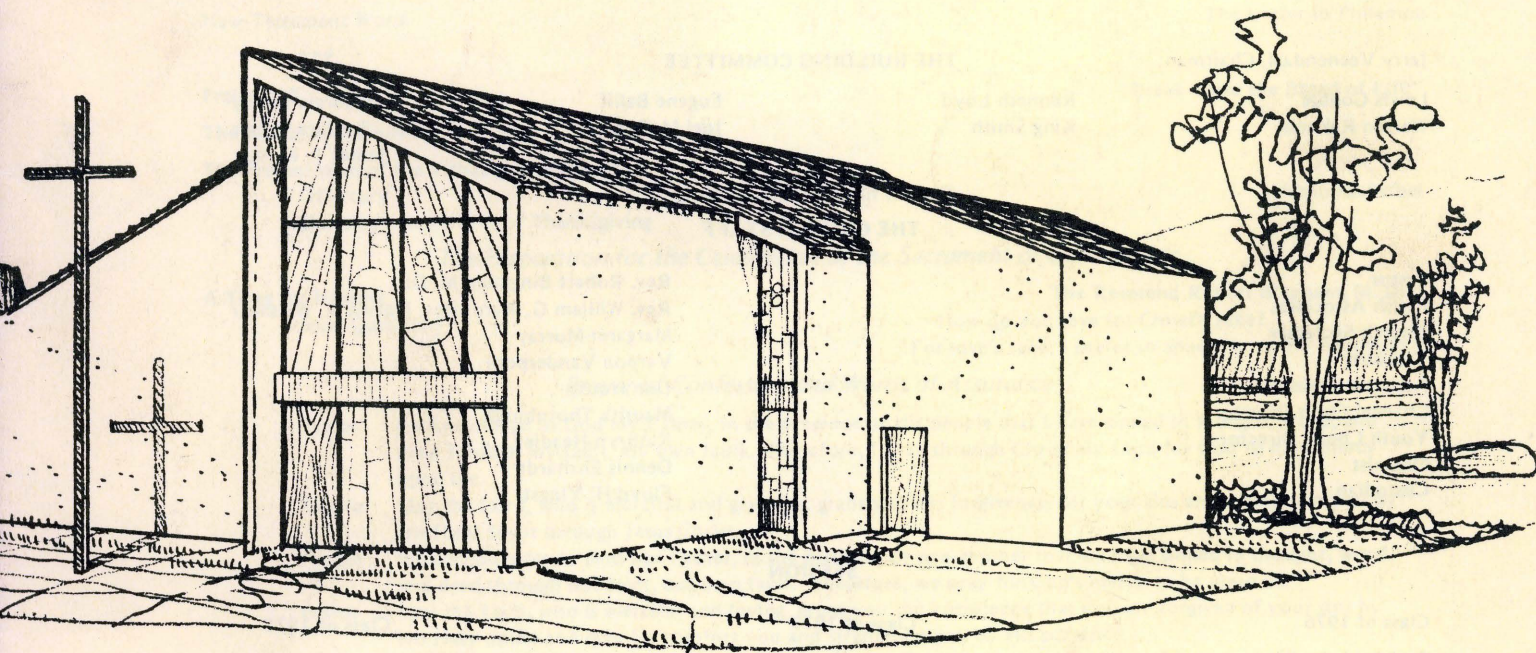


first presbyterian church

24317 North Newhall Avenue

Newhall, California



SERVICES OF DEDICATION

Robert Bingham, M. Div.
Pastor

February 6, 13, 20
1977

"Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the Lord my God and dedicate
it to Him . . ."

II Chronicles 2:4

A Church is more than a building. It is, among other things, the hands of people, loving hands, working together in the making of this Church a place of worship, a place of peace and spiritual renewal.

This vast undertaking could not have been planned and brought to realization without the faith and consecrated efforts of many people. In our happiness on this occasion we are thankful for the goodness of God and for all who have given generously and sacrificially of their time and money. We can not name them all here, but we do thank all from our hearts.

