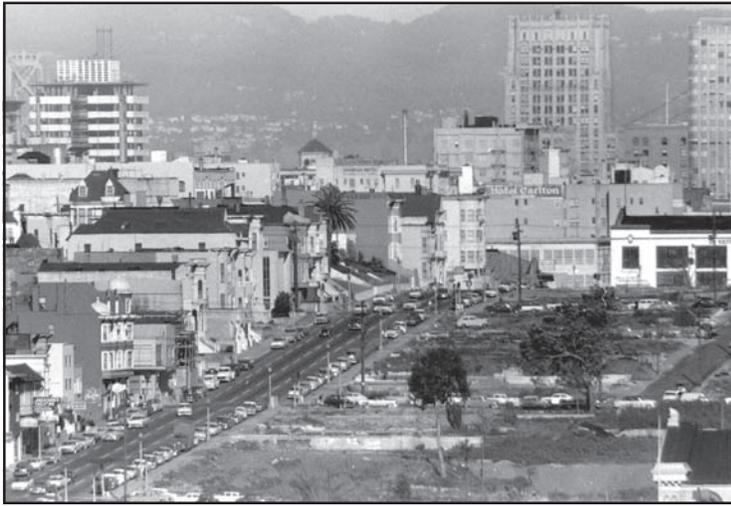


Lower Photos: Pastor John Browning and Alma; Pastor Browning



Due to disturbing trends within the Conservative Baptist Association of America, the church voted unanimously on February 21, 1968 to withdraw from the Association.

In October of 1972, Rev. John W. Browning became Assistant Pastor and served faithfully for over 23 years—preaching, teaching, serving as Sunday School superintendent, discipling and leading the choir. On October 7, 1973, the congregation celebrated the completion of loan payments on the new facility by burning the \$100,000 mortgage, leaving the church free of debt. *B*



Years of Decline

During the later years of Dr. Weniger's ministry, the church endured difficult trials, testing and decline. It began in the late 1950s, when many blocks of single resident homes in a large area around the church were razed in federal redevelopment programs, leaving the church in an area of transition. Gradually, over the years, the homes were replaced by high-rise apartments, condominiums and other commercial developments. The negative impact on the congregation was significant, completely changing the dynamics of its ministry.



Clockwise from above: Post Street from Sears - 1959; SF Aerial - April 18, 1968; Geary Street at Gough - North Side; Geary and Gough - 1959; Geary at Octavia (foot of Cedar) - January 1959; View of Western Edition from Masonic - 1959; Cathedral Hill - 1970s





Also, midway through his ministry, there was a major upheaval among the members. In spite of these and other adversities that threatened the survival of the church, Dr. Weniger continued faithfully and persistently, surrounded by a core of valiant, courageous members who were fully committed to the ongoing of the ministry. This enabled the church to continue and to begin anew under a new pastor.

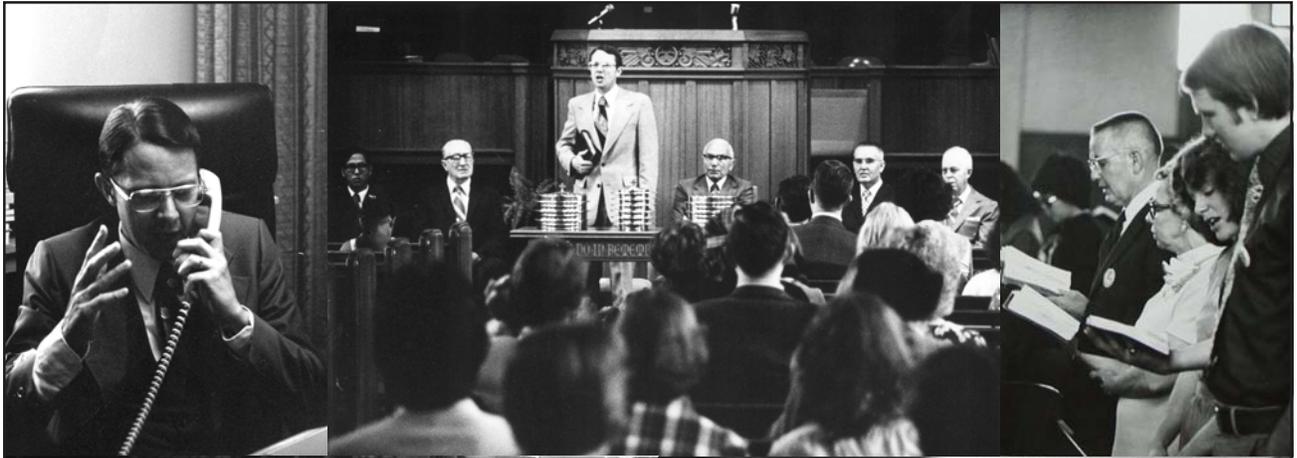
On July 1, 1976, Dr. Arno Q. Weniger resigned after 35 years as pastor of Hamilton Square Baptist Church. He continued as interim pastor until the end of that year. ✍



First Row (left to right): Fellowship in the Parlor; HSBC Old Sign; Clayton and Marjorie Morrow
Left Column:
 Fellowship in Parlor; Christmas Banquet, Dr. and Mrs. Weniger, Lydia Hawkinson, Fay Sieg; Lamplighters Picnic; Lone Person Praying

Left: Lamplighters Gathering
Above: Edna Sahl and Morning Coffee in the Parlor
Right: Dr. Weinger's Retirement Dinner





*First Row (left to right):
Pastor Innes; Lord's
Supper - 1979; Withrow's
in Morning Service
Second Row: Bus
Ministry; Pereira's and
Jane Bushey
Third Row: Sarah
O'Reilly and Al Benson;
Awasiakas; Last Row: Mr.
Withrow's S.S. Class;
Treasure Island Bus
Ministry*

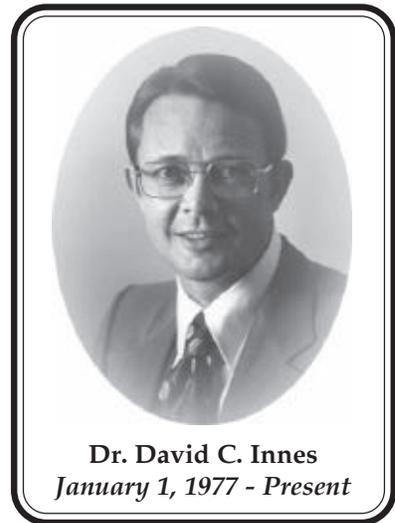




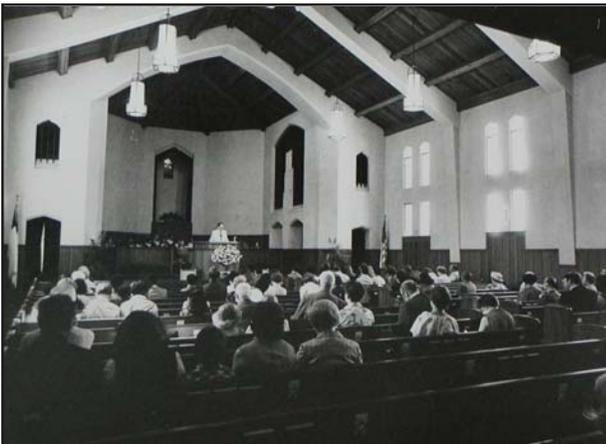
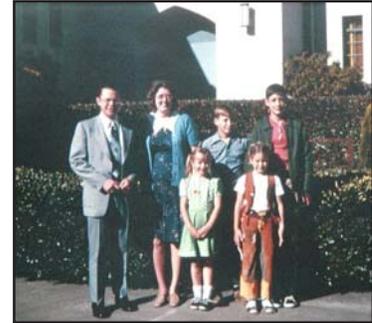
Beginning Anew

