

STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Rev. Jerald Landrey, left, pastor at Sun City's Faith Presbyterian Church, drops burning paper symbolic of the church's debt into a pot held by former pastor Rev. Fran Park.

After 15 years, Faith pays off

DEBT FREE: Church turns sights toward helping others

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It was 15 years in the making, but Faith Presbyterian Church is now paid for.

In 1985, church members undertook a project to build the second phase of their two-part building project, adding a two-story administration center and a sanctuary to the church at 16000 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City. Church officials borrowed money from members for the project, and Tuesday afternoon they announced that all the debts were paid in full.

"I feel great about it," said Ray Schroeder, associate pastor. "This is a great day for the church to be debt free. And we have the members of our church to thank for this. That's why they were all invited today."

The church celebrated its financial freedom Tuesday with a ceremonial mortgage burning in which a piece of paper meant to represent the mortgage was lit on fire.

Although the church borrowed money for its expansion, it wasn't exactly a mortgage it had to repay, as money was borrowed from members rather than a bank.

"What we did is have members buy notes from us for a three-year time period, which we paid interest on, just like a bank," said Leo Baker, church finance officer. "A lot of people kept renewing the notes every three years, but today it's all paid back. We are debt free."

In all, about \$250,000 was borrowed and paid back by the church, and each note came in \$1,000 increments.

"I think this shows the amount of support we receive from our members," Baker said. "I also want to point out that this church pays its civic and

spiritual rent with some of the many community programs we support."

During the ceremony, church officials presented the Grand Canyon Presbytery with a check for \$20,000 so the organization can continue to conduct its work in communities and churches throughout the state.

Faith Presbyterian Church is also closing in on its goal to raise \$60,000 for a Habitat for Humanity House.

"Now that we are debt free, we will continue to do things in the community," Baker said. "Like I said before, we try to help wherever we can. And we want to thank all the people and members who have supported us in the past."

Faith Presbyterian Church was organized in 1973, and has almost 1,600 active and affiliate members in the Sun Cities and Northwest Valley.

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 876-2526.

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THE WESTER

Historic church service is set for Sun City

On Sunday, April 9, the members of four Protestant denominations will gather for a joint service overcoming 400 years of separation. The service will be held at 3 p.m. in the Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, for members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Re-

formed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Church of Christ.

The service will be the first local celebration of the "full communion" status which became official in 1999 after years of study and dialogue. Being in "full communion" means mutual recognition of clergy, worship and preaching, and the sacrament of Communion among the denominations.

Preaching will be the Rev. John Thomas, president and general minister of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio. Clergy and lay leaders from 11 churches in the Sun Cities will also participate. Following the service there will be a time of light refreshment and fellowship.

The public is welcome to attend.

Religion

Church's donation provides joyous music for Dysart schools

By CHRIS RASMUSSEN
Surprise Independent

The sounds of music may not presently ring in the halls of Dysart schools — but thanks to a donation from a Sun City church, that may soon change.

Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City presented the Dysart Unified School District with a \$10,000 check in an effort to help the troubled district reinstate part of its music program.

The district was forced to cut several extra-curricular activities — including athletics, art and music — when district voters turned down a \$1.5 million override last May.

"The donation is part of an ongoing ministry here at our church," said the Rev. Francis W. Park. "It was money that we had not spent all year and we wanted to see it go to a good cause."

Rev. Park said the donation was made with an agreement the money would be used to reinstate the district's music program.

"We have a good feeling about

public education," he said. "And we feel music is an important part of the education program.

"Besides there are already efforts to help reinstate the athletics, so we wanted to help out another area. We didn't want music to get left behind."

The Rev. Park said the decision to make the donation to Dysart wasn't a hard one.

"We made the donation partly because of the image that older, retired people are not concerned about public education," he said.

"We wanted to dispel that image

"We have a lot of church mem-

bers who tutor and volunteer at Dysart. This is all a part of what we do and who we are as a church," he said.

Faith Presbyterian donates one-third of its budget each year to organizations outside of its congregation.

Dysart school officials could not be reached for comment because of the holidays.



Church donates \$10,000 to Dysart

Dysart School Board President Mitch Eickmann, right, accepts a \$10,000 check from the Rev. Francis Park of Faith Presbyterian Church of Sun City during last month's school board meeting.