Appreciation should be expressed to the members of the Building and Finance Committees. During these Services of Dedication we see, as they do, the reward of their faithfulness. We are grateful to Rev. James I. Oliver, Administrator of the Synod's Presbytery and Congregational Development Committee, for his interest and aid in securing loans from the Synod and General Assembly for our construction. We are grateful to Mr. Robert R. Inslee, A.I.A. and Mr. Amir Farr, our architects, who have patiently stood by us during days of indecision and increasing costs as we planned together our new sanctuary; and to Mr. James A. Hill, the Contractor, who has proved worthy of the trust we placed in him. A word of appreciation is due also to the Chairman of our Trustees, Mr. David E. Moore who gave of himself in many ways to make our dreams become a reality.

My own personal feelings are beyond expression. I rejoice as I realize that for over eighty-six years the pulpit of this Church has proclaimed the Good News of salvation and renewal through the atoning work of Jesus Christ our Lord. My prayer is that it may ever be so, and that the lives of all who form this congregation throughout the generations may match this magnificent building in beauty and in steadfast service to our Lord and God.

Sincerely,

Robert Bingham, Pastor

Jerry Veenendaal, Chairman

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

Lewis Gobble
Warren Rakness

Kenneth Loyd
King Smith

Eugene Ballif
Joel McConnell

Georgia Dandy
Barbara Muller
James T. Finster

THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor
Parish Associates
Church Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Chancel Choir Director
Youth Choirs Director
Organist
Custodian

Rev. Robert Bingham, M. Div.
Rev. William G. Ward; Rev. Marvin A. Weishaar
Margaret Murray
Vernon Vanderpool
Don House
Maurita Thornburgh
Kathryn Headley
Dennis Ehrhardt
Floyd H. Yingst

SESSION

Class of 1976

Gail Baldwin, Clerk
Harry Castle
John Fuller
Margaret Haskell

Class of 1977

George Butterfield
Benny Goldstein
Robert Lazarus
Peter Marshall
David Moore
Dr. Lester Tanner

Class of 1978

Joe Kern
Edward Littleton
Irene McConnell
Kathryn Rakness
Jerry Veenendaal

DEACONS

Ilse Braceros
Clarene Harmon
Jack Harmon
Edith Johnson

Lucile Ford, Chairperson
Leota Hall
Sharon Whitman

Glenna Gray
Erik Vidstrand
Marion Waters
William Whitaker
Geraldine Zook

OPENING SERVICE

THE DEDICATION AND ERECTION OF THE CROSS

COMMUNION

10:00 a.m. February 6, 1977

The congregation will gather in the Church built in 1923 for praise and prayer and come together to the new sanctuary.

Organ Prelude "Allein Zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ" Dennis Ehrhardt, Organist
Johann Pachelbel

Processional Hymn 196 "Cross of Jesus" John Stainer
(The congregation will join in the singing of the hymn, remaining seated while members of the Session and Building Committee carry in the Cross made from a beam taken from the First Presbyterian Church constructed in 1891. This Cross will be erected at the conclusion of the Service. Members of the congregation, men, women and youths are urged to come forward from time to time to take the place of someone holding the Cross.)

Gathering for Awareness Elder Dr. Lester Tanner

Elder Peace be to this house, and to all who worship therein.
People Peace be to those that enter and to those that go out therefrom.
Elder Peace be to those that love it, and that love the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Pastor Under the providence of God, we have come to this glad hour when the building, which God put into our hearts to erect to His glory and to his worship, is to be used for worship for the first time. Gratefully we come to this hour of worship and Communion, and reverently we would pray as Jesus taught us:

*** The Lord's Prayer Gloria Patri

Old Testament Word Psalm 95: 1-7a; 96 Selection 22

Anthem "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended" Cruger
Chancel Choir Maurita Thornburgh directing

New Testament Word The Letter to Philemon

Praise 250 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

The Ritual of Friendship

The Presentation of the Tithes and Offerings
Offertory "Christus, Der Ist Mein Leben" Johann Pachelbel
Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Preparation for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

A Time for Hearing The Reverend Robert Bingham, M. Div.
Now Questions How do you love for Christ's sake?
"For love's sake, I prefer to appeal to you" Philemon 9

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Pastor I acknowledge to God my Father, in the presence of His people that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed through my fault, my own fault. Therefore, I pray through Christ my Lord for God to have mercy upon me.
People May the Lord, who is merciful and gracious, grant you His forgiveness for your sins and strengthen you by His Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ.
People We acknowledge to God our Father, in the presence of one another that we have sinned in thought, word and deed through our fault, our own fault. Therefore, we pray for God's mercy to be upon us.
Pastor May the Lord, who is merciful and loving, grant you the knowledge that you are forgiven of your sins by His Holy Spirit and may He comfort you and strengthen you by His presence.