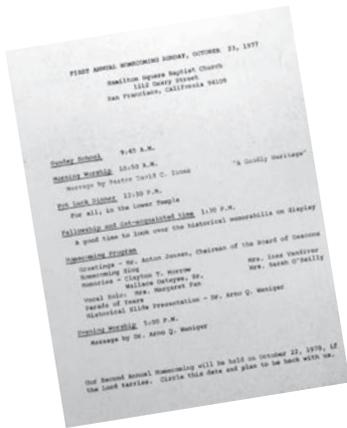
Dr. David C. Innes, a graduate of Bob Jones University, began his ministry at Hamilton Square on January 1, 1977 following a nine and one-half year pastorate at the Calvary Baptist Church of Yucca Valley, California. The early years of his ministry were years of rebuilding.

The congregation at that time numbered approximately 70. Attendance soon doubled and finances tripled. Initially, the ministry was “jump-started” by reaching out to military families from the Presidio Army Base and Treasure Island Naval Station.



Top Row: Church Auditorium and Building - late 1970's
Second: 12th Pastor
Third Row: Lamplighter's S.S. Class; Innes Family - 1977
Last Row: Church Auditorium - Easter Sunday 1979





Item Above: Program from Home-coming - 1980
Right: Homecoming - 1979



Right: Recognition of Former Church Secretary Edna Sahl
Row Below: Men's Quartet; Pastor Emeritus Award Presented to Dr. Weniger; Dr. Weniger
Last: New Van

On October 23, 1977, the first "Homecoming Sunday" celebration took place and has continued annually to the present day. At the October 28, 1979 Homecoming celebration, Dr. Weniger was named *Pastor Emeritus* of the Church.



In 1980, an annual Christian Life Conference was established for the purpose of training and developing leaders, orienting them for ministry and setting a philosophy in place for evangelism, discipleship and church growth. ✨

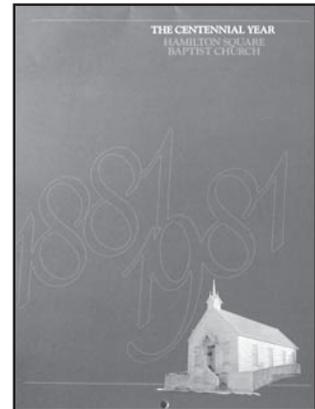
100th Anniversary Celebration



The Homecoming Sunday on October 26, 1981 was in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Hamilton Square. The church was presented a Certificate of Honor from the Board of Supervisors of the City of San Francisco by Supervisor Louise Renne, which read, in part, "in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit on the auspicious occasion of its 100th Anniversary for its century of dedicated and highly effective services to the spiritual and corporal welfare of the citizens of San Francisco . . ."



Items Above: 100th Anniversary Cake; Certificate of Honor from the City of SF Right: 100th Anniversary Calendar



Above and Right: 100th Anniversary Celebration
Below: New Year's Eve Piano and Organ Sacred Concert - 1981



At Homecoming, on October 23, 1982, the new Yamaha grand piano and the three-manual Rodgers organ, purchased as a 100th Anniversary project, were dedicated in a concert of sacred music. ✍





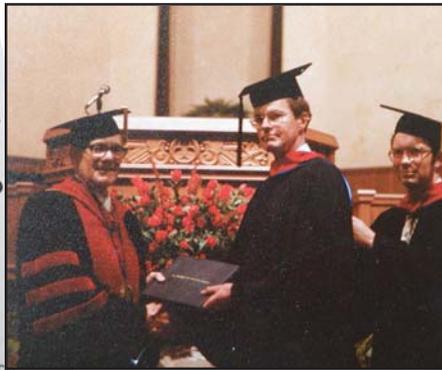
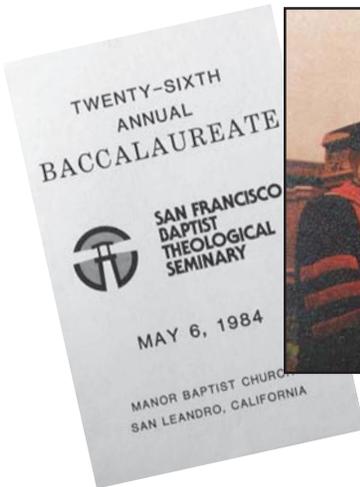
*Left:
Easter
Sunday*



*Right:
Clark
family in
morning
worship
service*

Encouraging Developments

During the summer of 1983, a team from *Real Life Ministries* worked with the church to reach the city for Christ. During the mid 1980s, the congregation peaked at around 250. Ministries were abundant: bus ministries, AWANA clubs for children, Sunday School and outreach and telephone evangelism. An annual Missions Conference was put in place, in cooperation with three other Bay Area churches. In the fall of 1983, Dr. Innes assumed the role of President of the San Francisco Baptist Theological Seminary. *ℵ*



*Photos: from
Seminary
Graduations
Items: Graduation
Program;
President's
Medal*



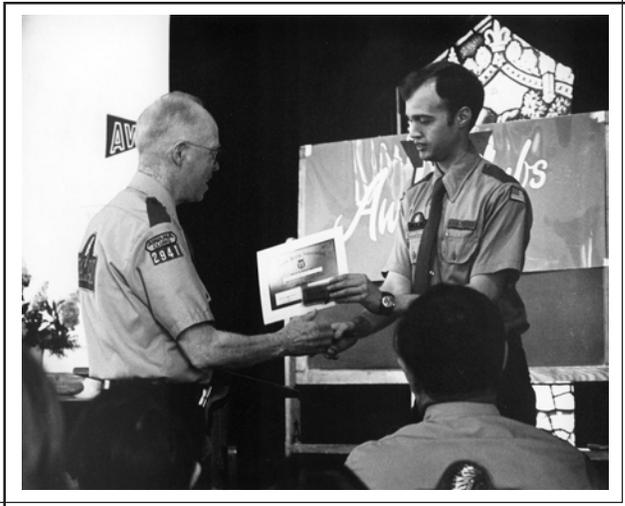


Photos from Sunday School, Junior Church, Camp, Choir and Bus Ministries





Photos from AWANA Ministry - Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Bushey, Directors





John Innes & Family



New Help for the Work

Rev. John E. Innes, the pastor's brother, and his family moved to the area in 1983. He came to assume the responsibilities of Chief Administrator at the San Francisco Christian School which operated in conjunction with the Calvary Baptist Church. He and his family were a great help in the ministry, assisting with teaching, preaching, Sunday School, music and many other vital areas of ministry at Hamilton Square. In 1991, he assumed the pastorate at the Calvary Baptist Church of Lakeport, California.



