

## Crossroads Presbyterian Church History



*The Lakes Presbyterian Chapel – October 1956*

Crossroads United Presbyterian Church began as a new church development through funds made available by the Presbytery of Detroit - particularly a special grant from the First United Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, Michigan. With the assistance of couples from the Birmingham church, the first building used by the church on the twenty-acre site was a dog kennel; the building was transformed into a chapel. Fifteen families attended the first worship service on Sunday, October 21, 1956.

The organizing pastor was the **Reverend William L. Rieker** who started in June 1954 canvassed the neighborhood for those without a church. The former dog kennel was named The Lakes Presbyterian Chapel in March 1957. Sunday School was held in the basement of Charter Members, Roy and Marion Thompson, across the dirt road from the church property.

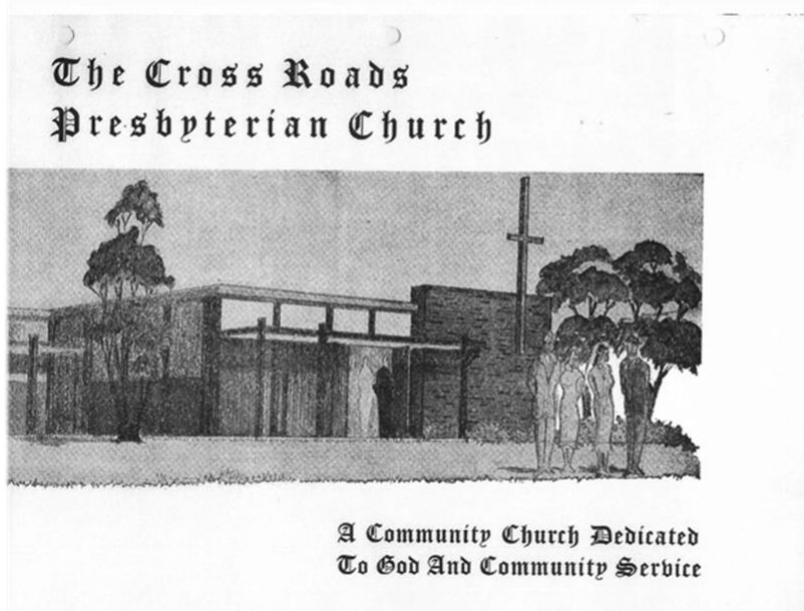


*Reverend William L. Rieker*



*Ground Breaking for First Unit – June 1957*

A year later with the assistance of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham again, a mission unit was constructed. Ground was broken for this first church building on Sunday, December 8, 1957. The building was a pre-fabricated unit costing \$34,000.



The first worship service in the new unit was held on Pentecost, 1958 with representatives from the Presbytery of Detroit.

The Crossroads United Presbyterian Church, located on Welch Road between Pontiac Trail and West Maple Road, in Commerce Township, was officially organized as a congregation on May 25, 1958. The congregation was comprised of seventy-seven charter members.

**The Reverend William L. Rieker** was called as its pastor and installed October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1958. "A Community Church Dedicated to God and Community Service". Reverend Rieker served until January 31, 1960 when he resigned his pastoral relationship with Crossroads to continue graduate work in Ann Arbor.



*Cross Roads Presbyterian Church Potluck*



**The Reverend J. Albert McCrory** from Akron, Ohio was called to the Crossroads Church and was installed as its second pastor in March, 1961. In the eventful years that followed, the church membership grew to such a size that new facilities were needed. In April 1961, there were eighty communicant members; at the yearend of 1965, there were two-hundred ten members!

The Crossroads United Presbyterian Church became debt free in July 1965, when the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham belatedly paid via the Presbytery of Detroit, the remaining mortgage of the first unit.



At that time, the Crossroads Session named a Building Committee to accommodate a larger congregation in a sanctuary. The members of the committee were: Gerald McArthur, Chairman, William Lang, Assistant Chairman, James Boardman, Lottie Chambers, Genevieve Gaines, James Harrison, Dr. William Rech, Douglas Snow, and Wilfred Weikel.