Response "Agnus Dei" Morley

Sharing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Members of the congregation are to come forward and be served the elements—partaking of them under the Cross—and silently returning to their place in the pews. The Choir will sing appropriate hymns while we partake of the Sacraments.

Praise 442 "Here, O My Lord I See Thee Face to Face"

The Erection and Dedication of the Cross

Pastor To Thy Glory, O God, the Everlasting Father:
To Thy Honor, Jesus Christ, our Lord:
To Thy Praise, thou Holy Spirit.
People We erect this Cross to remind us of the Love of God, the Father; the saving Death of Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

Praise 190 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

Pastoral Benediction Choral Response

Postlude "All Glory Be To God On High" Johann Pachelbel

***Ushers are requested to seat worshippers at these points during the service.

THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION

10:00 a.m.

February 13, 1977

Organ Prelude

"Nun Bitten Wir"

Dennis Ehrhardt, Organist
D. Buxtehude

Processional

Chancel Choir

"The Church's One Foundation"

Maurita Thornburgh directing

Gathering for Awareness

Elder George Butterfield

Elder Peace be to this house, and to all who worship here.
People Peace be to those that enter, and to those that go out.
Elder Peace be to those that love it, and that love the name of the Lord Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anthem

"Break Forth, O Heavenly Light"

Bach

The Invocation

Rev. William G. Ward

We have met here today to dedicate this building to God, our Heavenly Father, from whom all good things come. Father, Your guidance was sought in the planning; Your Spirit prompted the many gifts used in its construction; Your Son's gift of forgiveness and love caused us to gather as a church. We now seek Your presence as we dedicate this Church to the worship of God, for the use of our children and our children's children and for all those who may come to worship and learn of Your will for their lives. Hear our prayers as we pray as taught by Jesus:

The Lord's Prayer

Old Testament Word

Psalm 24

Section 9

Rev. Marvin A. Weishaar

The Gloria Patri

The Rite of Dedication

Pastor Peace be to this House of God
People and to all that enter.
Pastor Having been guided by God, enabled by His grace and power to complete this house of worship, we now stand in His Presence and dedicate this building to His Honor and Glory and Power.

Contractor

James A. Hill

The skill of men of many crafts surround us today. In materials used and quality of workmanship, we have tried to make a building, worthy of its intent. I deliver to the architect, the key to this Church, in fulfillment of our commission.

Architect

Robert R. Inslee, A.I.A.

It was my pleasure to share with you a dream that the contractor has converted into reality. It is my pleasure now to present to the Chairman of the Building Committee, the key to our mutual dream.

Chairman of the Building Committee

Elder Jerry Veenendaal

We commend all who have had a part in bringing this structure to completeness, and we praise their commitment to the assignment given them. I now give this key to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Elder David E. Moore

On behalf of the congregation I accept this key for this building which is now ready for the service of dedication to God and His divine purpose, and I place the key in the hand of our Pastor and entrust it to him to open not only this building but the Word of God to us as well.

Reception of the Key

Rev. Robert Bingham, M. Div.

In the name of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, I accept the key to this Church, in token of the trust committed to us.

The First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, as a part of the Holy Catholic Church, worshipping one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—affirms anew this day its belief in the Gospel of the sovereign grace and love of God, wherein Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, incarnate, crucified, and risen; freely offers to all men, upon repentance and faith, the forgiveness of sins, renewal by His Holy Spirit, and eternal life, and calls us to labor in the fellowship of faith for the advancement of the Kingdom of God throughout the world.