Chuck & Linda Williams



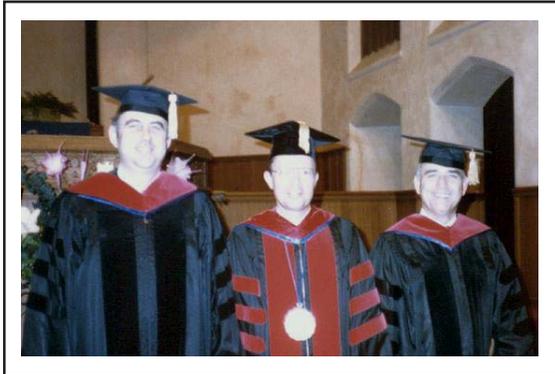
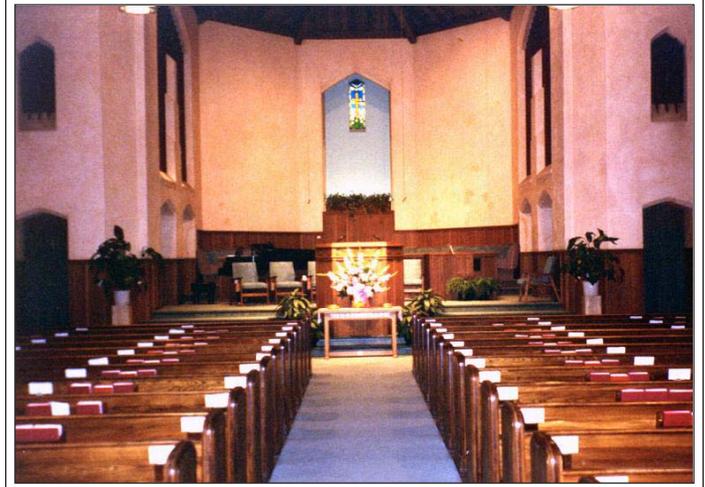
In the fall of 1984, street evangelist Charles Williams and his family moved to San Francisco from Tennessee to minister in "open air" ministry downtown. His wife, Linda, served as the pastor's Administrative Assistant for six years. Rev. John Helke was also added to the church staff, serving as an associate pastor at that time. In 1985, Inner City Baptist Ministries was founded as a result of these and other new ministries. John Helke and his family left San Francisco in July of 1988 to plant a church in Colorado. The fruit of his labor remains to this day.



John Helke



On October 29, 1989, a new 32-passenger church bus was provided through estate funds left to the church. During this decade, many areas of the building, including the main auditorium, were remodeled and beautified and a new public address system was installed.



Other Changes

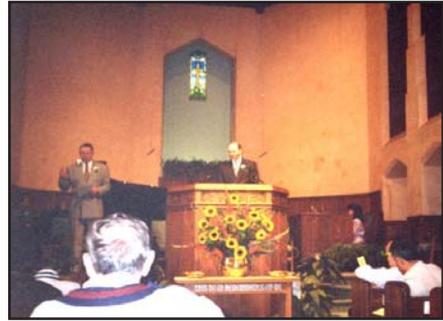
Sadly, The San Francisco Baptist Theological Seminary, whose name had been changed to The Baptist College and Graduate School of the West, closed its doors following the spring semester in 1990. A three year search for a man to head up the Seminary proved fruitless. Dr. Innes, who had served as its president for seven years, felt that he could not adequately serve as president of the Seminary and pastor of the church at the same time.



*Above: Remodeled Auditorium
Left Column: New Church Bus; Seminary Graduation;
Dr. Bushey
Right: Mrs. Alma Browning*



Upon its closing, the Seminary's secretary, Mrs. John Browning (Alma), became the pastor's Administrative Assistant, giving commendable and distinguished service to the church until her retirement on March 1, 2002. On September 1, 1990, Pastor Charles Williams left the city for ministry in Southern California.



On March 1, 1991, Rev. C. David Wright was called as Associate Pastor. Pastor Wright had come to the Bay Area from Southern California to study in the seminary. He effectively and ably assisted the pastor and was a great help and encouragement to the congregation. He contributed significantly to the development of the Care and Prayer ministry and also to the development of the church's very effective Personal Discipleship ministry.

Top Row: Innes' and Wrights at Home-coming; Pastor and Mrs. Wright; Service

In October 1992, new carpet was laid in the hallways, chapel and several church offices. On October 21, in the same year, the church's historical display in the main entry and hallway was dedicated in memory of Wallace M. Osteyee, Sr., a godly deacon who had served the church faithfully for many years. ✍

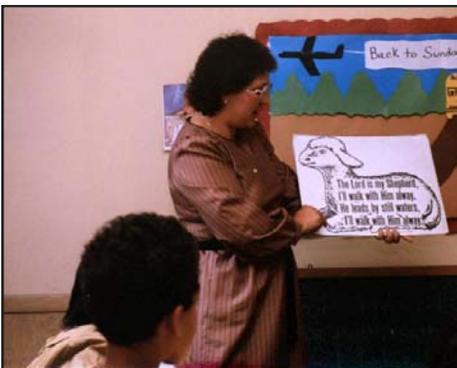


Testing and Testimony



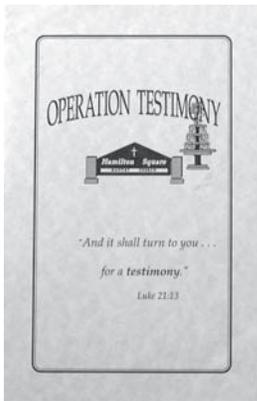
During the 1990s, both of San Francisco's military posts were closed as part of the nationwide closure of military bases. This had a significant impact on the church's ministry. Attendance declined and qualified workers to fill the various ministry responsibilities were fewer.

*Above: Wedding of Wallace and Virginia Osteyee
Left: Newly Remodelled Hallway and Historical Display
Lower Row: Mrs. Milleur in S.S.; Pastor Innes in Chapel; Billy Allardice conducting Children's Meeting on Treasure Island*





After nearly 50 years of “wear and tear” and several years of drought, the courtyard area of the church, and the entire exterior of the building were badly deteriorated and in a sad state of disrepair. The congregation, desiring that the church building and grounds should be positive testimony to the surrounding community, contributed prayerfully and sacrificially to the renewal project, “Operation Testimony.” A new front entry, security cameras, security gates in the alley ways, painting of the building’s exterior, new sidewalks, landscaping, a new fountain and many other improvements were included in the project.



GAYS, FUNDAMENTALISTS CLASH

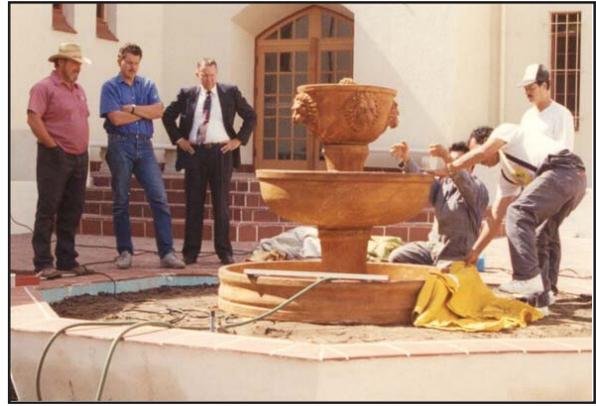


A Southern Baptist pastor, left, who testified at the hearing, says many in the crowd were shouting and shouting obscenities at the hearing. The pastor, who testified at the hearing, says many in the crowd were shouting and shouting obscenities at the hearing.