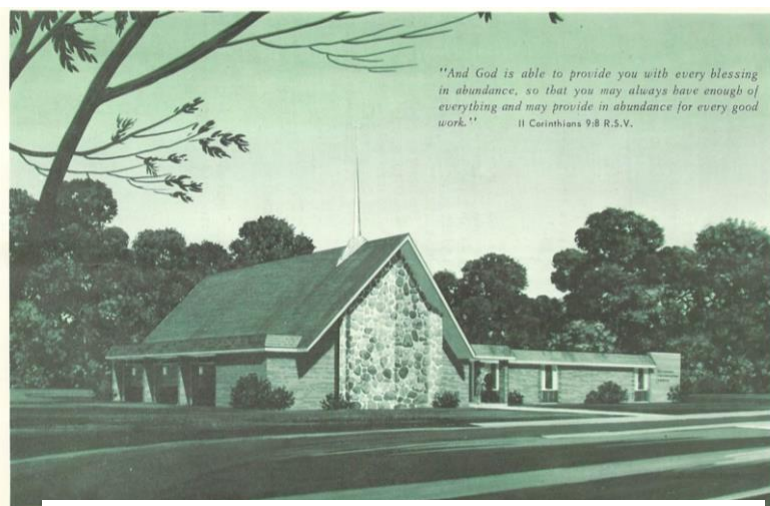
At the recommendation of the Building Committee, the architectural firm, Merritt, Cole, and McCallum was chosen to draw up plans for a new building and the remodel of the present structure. The plans were completed by the architect in the fall of 1966. These plans and a method of financing were then approved by the Session, the congregation, and the Presbytery of Detroit. The total cost of the project was \$143,361 which did not include the architect's fee or the church pews.

*Gerald McArthur and Reverend McCrory*

The contractors chosen for this job were Ray Misch & Son, Inc. as the General Contractor, Lawrence Electric, Electrical Contractor and Huron Valley Plumbing & Heating, Mechanical Contractor.

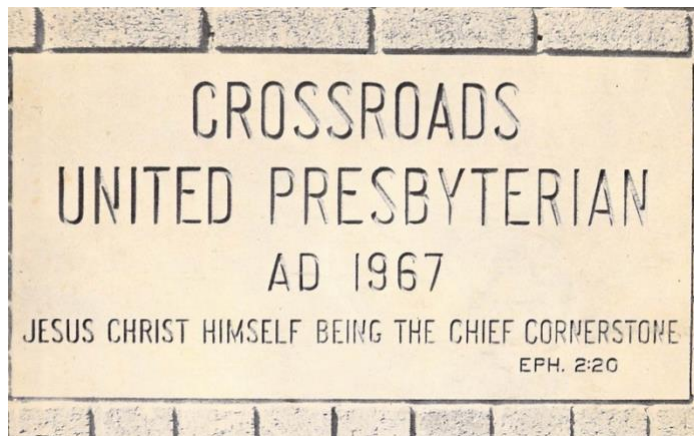
In February, 1967, a Building Fund Campaign was held with a Director from the Board of National Missions. Roy Thompson was the Local Campaign Director. The campaign was successful with the pledges totaling \$52,403 ... to be paid over a three-year period.

The Ground Breaking Service for the new building was held on Sunday, July 9, 1967. Work began by the Ray Misch, General Contractor of Bloomfield Township in the middle of August.



*Sanctuary by Architect - 1966*

Crossroads Presbyterian Church ... History



*Dedication October 1967*

The Cornerstone Laying Service was held Sunday, October 29, 1967. As of this date there were two-hundred sixty-nine communicant members. The following items were enclosed in the cornerstone: The Crossroads constitution and bylaws, membership list, members of the Session, the church history, attendance records for the Church School, Junior Church, and Cradle Roll, the 1968 Budget, Building Committee Members (Pamphlets and Publicity), Holy Bible, hymnbook, and church bulletins.

Dedication of the new sanctuary, "A Dream Comes True" was held in June 1968. Speakers included Dr. Robert J. Yolton, the Executive of the Presbytery of Detroit, Dr. Thomas A. Bailey, Moderator of the Presbytery of Detroit, Elder Ted Koella, First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac, and the Crossroads Pastor, The Reverend J. Albert McCrory. The new sanctuary seated 200 persons and the previous sanctuary became the Fellowship Hall. During a decade of leadership by Reverend McCrory, the congregation more than tripled in size. Reverend McCrory resigned in July 31, 1971 to take a call in Hobart, Indiana.



*Reverend Deirn J. Geard*

In June of 1972, the **Reverend Deirn J. Geard** came to Crossroads and was installed as pastor in October 1971. Under his leadership, the church continued to attract new members and become more involved in the ministry to the community. Under the leadership of Reverend Geard, the Board of Deacons was established in January 1973 with William Allred as the first Chairman. A church membership responsibility list has been assigned to the individual Deacons also assumed the responsibility for the coffee served after the Sunday morning services. The first deacons included Vivian Fogle, John Harless, William C. Spurr, Nancy LaChance and Jill Long. "The Board members feel we have great potential for the growth in our service to the church and assistance to the Session."

In December 1974, the **Reverend Richard I. Peters**, came to Crossroads Presbyterian Church from western Pennsylvania. Rick was formally installed in February of 1975. The congregation continued its steady growth patterns as well as deeper involvement in outreach and service. The General Mission of the Presbyterian Church General Assembly was supported by a percentage of the annual budget. A Major Mission Fund received pledges up to \$20,000 in 1980. Special denominational collections were made to One Great Hour of Sharing and others.