THE LITANY OF DEDICATION

Pastor To Thy Glory, O God, the everlasting Father:
To Thy Honor, Jesus Christ, our Lord:
To Thy praise, thou Holy Spirit:
People We dedicate this Church.

Pastor For the adoration of Thy Name in praise and prayer:
 For the celebration of Thy Holy Sacraments:
 For the preaching of the Gospel of Christ:

People We dedicate this Church.

Pastor For the girding of home and family:
 For the nurture and guidance of children:
 For the commitment of youth to the service of Christ:

People We dedicate this Church.

Pastor For the comfort of those who mourn:
 For light to the perplexed:
 For forgiveness of sins to the penitent:

People We dedicate this Church.

Pastor For strength to the tempted:
 For courage to the fearful:
 For the sanctifying of all human hopes:

People We dedicate this Church.

Pastor Here may the faithful find assurance, and the careless heed Your voice.
 Here may the doubter find faith, and the fretful know Your peace.

People For this purpose we dedicate this Church.

Pastor Here may the weary find their rest and the strong a worthier strength in Thee. Here may youth find a purpose
 and a meaning for their years. Here may the elderly continue to find strength and meaning and purpose for all
 their days.

People For this purpose we dedicate this Church.

Pastor Here may the Sacrament of Baptism be true welcome for children into the household of faith. Here may marriage
 vows lead on to enduring love and dedicated homes. Here may the sorrow of death be assuaged by the hope of
 the Risen Christ.

People For this purpose we dedicate this Church and now, we the people of this Church and congregation, do dedicate
 ourselves anew to the worthy worship of God in this place and to continue the ministry begun in 1891 to the
 Glory of God.

Prayer of Dedication and Pronouncement

Anthem "Hallelujah Chorus" G. F. Handel

The Presentation of the Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Offertory on 'Mercy'" G. Young
 Doxology

A Time for Hearing

Rev. Hughston R. Peyton
 Synod of Southern California

Now Questions "Who are you—the Church?"
 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."
 [I Corinthians 12:27]

Praise "Witness Song" Robert Blue

Teensing will sing the first line, congregation will respond

"Shout out; my soul, of the love of God. Shout out, my soul, of the love of God. His love is forever and ever. His love is forever and ever. Go forth and witness forever. Go forth and witness for ever. Forever, forever and ever and ever.	"Stand up, my brothers; give glory to God. Stand up, my brothers; give glory to God. His love is forever and ever. His love is forever and ever. Love one another as He still loves us. Love another as He still loves us. Forever, forever and ever and ever.
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"Cry out, my soul, of the love of God. Cry out, my soul, of the love of God. His love is forever and ever. His love is forever and ever. We'll go forth and witness forever. We'll go forth and witness forever. Forever, forever and ever and ever.	"Rise up, my brothers; give glory to God. Rise up, my brothers; give glory to God. His love is forever and ever. His love is forever and ever. Love one another forever. Love one another for ever. Forever, forever, and ever and ever."
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Pastoral Benediction Choral Response

Postlude "Agincourt Hymn" John Dunstable

***Ushers are requested to seat worshippers at these points during the service.

EVENSONG DEDICATION

3:00 p.m.

February 13, 1977

Organ Prelude Dennis Ehrhardt, Organist

“Wenn Mein Stundlein Vorhanden Ist” J. M. Bach

Processional “I was glad . . .” Hooper

Chancel Choir Maurita Thornburgh directing

Gathering for Awareness Rev. Marvin A. Weishaar, Parish Associate

Pastor Serve the Lord with gladness!
People Come into His presence with singing! Enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise!
Pastor Give thanks to Him, bless His name!
People For the Lord is good: His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

The Invocation and Lord’s Prayer Rev. Gordon A. MacInnes, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of San Fernando

Gloria Patri

The Scriptures Colossians 4:4-18 Rev. William G. Ward, Parish Associate

Anthem “Show Us a Dream” Red
Youth Choir Kathryn Headley directing

Greetings From the General Assembly
From the Synod of Southern California
From the Presbytery of San Fernando
From the Santa Clarita Ministerial
Dr. Thelma D. Adair, Moderator
Rev. Charles Marks
Ms. Joreen Jarrell, Prebytery Executive
Dr. Kenneth Heaton