On September 19, 1993, the church was attacked by a rioting mob of radical homosexuals who sought to shut down the evening service. They objected to the guest speaker, Dr. Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition and to the church’s stand against the aggressive homosexual agenda in San Francisco. During the ensuing months, the church became known around the world for its courageous moral and biblical stand and experienced awesome, providential help and protection. Victories were won, the church’s testimony to the entire city was enhanced, and many other churches were encouraged and strengthened. Years later, individuals from many places were still giving testimony to the great spiritual impact this testimony had had on their lives.



Top Photos: Courtyard Before Renovations
Top Item: Operation Testimony Brochure
Lower Items: Press Clipping Regarding Hearing at City Hall Following the Riot; HSBC Press Release Regarding the Riot; Press Coverage of City Hall Hearing



On October 31, 1993, the beautiful landscaping and courtyard were dedicated. The community took notice and shortly thereafter, the church received commendations from both the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and an organization, "San Francisco Beautiful." Two years later, on October 29, 1995, the remodeling of the Pastor's office was completed.





Pastor John Browning went home to be with the Lord in June of 1996 after many years of faithful and commendable service to His Lord and to the congregation of Hamilton Square. In June of 1997, the church said farewell to Pastor Wright and his family, who were moving to Pensacola, Florida, to minister there. The fruit of his efforts is still evident in the ministry of the church.

The following year was very long and difficult for Pastor Innes. The two remaining staff members, the pastor's administrative assistant, Mrs. Alma Browning and the church caretaker, Mr. Gerald Clark, suffered debilitating illnesses during that year. This was also the year of the "melt-down" of the computer hard drive and database. *✍*



More Help on the Way

Following his graduation from seminary in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Dr. Brian Kelly and his wife Deborah heeded the call of God and in July of 1998, moved to San Francisco to help Pastor Innes in the ministry, as the Assistant Pastor. During this period of time, extensive remodeling of the upper floors was completed; Browning Hall (formerly the overflow room) was completely redecorated and the prophet's chamber was beautifully renovated, all under the capable craftsmanship and supervision of the pastor's brother, Rev. John Innes.



Top Photos: Pastor Browning; Pastor & Delbert Innes; Pastor Kelly in Church Office ; Pastor & Alma & Ruth Browning; Pastor Kelly

Lower Photos: Overflow Room Prior to Renovations; Browning Hall and Prophets Chamber after Renovations





Left: Church Staff - 2001 - Bill Hughes (Property Manager), Pastors Sneed, Innes, Kelly and Mrs. Browning (Administrative Assistant)
Right: Pastor Sneed



Rev. Tim Sneed of Wilmington, North Carolina, was then called by the congregation to be the Associate Pastor, and moved to San Francisco in January of 1999. The work began immediately to grow and prosper under its new pastoral staff. For the first time in recent memory, several faithful and mature believers were added to the church and have contributed greatly to the strength of the work. The church continues to experience a spontaneous multiplying of dynamic ministries. *✍*

Lower Top: Steven Crozier in Junior Church; Singles in Line for Homecoming 2000
Lower Center: Maalonas and Susan Crozier at Christian Life Conference
Last Row: Quirings and Lydia Normand; Leroy Guillen working on renovations





Days of Blessing



In 1999, before the rainy season, the entire black-shingled roof of the church, which was leaking badly, was replaced with deep red, tile-like shingles—a beautiful compliment to the Spanish-styled courtyard area. In addition, the exterior of the building was completely repainted and the metal work on the steeple was replaced. Miraculously, the entire cost of over \$125,000 was completely paid within a little over one year, while at the same time, contributions to the other church funds were growing.

Top Row: HSBC with Old roof; HSBC with New Red Shingle Roof
Above: Sherman Adkins, Virginia Osteyee, LaRue Jensen
Below: Sunday Evening Service; Pastor Innes; Homecoming 2000

The blessings of God have continued and the Lord has added many to His church. For almost 25 years, Dr. Innes has labored faithfully, with attendance peaking at around 250 in the mid 1980s and declining sharply after the closure of the military bases. The congregation has now grown significantly, with the largest adult attendance of his 25 years of ministry.



120th Anniversary Celebration

The 120th Anniversary Celebration was held at the church's Annual Homecoming on Sunday, October 28, 2001. On this beautiful fall day, over 250 were present. The guest speaker for the morning service was Dr. Bob Jones III who was accompanied by his wife, Benneth. His message from the book of Jude emphasized the need of the church to continue in its faithfulness to the Word of God without compromise.



Following the morning service a new grandfather clock in the overflow room (now known as Browning Hall) was dedicated to the memory of a faithful pastor and other individuals who had faithfully served the church in years gone by. A portrait of Mrs. Alma Browning was placed opposite that of her late husband Rev. John Browning, honoring her for her many years of faithful service to Hamilton Square Baptist Church.



Top Row: Homecoming Sunday - 2002

Above: Dr. and Mrs. Jones with Pastor and Mrs. Innes; Mrs. Browning; Clock Dedication; Banquet Servers

Right Column: Homecoming Banquet Honoring Alma Browning, Joanne Young, Wilma VanWyngaarden, Virginia Osteyee and La Rue Jensen

The congregation then enjoyed a "sit-down" dinner served by the singles Salt and Light group. Five of the church's ladies were honored for their many years of faithful service. An extensive 45 minute historical presentation of both narrative and pictures (much of which is in this book) was the feature of the afternoon program. The church remains solidly committed to the doctrines and purposes for which it was founded 120 years ago. Rejoicing, thanksgiving and praise filled the hearts of all who were present for this wonderful day of celebration.





Multiplied Ministries and a Faithful Minister

If a “roll call” had been made at the 120th Anniversary Celebration of the church’s history, many ministries would have been listed: Deacons, Deaconesses, Ushers and Greeters, Nursery, Sunday School, Adult Bible Study Groups, Beginner and Junior Churches, Five-Day Bible Club, AWANA, Singles Salt and Light Ministry, Happy Homebuilders Couples Ministry, SAGES Senior Ministry, Women’s Ministry, Measured Men’s Ministry, Personal Discipleship, Counseling, Care and Prayer Ministry, Friendship Ministry, Shut-in and Hospital Ministry, Sound Booth, Tape Ministry, Music Ministry, Bookstore Ministry, Christian Vocational Ministries, Rescue Mission, The Next Steps Homeless Ministry, Telephone Evangelism, Tract Evangelism, Website, Salu-Salo Filipino Ministry, Russian Ministry, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Home and Foreign Missions, Camps, Conferences and others.



Top Row: Deacons; Deaconesses

Left Column from Top to Bottom: Ushers; Heather Cahill in Bible Time; Tom Goelzer in Junior S.S.

