

CHAPTER FIVE: 1985 – 1990 “Increasing in Stature”

by Eleanor Beardsley

The Bible tells us nothing about Jesus’ life from his birth to his ministry, except for one episode when he was 12. When his parents found that he had stayed behind the rest of the family in the Temple, Jesus explained his absence by asking them a question: “Don’t you know that I must be about my Father’s work?” Then the following words appear: “**And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and humankind.**” This passage can be applied to Trinity during the years from 1986-1009. Trinity went about God’s work to the best of our ability, and we “increased in wisdom,” in numbers, and in favor with God and our community.

During this period, and before, **Trinity was instrumental in starting MANY organizations in the county.** Pastor Al Kissling, as well as many members, gave freely of their time and talents to make Henderson County the envy of many nearby residents. (FISH had a client who admitted that she and her husband had moved across the county line because the available services were much better than where they had lived before. Housing Assistance Corp. and Mainstay are examples.)

The congregants continued to **worship in what we know now as Fellowship Hall**, but the need for more space was omnipresent and the subject of building “reared its head” more and more frequently. Another controversial subject which came up often was the **seating** arrangement in the worship space. We had stackable chairs, chosen because of the flexibility they provided. In 1986, it was decided to arrange the chairs in a parabolic configuration from Easter to Advent and in straight rows from Advent to Easter. That decision was supposed to end the controversy, but no such luck: a fairly large celebration was planned for December 3 one year. As the first Sunday of Advent, the arrangement would normally revert to the traditional pattern, but the parabolic plan afforded more seating and better sight lines from the usual overflow in the lounge. The Session decided we should stay with parabolic seating on December 3, but do Christmas decorations in preparation for traditional worship.

Staff Changes

DCE **Evelyn McMillan** left TPC, replaced by **Kate Weinman**.

Bettye Young is Executive Secretary.

Marty Irving retired as Choir Director.

John Hilley (son of Gladys) is Summer Intern in 1988.

First Ohmann Seminar held in the fall of 1988 was led by Dr. Loder from Princeton.

Progress comes in many small “improvements”

- **When Presbytery began a new newsletter, *WestPres***, Trinity was featured in several articles.
- The annual **Church Picnic** was regularly held at Camp Tekoa.
- The Finance Committee asked that all correspondence, etc., include the slogan “**Remember the Church in Your Will.**”

- The **Henry Allisons** had consistently called on everyone who expressed interest in TPC. For health reasons, they were unable to continue. A committee of several persons was appointed in their place.
- It was announced in 1989 that the Session would now use the **Brevard Plan** whereby the term of the outgoing class of Session members continues until September when the new class is installed. Thus newly elected Elders are in training during the spring and summer, preparing to take office in September. This in effect made for longer terms; seniors were often reluctant to take a Session term.
- **Parish Groups** were very important in this period, with an Elder and a Deacon assigned to each group.
- **Toddler Playgroup** began in September 1986.
- **Wonderful Wednesday Chicken Dinners** started in July 1986.
- **Kerygma** study groups and **Koinonia** fellowship groups (Sunday night suppers in homes) were discussed as possible programs at the Session Retreat in 1988 and successfully instituted in 1989.
- A new **curriculum** began to be used in the Church school.
- In 1988, the national church was reorganized with fewer synods. TPC is now in the **Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
- **Jon Brown**, twice our summer intern, is called as **Associate Pastor** in 1988.
- The **Memorial Garden** was created and put to use to receive the ashes of the deceased. (The Columbarium was a later development.)
- **Peacemaking and Recycling** were issues of importance that required a great deal of study and time.
- This is the heyday of the **Youth Group** which enjoyed a tremendous program (thanks to Jon Brown) and 41 kids.
- The **organ** was paid for and a special recital held in June 1990 to celebrate.
- In February 1990 the last of the church-sponsored **refugee families, Andronovs** from the former Soviet Socialist Republic, were adopted.

In short, these were memorable years, and we are proud to be “Trinitarians”!