Praise 432 “Built on the Rock”

Worship with the Offerings

Offertory “Christus, Der Ist Mein Leber” Johann Walther
Doxology

Anthem “O How Amiable” Vaughn Williams
Chancel Choir Maurita Thornburgh directing

Meditation “The Church Is People” Rev. Edward R. Danks, First Presbyterian Church, Burbank, California

Vesper Prayer and Benediction Rev. Robert Bingham, M. Div. Moderator Presbytery of San Fernando

Postlude “Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying” Johann Walther

***Ushers are requested to seat worshippers



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

10:00 a.m.

THE DEDICATION OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

February 20, 1977

Prelude "Fantasia" Dennis Ehrhardt, Organist
Johann Pachelbel
Troit "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" Joachim Neander

Gathering for Awareness Elder Gail Baldwin

Elder We gather this day for worship because we are people—created beings with needs beyond the realm of the physical. Our Lord said, "Man shall not live by bread alone."
People We are human beings, created in God's image—but we have been distorted and crushed by life and sin.
Elder We come this day to see Christ anew, and to hear the Good News of what life can be. We come to have faith strengthened and hope renewed so that we may live as forgiven and forgiving children of God.
People In Christ Jesus, God has extended forgiveness and love, and the power to restore His image within us; His love and forgiveness making us new creatures.
Elder Let us lift up our hearts and voices in praise of the God of life and love and hope, and the Giver of life that is eternal.

Praise 31 "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

The Dedication of the Windows

Pastor "O Lord, . . . there is no God like Thee, in heaven above or on the earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to thy servants who walk before Thee with all their hearts . . ."
People "Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee: how much less this house which I have built!"
Pastor We give You thanks that men of skill and devotion have prepared for us these stained glass windows to speak to us of the Christ and Your eternal promises; to assure us of the Sacraments: to assure us that we are tied to You as the vine and branches; to speak to us of the Son of God incarnate, crucified, dead and buried, and risen—our reigning Lord and Savior.
People We dedicate the Christ window and pray that its beauty will speak to many as they pass on the way in the world and as we worship.
Pastor We give You thanks that we are called to be the Church like a city set on a hill to show to all mankind Your promises; that we have been called to share Your promises as clearly as the rainbow; that we are to give stability to the people as Christ gave it to His disciples in the boat on the Sea of Galilee.
People We dedicate the Church window and pray that its beauty may speak to many years to come and remind us of our responsibility.
Pastor As You called Moses by the sign of the Burning Bush, call us and every future generation to the awareness that we are indeed on holy ground and are to respond with service to the living God and our fellowmen in their needs.
People We dedicate the Burning Bush window and pray that its beauty will speak of God's presence in all of life and His call to us to serve as fellow workers with Him in His Kingdom.
Pastor We recall the past and the windows that spoke to us and to our community since 1923 and we pray that in their renewed form they will continue to express the message of the Church; the power of God, the forgiving love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in all of life.
People We rededicate the windows of the past to the sharing of the eternal message to generations yet to come and worship in this Church.

Praise 137 "Blessing and Honor and Glory and Power"

Old Testament Word Psalm 90 Selection 20

Anthem "Lift Up Your Heads" Handel
Chancel Choir Maurita Thornburgh directing

New Testament Word John 16:25-33

*** Silent Prayer Pastoral Prayer Response

The Ritual of Friendship

The Presentation of the Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "What Offering Shall I Bring to Thee?" Moravian Hymn
Doxology

Anthem "Clap Your Hands, All Ye People" Sheldon
Teensing Kathryn Headley Directing

A Time for Hearing

Now Questions Rev. Robert Bingham, M. Div.
Why am I so lonely in this world?
"I am not alone, for the Father is with me." John 16:32b

Praise 85 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Pastoral Benediction Choral Response

Postlude "Tocatta in F Major" D. Buxtehude

***Ushers are requested to seat worshippers at these points during the service

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The Building Committee presented Mr. Jos Maes with an interesting and difficult problem to solve: use as much of the old stained glass as possible as you create for us new windows that will continue to proclaim our faith. His answer can be seen in the Narthex Chapel area windows which make use of the medallions from the old Church windows reset in the opalescent glass from the 1923 Church and interfaced with new stained glass to carry the theme into the new windows of the Sanctuary.