Lower Photo: Dr. Kelly in Berean Bible Study Class





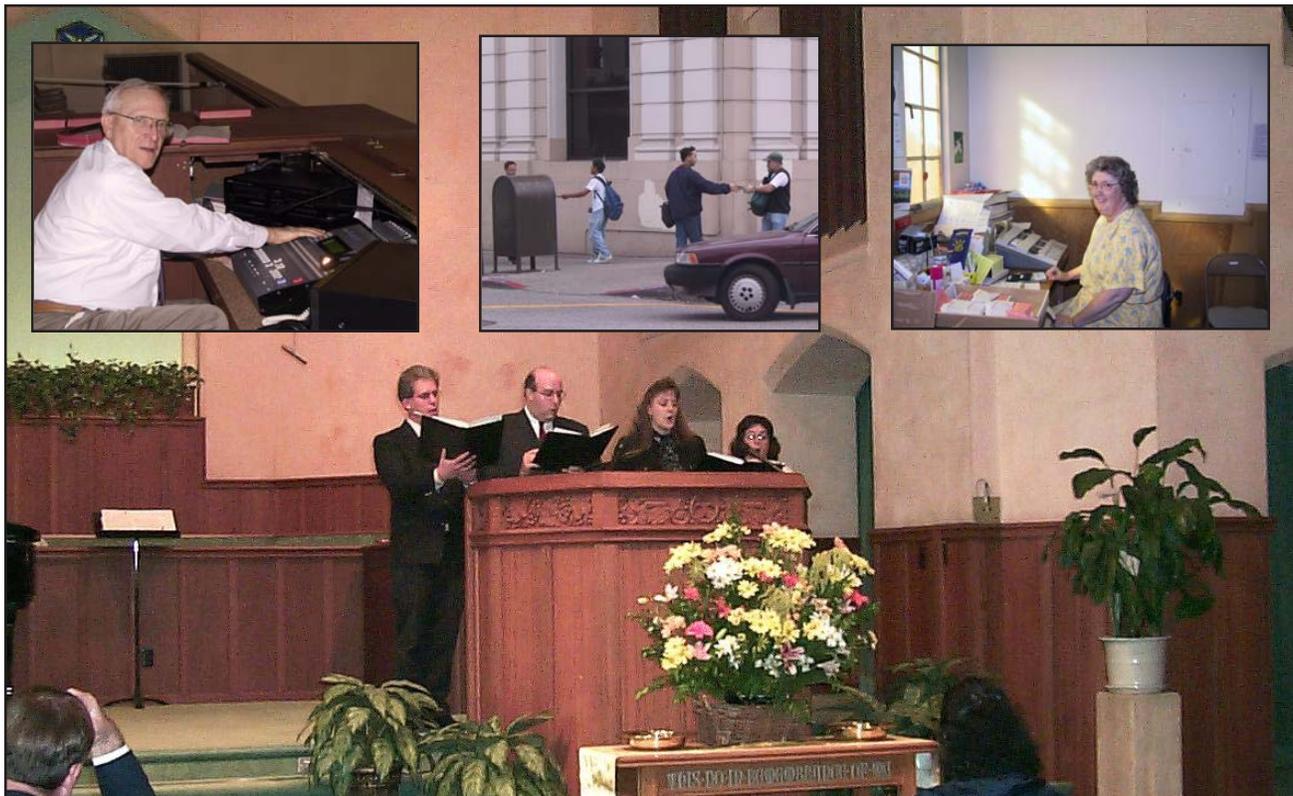
Top Row: Steve Crozier in Junior Church; Sergio Almaguer Serving Breakfast; Pastor Sneed in Ambassador Bible Study
Second Row: Bill Hughes Hanging Banner; Brian Williams; 5 Day Bible Club
Third Row: Salt and Light Picnic
Fourth Row: Steve Crozier Counseling; Baptism; Singles Caroling
Lower Row: Sherman Adkins Greeting; Children's Choir; Nursery







Left Page - Top Row: Couples Ministry **Second Row:** SAGES Ministry; Couples Retreat
Third Row: Christian Life Conference; Discipleship; Women's Ministry **Fourth Row:** Bookstore; Lunch Group; Christian Brown's 100th Birthday Party
This Page - Top Photos: Choir - 2001; Telephone Ministry; Visitation Ministry
Lower Photos: Special Music - Homecoming 2000; Sound Booth, Tract, and Tape Ministries





Top Row: Filipino Ministry; Website Ministry; Russian Ministry
Second Row: Foreign Missions Ministry
Third Row: Fourth of July Picnic 2000; Christian Vocational Ministry
Fourth Row: Social and Sing Sip Ministry
Last Row: Camp Ministry and Sing Sip Ministry

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 FRENCH
 Telephone: 613.233.3639
 Packages: 5 P. 28 "The Protestant"
 6555 SHERBROOKE Court
 FRENCH
 Mission: World Wide Mission
 P.O. Box 2149
 Decatur, AL 35602-2149

The ALLARDICE Family

Billy	Sophie	Clayton 12/27/85	Esther 12/24/87	Philippe 6/15/89	Benjamin 3/4/92
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Christian Vocational Ministries
 Serving the Church through Teaching, Training, and Helping

February 2000

Dear Family and Friends,

It's true that "a picture is worth a thousand words", please consider this a long letter!

 The new roof and sign -- west side of building.	 South and east sides	 The roofing crew really put themselves "out" their work!
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Marysville's new "John the Baptist" -- You'd fix right in and finally guards with John

Work is progressing on the upstairs dormitory and study areas, comprising a total of 1000 square feet with the capability to house eight men.

We have just received word that we may hold a weekly Bible study/church service at the local state-run ranch program for delinquent boys. Please pray that this outreach will be effective in reaching these young men for the Lord.

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support. We are truly thankful for God's blessings on our lives and ministry.

Sincerely,
 John and Marylu Innes

360 E. Center St. - P.O. Box 116 - Marysville, Utah 84758 - (437) 336-8111 - cvmin@color-country.net





Pastor Innes has weathered the spiritual and political climates of the city with aplomb. During his tenure, the church has slowly been transformed into a true inner city, multifaceted, missionary work, very much like the early days of the young Hamilton Square. He has patiently sown, watered and waited for the harvest and, with steadfast dedication, poured his life into the people of Hamilton Square.



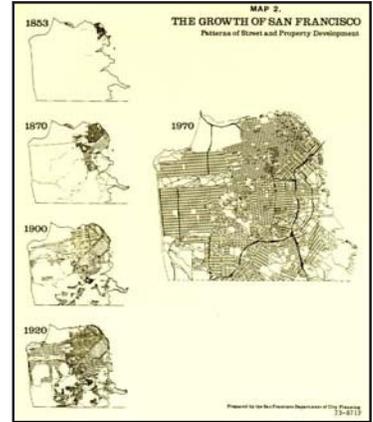
*Top: Pastor Innes
Left: Market Street - 2000
Lower: Pastor Innes at Homecoming - 2000
Last Row: Congress of Fundamentalism Speakers - 2000; Asian Congress of Fundamentalists - 1997*

He delivers to his congregation messages from the Word of God that are clear, consistent and practical, never wavering from the truth. His ministry is balanced and his burden for the congregation and people of San Francisco is great. He has been a helper, a teacher and a proponent of the fundamentals of the faith, speaking in conferences around the world. ✍