*Reverend Richard I. Peters*

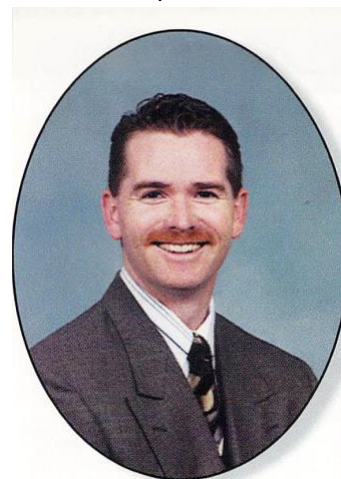
Under Reverend Peters' tenure, the Session voted to extend the building to include an educational wing. Local outreach was extended by participating in the CROP Walk, the hunger relief agency of Church World Service. The FISH clothes closet was located in the Little Chapel and congregants donated food and clothing for distribution through this local charity. The Little Chapel was used for free temporary emergency housing by Oakland County. Fellowship Hall was leased to the Treasure Box Child Care, Inc. Reverend Peters was a member of the Walled Lake Ministerial Association. Reverend Peters was called to the Rosedale Garden Presbyterian Church in October 1989.



*Youth Group 1990's*

The **Reverend Clark D. Cowden** arrived in August 1991 from Indiana and was installed at Crossroads in October 1991. He came to Crossroads during the third church building phase, a new Fellowship Hall and an Educational Wing which included six new classrooms. The Little Chapel was removed to make room for the addition. A contemporary worship service was added to the traditional service. There was a mid-week evening program for elementary students, Middle High Youth Group and a Senior High Group, Vacation Bible School, and the Walled Lake's Biggest Banana Split!

Crossroads celebrated its fortieth year of ministry in the Lakes in 1998 ... "pastors, members, and friends have gathered every Sunday to hear the Word of God preached and taught, to care for one another, to grow deeper in the faith and to ... share the difference Christ has made in their lives ...". Clark resigned in July 1998 as he was called to serve in California.



*Reverend Clark D. Cowden*



*Reverend John H. Pavelko*

The **Reverend John H. Pavelko** was called to Crossroads Presbyterian Church in the August 2000 after serving Eastmont Presbyterian Church in Wenatchee, WA. John was the sixth called pastor. In 2006, John completed his Doctor of Ministry from the Fuller Theological Seminary. Over his twenty years with Crossroads, John lead us as a shepherd. He was responsible for spearheading our Community Garden which provided produce to the local food bank, Hospitality House. He also shared his musical talents with our music team.

His wife, Carol led the Women's Bible Study during his ministry and also the Sunday Adult Class. During his time with Crossroads, John survived his second bone marrow transplant and recovered his strength to lead us in worship and service. He has encouraged others based on his personal experience.



*Abigail, Carol & John Pavelko*



*Reverends J. Pavelko, C. Cowden, W. Emrich, R. Peters*

In June 2008, Crossroads celebrated its Golden Anniversary. Three pastors returned to mark the occasion ... Reverend Clark D. Cowden, Interim Pastor William Emrich and Reverend Richard I. Peters. Current members and friends welcomed previous members and staff to the event.



*Crossroads Community Garden - 2009*

With the guidance of the Pavelkos, a Community Garden was started the following spring 2009 utilizing the acreage behind the church. Volunteers planted and tended the garden and plots were available to the community. This mission has continued to the present time providing tons of produce to Hospitality House.

Crossroads offers free meeting space to Alcoholics Anonymous, literacy tutoring, a nutrition group, and has lease agreements with Premiere Preschool and the Seventh Day Adventist Church for weekly use. Happenings have included the Women's Bible Study, Adult Sunday School, making blankets (Fleece and Thank You), and Deacon activities celebrating the seasonal events. The Brunch of Thanks has been an annual event marking the end of the stewardship drive.



*Little Free Library - 2016*



*Crossroads Club - 2018*

A Little Free Library was added to our landscape. A special needs ministry (Crossroads Club) was started in 2017 providing young people the opportunity to gather for fellowship events.

However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Crossroads has been closed to in person worship since mid-March. In June 2020, the **Reverend Dr. J. H. Pavelko** who had served Crossroads for almost 20 years, retired from his position due to health concerns. We were fortunate to contract **Joshua J. Archey**, Commissioned Ruling Elder as our Interim Pastor. The Session is enthusiastic about Joshua's leadership.

The members and friends have continued their financial support by fulfilling pledges. Our worship services have continued on YouTube since April 2020 and all meetings are accomplished via Zoom. Even though our church membership is much smaller than at its peak, the members are committed to this community and revitalizing after the pandemic. Crossroads Presbyterian is proud to have two faithful founding members on the roll: Lomila Chamberlain and Henrietta Snow.



*Joshua J. Archey blessing the blankets - 2020*