THE CHRIST WINDOW

Mr. Maes presented for our consideration two concepts—Christ and the Church as the bearers of the message and promises of God. The story told by our stained glass windows begins near the Communion Table, on the right side of the Chancel. Dominating the window is the traditional IHS expressing Jesus Christ as the Light of the World and the Son of God. Through the coming of Jesus Christ into the world and human life we are reminded, through the vine and branches, that we are united to God by His love and forgiveness. This forgiveness and love is made real to us through the Communion elements of bread (wheat) and the cup (grapes) which have been shared by this Church since 1891 and in the 1923 Church. The Cross is central in this window, as it is central to the message of Jesus Christ, and proclaims the Good News of the Gospel; that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). Placed on the Cross is the ancient symbol of the Butterfly which proclaims newness of life and Resurrection.

THE CHURCH WINDOW

The Church window begins in the upper left hand corner with the representation of the City set on a Hill (Matthew 5:14) and its command that we are the light of our world in these days after the coming of Jesus Christ. In the center of the window is a boat—an ancient symbol for the Church—and also a reminder to us of the many times that our Lord taught the people from a boat and a continual reminder that we are to share the Word of God in our time on earth. Cutting across the boat is the rainbow, reminding us of the promises made to Noah and to all mankind of God's love and forgiveness. In the lower part of the window is the anchor—reminding us to anchor ourselves in the promises and Word of God and to share such promises with all people who are tossed about on the sea of life.

THE BURNING BUSH

The Burning Bush window is placed behind the Chancel wall—in full view of the Choir. Since 1923, the Burning Bush symbol has been visible to our Choir and calls us all to the vision of service and the awareness of God's presence in all of life. In the Bush is the symbolic representation of Jesus Christ through the Chi Rho Greek letters, proclaiming Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever; promising to be with us always as we serve our God.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD WINDOW

The Good Shepherd window in the Narthex Chapel was seen for many years in the highest point of the Church as it faced Newhall and Market Streets, and was lighted at night to show the continual care of God for his people. Originally the window was dedicated to Alexander Hume, one of the charter members and active in the early church school efforts before there was a Protestant Church in the area. The window was presented in his memory by the children of the Church School after his death. It is fitting that this window be placed in the center of our Narthex Chapel area which is a continuing memorial to those early residents of the Valley who established the first Church in 1891. The window will be lighted at all times, and in front of it will be displayed on a rotating basis the original pulpit, baptismal stand and front, Communion Table and Chalice, the clergy bench, pump organ, and a pew from the 1923 Church, as well as an oak table used in the old Church.

NARTHEX CHAPEL

On the walls of the Narthex Chapel are pencil sketches of the 1891 Church drawn by Elder Erwin Neumann and the 1923 Church drawn by Miss Betty Pullar. The names of those memorialized in the old glass windows have been placed on a bronze plaque in this area. Copies of early Newhall Signals taken from the 1923 Cornerstone have been reproduced, along with copies of the first dedication and rededication of the former Church buildings.

We are happy to have our stained glass windows—old and new—proclaim the reason why we gather as a people called by God to share faith, hope and love with one another and our world.

THE CHANCEL CROSS

The Chancel Cross is featured in the center of the Chancel area and is made from a beam from the original Church building constructed in 1891. Building Committee Chairman Jerry Veenendaal and Eugene Ballif created the Cross from timbers saved when we demolished the old structure which was used as housing since 1925. Square nails and redwood siding were used to make Crosses presented to all who attended the Ground Breaking service on March 7, 1976.

THE SEALING OF THE CORNERSTONE

3:00 p.m.

February 20, 1977

“Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone.” Ephesians 2:20

Choral Call to Worship

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

The Chancel Choir

The Invocation

Rev. Robert Bingham, M. Div.