Above: The Camastros

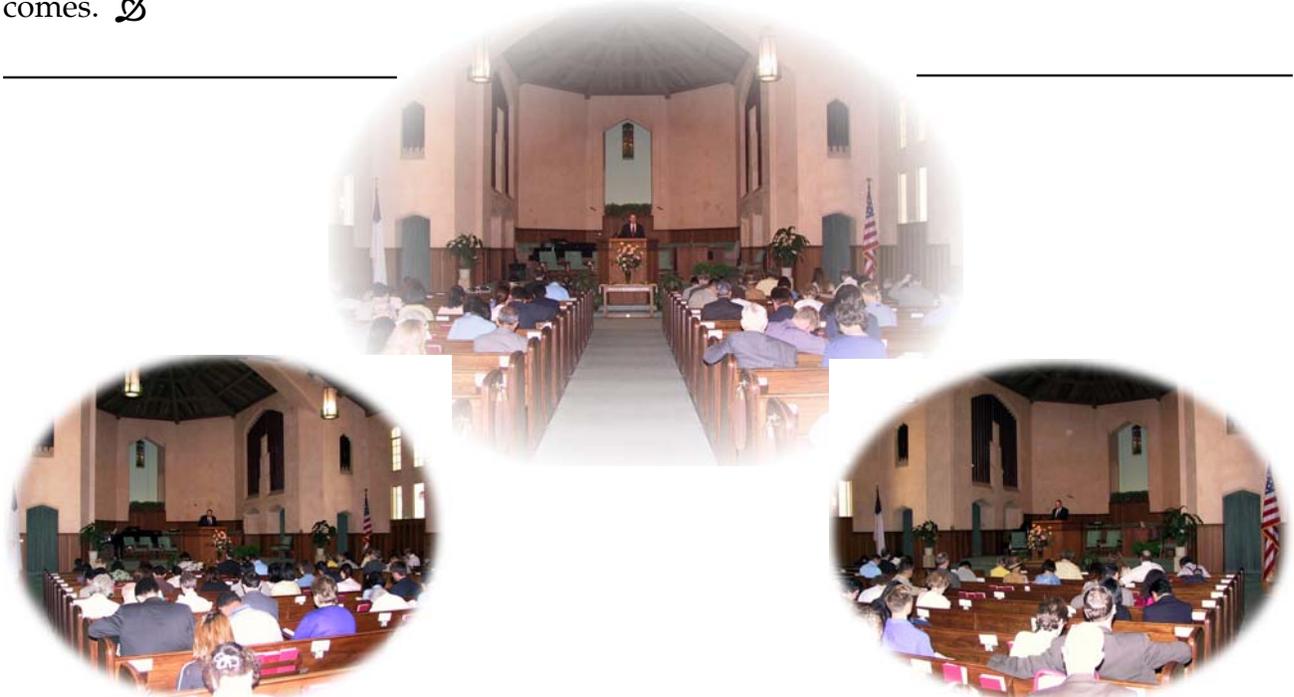


Bright Prospects for the Future

As in its beginning years, the Hamilton Square church is composed of people from around the world. Nearly 20 primary languages are spoken by this multinational congregation. The membership has stabilized, having experienced a significant increase in younger married couples and younger singles. There is a renewed vision for evangelism and ministry to the city of San Francisco.

For 120 years, the Hamilton Square Baptist Church has been a vital force in the spiritual life of the city of San Francisco. It has endured world wars, financial depressions, a devastating earthquake and fire, and wrenching changes in the makeup of the community. Yet through all those years, it has remained true to the biblical vision that prompted Captain Schroeder to issue that famous "Call" in the fall of 1880.

Today, the church is excited about the prospects of ministering the gospel in an environment of aggressive paganism that characterizes this great city. The God who called the church into existence and Who has sustained it through these 120 years will continue to provide His power and presence to sustain and bless it through the coming years until Jesus comes. ✨





Below: Congregation on Sunday, October 7, 2001



Appendix

Article

Newspaper Article appearing on February 8, 1881

ORGANIZATION of "ZION BAPTIST CHURCH"

A new church, Zion Baptist Church, was duly organized yesterday evening in the Western Addition, to worship for the present in Hamilton Hall, corner of Geary and Steiner streets. Rev Joseph S. Bromley was unanimously chosen Pastor. Other officers were also duly elected. The church adopted as "articles of agreement," the following rules:

We whose names are hereby given, being members in good standing of the Baptist denomination, holding the faith of the regular Baptist Churches of the United States as generally accepted, do hereby form ourselves into an independent Baptist Church, to be located in the upper part of the city of San Francisco, commonly known as the "Western Addition." The church formed by us will be called the "Zion Baptist Church," and constituted on the following principles and practices:

First — We agree to the "articles of faith" as generally accepted by the regular Baptist Churches of the United States.

Second — We agree to remain free from all ecclesiastical combinations, such as alliances, conferences, associations or conventions. No change shall take place in this respect, except by an unanimous vote of the church.*

Third — We agree to keep out of debt, whether for current expenses, pastor's salary or place of worship, and not to make any contracts for which we have not funds to provide payment when due.**

Fourth — We agree to support a pastor and maintain public worship as long as we are able, by voluntary contributions, according to Scriptural rule.

Fifth — We agree wherever we may have a place of worship, to have it free to all who choose to come, so as to thereby especially encourage the poor, and never to adopt the pew-rent system.

Sixth — We agree that in all matters of discipline the Church, and the Church alone, is competent authority to decide questions of difference. Unless by unanimous wish of the Church, the case be referred to a council of odd numbers of sister churches, whose decision by majority of churches in such event, shall be accepted as satisfactory and final.

Seventh — The above Rules of Practice being the essential thing in which we differ from most other Baptist churches, we agree in all other matters to conform to the general rules governing sister churches, reserving to ourselves the freedom to make such exceptions as we may consider best for the spiritual and temporal prosperity of the Church.

* Minutes from a regular business meeting of the church on September 8, 1881, read: "*Deacon Sawtelle then took the chair and the Pastor made the following motion that the last clause of the second article of our church Independence be changed so as to read a three fourths vote instead of unanimous after considerable discussion it was carried unanimously.*"

** It appears that the church assumed indebtedness as early as 1885 or 1886.

Poems

**William H. Barnes, Church Treasurer and Chairman of the Board of Trustees
for many years, composed the *Twenty-ninth Anniversary Poem*:**

*In Eighteen hundred eighty-one
The glorious work was first begun.
The seeds were sown in faith and prayer
And watered e'er with tenderest care
That in the field of Hamilton Square
A Saviour should be honored there.
The days have come: the days have flown-
The faithful seeds have thrifty grown,
And twenty-nine eventful years
With all their sorrows, hopes and fears
Have disappeared, and here tonight,
We look upon a prospect bright.
The clouds and mists have passed away;
We see the breaking of the day
When here upon this spot so fair,
This memorable Hamilton Square,
The hurrying crowds as they pass by
Shall see a Church to the Most High,
Whose open doors and music sweet
Will turn to Him their restless feet,
And from the busy whirl of Life-
The love of greed, the noise of strife-
Will bid the weary wanderer come
And rest within His Father's Home.
These years, these years, were not all joy.
The brightest gold has its alloy.
We look on many a vacant place;
And miss how many a once loved face.
But though they're gone from us, we trace
The work of Sawtelle and of Case,
And others of that noble band
Now sitting high, on His right hand.*

*How truly God has blessed His own
And smiled upon the work here done.
True, willing workers yet remain:
The names of Sempey, Cook and Bayne,
Of Lillis, Gentle, and the rest
Of those who ever stand the test,
Inspire all to onward press
To a still greater, grand success.
With such a pastor as we have:
Devoted, energetic, brave -
Who, who, could fail to do his part,
Or aid the cause with all his heart?
Triumphant, grateful, then go on,
With faith, the victory will be won;
Each place well filled; each duty done;
And joyous anthems fill the air
From our loved Church of Hamilton Square.*