Pastor

Moderator, Presbytery of San Fernando

“O Lord, You are the only foundation and the chief cornerstone of the Church: bless what we now do in Your Name, and let these stones planted in the floor areas of this Church be to us and to our children the symbols and pledge of Your presence. Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Your most gracious favor and further us with Your continual help; that all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Thee, will bring glory and honor to Your name. Hear us pray in the name of Jesus who taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

The Scripture

I Corinthians 3: 10-17

The Apostles' Creed

Reaffirmation by the Congregation

The Replacing of the 1923 Box and Cornerstone

Elder Gail Baldwin
Elder David Moore
Deacon Lucile Ford
Rev. Robert Bingham

Clerk of Session
Chairman Trustees
Chairperson Deacons
Pastor

The Placing of the new Box and Cornerstone

The Sealing of the Cornerstone

Mr. James A. Hill, Contractor

Rev. Robert Bingham, Pastor

Elder David E. Moore

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: we seal these stones in this building erected on the foundation of Jesus Christ and under the name of the First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and we dedicate and seal them until in the wisdom of God we are called upon to rebuild again for future generations or He returns.

The Prayer of Dedication and Sealing

Anthem

“Bless This House, O Lord”

Praise

“All People that on Earth do Dwell”

Psalms 100

“All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

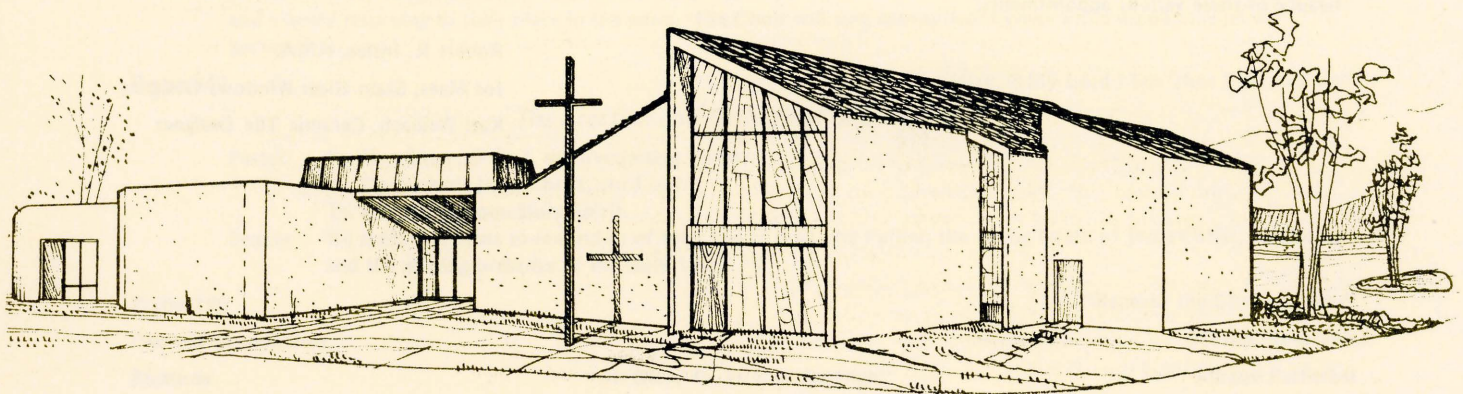
“Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

“O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

“For, why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.”

The Benediction

Choral Amen



"BUILDERS CREED"

"When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delights, nor for present use alone; let it be such work as our descedents will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them "See! this our fathers did for us."

John Ruskin

Devout believers always have made extreme personal sacrifices to find and establish a place of worship. Many hardships were endured and history records that the earliest houses of worship were unpretentious and simple in appointment, and often in secret locations. As Christianity spread over the face of Europe, a new freedom of mankind was expressed in building, to the glory of God, edifices which have become renowned for their beauty and magnificence. These structures, particularly of the Medieval and Renaissance periods, required many years to erect and seldom were completed within a generation.

The new Sanctuary for the First Presbyterian Church in Newhall in its architecture of simplicity and dignity, still expresses man's relationship to God and his desire to honor God by offering only his best. The style is not bound by tradition, nor should it be, since it is important that the Church building be representative of the period in which it is erected. The architecture of the design, is reflection of the desire to combine a material expression of man's relationship to God, present day construction techniques and materials, and the functional application of all building units to meet the church's total program requirements.

The success of a Church building project depends in large measure on the validity of the program requirements as established by the Church authorities. The First Presbyterian congregation, through it's Pastor and Building Committee, determined that the Sanctuary should be established not only as a landmark in the community to symbolize its tradition of many years of service, but that it also be a structure to provide the necessary space and liturgical arrangement for corporate worship in the reformed tradition. The shape of the Church evolved out of the committee's study involving many months of time.

Suggestive of the "reformed" tradition the wood Communion table, with its inlaid ceramic artwork, rests as a free-standing unit on the quarry tile Chancel floor. The pulpit, symbolizing the "word" has been carefully located to emphasize this important item of furnishings.

The arrangement of the pews to the Chancel area was designed to emphasize the historic Protestant tradition of the importance of the preaching of the Word of God and the fellowship of God's people about the Communion Table.

The universal language of symbolism is one of the rich heritages of the Christian faith and the worshipper may experience many enriched moments in reading the iconography portrayed by the beautiful stained glass windows and the symbols for the Chancel furnishings. The stained glass windows have been executed by one of California's outstanding glass artists. Some of the original stained glass panels or medallions in the First Presbyterian's Sanctuary have been incorporated in contemporary window designs.

The Chi-Rho symbol on the pulpit consists of the two Greek letters used to abbreviate the name of "Christ" and clearly proclaims the truth, "I believe in Jesus Christ, His Son, Our Lord". This symbol is one of the most ancient of the so-called monograms of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is superimposed over the famous Alpha and Omega symbol. The former expresses Christian knowledge as well as the word, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." The Alpha and Omega proclaims that Jesus Christ is the beginning and end of all; He is the first and the last.

The leg supports for the Communion Table are decorated with interwoven symbols of the Cross and the Vine, the grape leaf and grape fruit. These symbols are also interspersed on the pew ends.

Natural materials and applied color play important parts in supplementing and accentuating the desired atmosphere. All materials including furnishings have been carefully selected for texture and color to focus the attention of the worshipper to the Communion Table and Pulpit. All items of furnishings and the liturgical artcraft are of original design to conform with the basic design of the structure and expert craftsmanship has been employed to execute and achieve the beauty of these various appointments.

Robert R. Inslee, A.I.A.

Jos Maes, Stain Glass Windows Designer

Karl Weibach, Ceramic Tile Designer



*"God sends no churches from the skies
Out of men's hearts must they arise."
Edgar A. Guest*

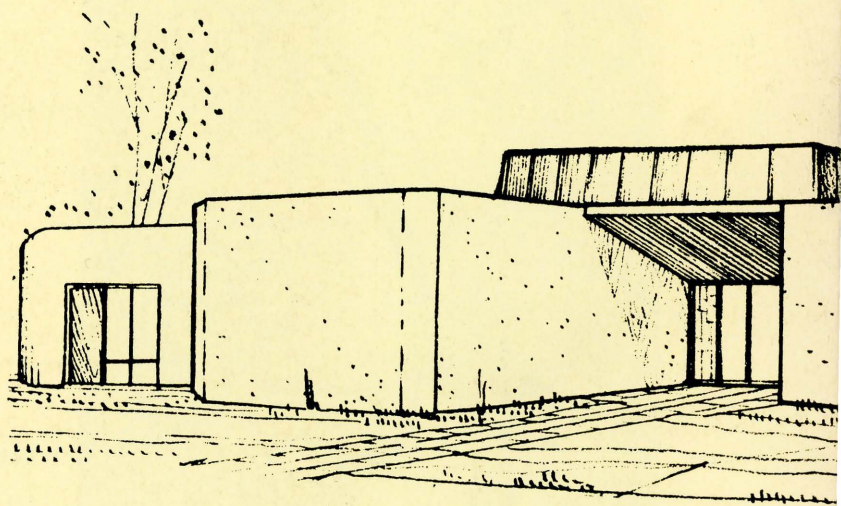
1878

1891

1922

1976

Serving Jesus Christ and this community



**Dedicated to the Worship of God and
to the service of men.**