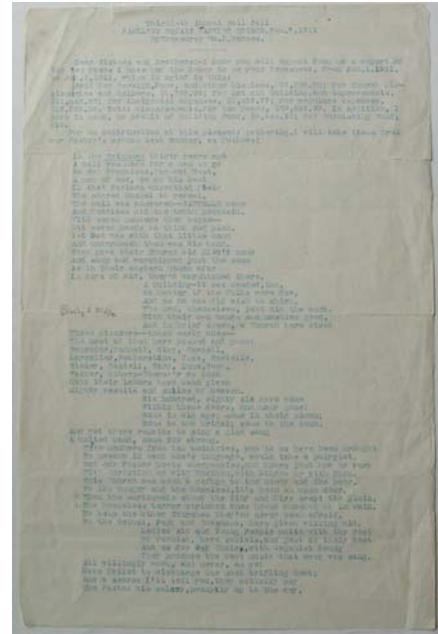
Thirtieth Annual Roll Call
Hamilton Square Baptist Church, February 7, 1911
by Treasurer, William H. Barnes

Dear Sisters and Brothers: I know you will expect from me a report of the ten years I have had the honor to be your Treasurer, from January 1, 1901, to January 1, 1911, which in brief is this:

Paid for Foreign, Home and other Missions, \$7,235.35; for Church Missionaries and helpers, \$1,795.00; for lot an building, and improvements, \$11,442.59; for incidental expenses, \$1,237.77; for regulare expenses, \$17,798.28. Total disbursements, for ten years, \$39,508.99. In addition, I have in bank, to credit to Building Fund, \$5,444.10; for Furnishing Fund, \$10.

For my contribution to this pleasant gathering, I will take items from our Pastor's sermon last Sunday, as follows:

*In the Watchman thirty years ago
A call was made for a man to go
To San Francisco, far out West,
A man of God, to do his best
In that forlorn unsettled field
The sacred Gospel to reveal.
The call was answered — Bromley came
And fearless did the truth proclaim.
With seven members they began—
But seven heads to think and plan.
Yet God was with that little band
And underneath them was His hand.
They gave their Church old Zion's name
And sang and worshipped just the same
As in their eastern homes afar
In days of old, they'd worshipped there.
A building – it was needed, too,
Not matter if the folks were few,
And as no one did wish to shirk,
The men, themselves, just did the work.
With their own hands and muscles good,
And in brief space, a Church here stood*



*Those pioneers – those early ones –
The most of them have passed and gone
Schrader, Bennett, Clay, Wardell,
Larzelier, Featherstone, Case , Sawtelle,
Staley, Castell, Ward, Lane, Cook,
Walker, others – Where’r we look
Unto their labors have been given
Mighty results and smiles of Heaven.*

*Six hundred, eighty six have come
Within these doors, and many gone:
Some in old age; some in their bloom;
Some to the bridal; some to the tomb.*

*And yet there remains to sing a glad song
A united band, some 200 strong.*

*We’ve members from ten countries, who to us have been brought
To preach in each one’s language, would take a polyglot.
But our Pastor meets emergencies, and knows just how to work
With Christian or with Heathen, with Hindu or with Turk.
This church has been a refuge to the needy and the poor.
To the hungry and the homeless, it’s been an open door.
When the earthquake shook the City and fire swept the plain,
To houseless terror stricken ones never knocked at in vain.
To help the other Churches they’ve never been afraid,
To the Bethel, Park and Covenant, have given willing aid.*

*Ladies Aid and Young People unite with the rest
To furnish, have socials, and just do their best
And as for our Choirs, with organist Young
They produce the best music that ever was sung.*

*All willingly work, and never, as yet
Have failed to discharge the most trifling debt;
And a secret I’ll tell you, they actually pay
The Pastor his salary, promptly up to the day.*

**For the Ladies Society of the Hamilton Square Baptist Church
By A. A. Neal**

*Just a few words I will render
For our Baptist sisters here
With a sympathy most tender
For their efforts quite sincere.*



*That are always at the meeting
And stay until it's through;
The ones that I would mention
Are the always faithful few.*

*This devoted group of women,
Organized to help the church
Bring assistance to their Pastor,
Never leave him in the lurch.*

*They fill the vacant offices
As they're always on the spot,
No matter what's the weather
Though it may be awful hot.*

*And their comfort to the needy
Is a work that should be praised,
For they often times are taking
Food to such with money raised.*

*It may be damp and rainy,
But they are tried and true.
The ones that you rely on
Are the always faithful few.*

*Loving deeds of worth and honor
Which these noble ladies do
Bring a blessing to so many
Their good works are not a few.*

*There are many worthy neighbors
Who come when in the mood
When every thing's convenient
They can do a little good.*

*When the church is needing helpers
And our progress seems quite slow,
Then it is to them we hasten,
For we know just where to go.*

*They're a factor in the churches
And are necessary too,
But the ones who never fail us
Are the always faithful few.*

*So then friends let each one rally
To assist this ladies' Band
And extend a liberal feeling
In the cause for which they stand.*

*If it were not for these faithful
Whose shoulders at the wheel
Keep the church still moving onward
Without a halt or reel,*

*For we find them always ready
In the service they can do;
Henceforth we will recognize them
As the "Always Faithful few."*

*What would be the fate of others
Who claim so much to do?
They surely would go under
But for the faithful few*

*When the meeting's called to order
And you look about the room
You're sure to see some faces
That from out the shadows loom,*

**Written and read by Miss Wilma Van Wyngaarden
on June 28, 1961 at the 20th Anniversary dinner for Dr. Weniger**

One score years ago, the Hamilton Square Baptist Church brought forth a new pastor, conceived in knowledge and dedicated to the proposition that all men stand in need of the Gospel.

Now we are engaged in a great work of preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ which, so dedicated, will long endure. We, pastor and people, are met on sacred ground. In years past we dedicated this building to the sending forth of the gospel. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this building. The people, living and dead, who found the Savior here and who have worked here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what is said here, but it can never forget what our pastor has done here.

It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which our forefathers have thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these devoted years of service of our pastor, we take increased devotion to that cause for which he has given these many years of unselfish service. That we here highly resolve that the work here has not been done in vain -- that this church, under God and the leadership of one, Dr. Arno Q. Weniger, as he begins his 21st year of service, shall have a new vision, and that the work of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth, but shall go forward in reaching an ever increasing number of men and women for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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-- Read for our pastor at his 20th Anniversary dinner, June 28, 1961

1966 Anniversary Hymn
(Tune from Finlandia – Sibelius)

*We give Thee thanks, Thou Giver of salvation,
For the past years Thou hast with fullness crowned,
We raise our voice in joyous acclamation
That in this House Thy praises may resound
For future years grant Thy abiding presence,
That we with Heavenly graces may abound.*

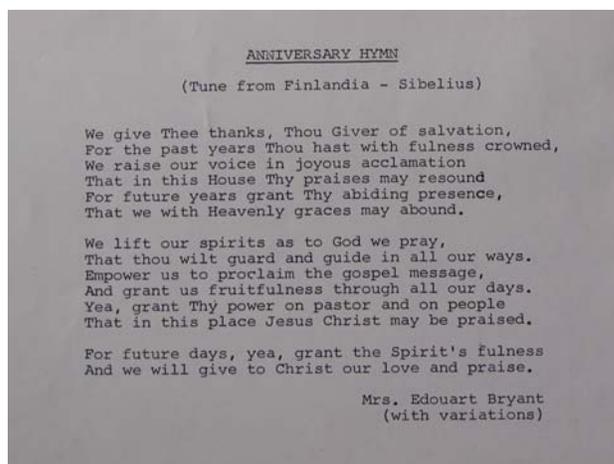
*We lift our spirits as to God we pray,
That thou wilt guard and guide in all our ways.
Empower us to proclaim the gospel message,
And grant us fruitfulness through all our days.
Yea, grant Thy power on pastor and on people
That in this place Jesus Christ may be praised.*

*For future days, yea, grant the Spirit's fullness
And we will give to Christ our love and praise*

Mrs. Edouart Bryant

(with variations)

Sung at the 25th anniversary of Dr. Weniger as Pastor



**Twenty-Fifth Anniversary
of the Ministry of
Arno Q. Weniger**

*Twenty-five years of labor, patience, trial and pain,
Demands a strong and sturdy soul to really stand the strain.
To build, to plant, to shepherd, and wait for His increase;
To keep the faith unshaken – to prayer and never cease.*

*San Francisco is not an easy field,
'Twould try a saint, they say,
But since when tried, the gold shines forth,
Then that must be His way.*

*To use this faithful witness so loyal to the Word,
To keep a sacred pulpit where gospel truth is heard.
And in this midst of labor, how sweet to hear Him say:
“Lo, I am with thee always,” unto the perfect day.*

Mrs. Edouart W. Bryant

"Forgotten Ties"

November 1976

Written and read by Wilma Van Wyngaarden at Dr. Weniger's retirement

*Forgotten ties as we reminisce
Are times almost forgotten, that go like this.
Some look back with you 35 years to '41
And helped get those big jobs done.
Wallace Osteyee and Clayton Morrow to name two
Were happy to share in the work with you.*

*Remember when you first came the church was located on Post Street
Where throngs of people came to worship and meet.
As a prophet of old you had a vision
To build a new church, and we followed your wisdom.
In '44 the first unit was built on Franklin and Geary,
They you said, "Press on, there's no rest though you are weary."*

*In the lower temple we worshipped four years
Until our day of dedication in October of '48
When many people and dignitaries came to help us celebrate.*

*We remember those days through the early 50's
As you donned your coveralls and really looked nifty,
And labored with a dedicated crew
To complete our building, so beautiful and new.*

*As we check the records we find
Many folks have left behind
A record that can't be duplicated
And in our books are highly rated.*

*Do fond memories come to mind when we call to your attention
Such names as we might mention,
Steeves, McDaniel, Garrison, Pittman and Hawkinson,
As we think of them we remember the words of Jesus, "Well done."*

*We can recall those who made the music sweet
The Marina Trio, Sarah, Nina and Evelyn were a treat.
And Mrs. Bryant we surely can't forget,
For a fine example in dedication she did set.*

*The years have rolled along and now it's '73.
And we burned a \$100,000 mortgage for the world to see.
With that goal achieved,
We could move in other directions new horizons to perceive.*

*1976, and you are looking forward to a change of pace,
With many new and different challenges to face.
Through the years that lie ahead
May you continue to be led
By Him who has been your Guide continually
Seeking other avenues of service that God will help you see.*

*P.S. These thoughts are strictly mine,
And not always in very good rhyme.
We hope you and Mrs. Weniger will miss us a little bit,
As in your new home you rock and doze and sit.
San Francisco we hope you won't forget – but just in case you might,
We thought it only right
That you have a cable car as a memento of San Francisco's fame
Along with other things we might name.*

"FORGOTTEN TIME"

Forgotten time as we reminisce
Are times almost forgotten, that go like this.
Some look back with you 35 years to '41
And helped get those big jobs done.
Wallace Outesse and Clayton Morrow to name two
Were happy to share in the work with you.

Remember when you first came the church was located on Post Street
Where throngs of people came to worship and meet.
As a prophet of old you had a vision
To build a new church, and we followed your wisdom.
In '41 the first unit was built on Franklin and Geary.
Then you said, "Press on, there's no rest though you are weary."

In the lower temple we worshipped four years
until our day of dedication in October of '45
When many people and dignitaries came to help us celebrate.

We remember those days through the early 50's
As you dumped your coveralls and really looked nifty,
And labored with a dedicated crew
To complete our building, so beautiful and new.

As we check the records we find
Many folks have left behind
A record that can't be duplicated
And in our books are highly rated.

Do fond memories come to mind when we call to your attention
Such names as we might mention,
Stevens, Michael, Garrison, Pittman and Hawkinson,
As we think of them we remember the words of Jesus, "Well done."

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The Marina Trio, Sarah, Nina and Evelyn were a treat.
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1976, and you are looking forward to a change of pace,
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Through the years that lie ahead
May you continue to be led
By Him who has been your Guide continually
Seeking other avenues of service that God will help you see.

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Along with other things we might name.

Speakers of Note

Hamilton Square Baptist Church 1938 – 2002

Dr. Hyman Appleman	Dr. Renee Oulette
Dr. William Ward Ayer	Dr. Monroe Parker
Dr. Donald Gray Barnhouse	Dr. Ernest D. Pickering
Dr. Rod Bell	Rev. C. Matthew Recker
Dr. James Binney	Dr. John R. Rice
Dr. John W. Bradbury	Rev. Grant Rice
Dr. Walter Brock	Dr. Charles R. Ryrrie
Dr. Fred Brown	Dr. Bill Schroeder
Dr. Paul Cameron	Dr. Lou Sheldon
Dr. B. Myron Cedarholm	Dr. Phil Shuler
Dr. Jacob Chelli	Dr. M. R. Siemens
Dr. Paul Choo	Dr. James Singleton
Dr. Richard V. Clearwaters	Dr. Mike Sproul
Dr. James Earls	Dr. John Stevens
Dr. W. Collins Glenn	Dr. Lehman Strauss
Dr. Vernon G. Grounds	Dr. Sam Sutherland
Dr. Bill Hall	Dr. Louis T. Talbot
Dr. Walter Handford	Dr. Clyde W. Taylor
Dr. Joseph L. Henson	Dr. Jack Trieber
Dr. Carl Herbster	Dr. Chester E. Tulga
Dr. R. L. Hymers	Dr. Wayne Van Gelderen, Sr.
Rev. Torrey Johnson	Dr. Wayne Van Gelderen, Jr.
Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.	Dr. John Van Gelderen
Dr. Bob Jones, Jr.	Dr. James Van Geldren
Dr. Bob Jones, III	Dr. Richard Weeks
Dr. E. Robert Jordan	Dr. G. Archer Weniger
R. G. Letourneau	Dr. Arno Q. Weniger, Jr.
Dr. Herbert Lockyer	Dr. Arno Q. Weniger, Sr.
Dr. Peter I. Maruyama	Dr. J. B. Williams
Dr. Earle Matteson	Dr. Walter L. Wilson
Dr. John McCormick	Dr. Carl T. Woodbury
Dr. Douglas McLachlan	Dr. David Yearick
Dr. Richard Mercado	Dr. George Youstra
Dr. Robert L. Moyer	