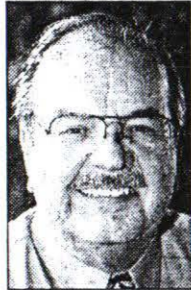
Time of transition

Interim pastor helps church see its future

By JEFF OWENS
Staff writer

The way the Rev. Jerry Hill sees it, he has two main jobs during his temporary stay at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City.

As the interim pastor in a church struggling with declining membership, he is helping the congregation define who its next pastor will be, and how the church will deal with Sun City's generational shift from the "we" generation to the "me" generation. He has his work cut out for him.

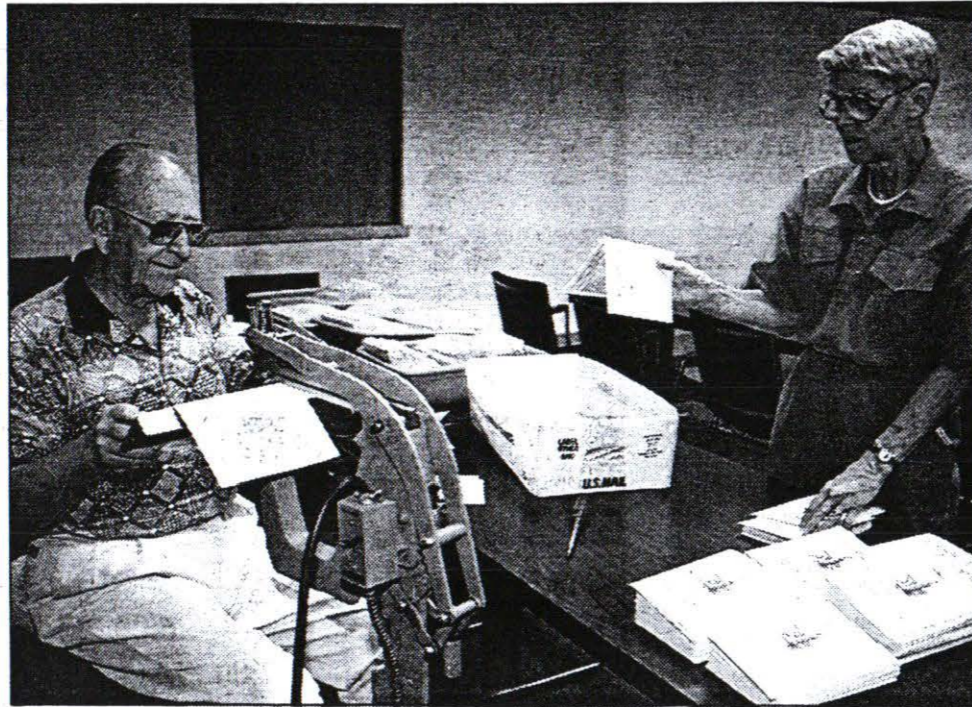


Hill

"The responsibility I have is to lead this congregation through this transitional time," he said, a characteristic slight twang in his voice.

Hill said Faith Presbyterian is now "reassessing its future" as the Baby Boomers inexorably wrest Sun City from the children of the Great Depression and World War II.

Church membership has fallen steadily, but Hill is optimistic about



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Faith Presbyterian Church redecoration committee members Marge Ahlman and Jack Snyder prepare booklets announcing the changes for mailing to church members.

Faith's ability to remain vital into the next millennium.

"We've lost 500 people in the last five years — that's serious," he said. "But I've found this congregation exceptionally willing to hear and pursue a description of its new future. See, that's one of the strengths of this congregation."

Hill arrived May 1, 1998, fresh from a two-year interim stint at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Mo. Originally from Texas, the "preacher's kid" lived all over the Midwest before settling in Oklahoma, where he spent 31 years serving two congregations.

In the Presbyterian church, interim

pastors get one year; renewable up to two years, but no more than that.

Hill attributes his confidence in Faith Presbyterian to the fact that his predecessor, 14-year pastor Fran Park, left the church in great shape.

"This is the healthiest congregation I've ever been in as an interim pastor," he said.

He said that with the Boomers on the way in, Faith's staff was doing great with providing pastoral care, but had no handle on growth. How to get the Boomers?, he asks.

"Saying 'Brother, are you saved?' just isn't going to make it," Hill said.

"We need to appeal to the needs of the rising generation," he added. That generation belongs to the Boomer, who, Hill said, won't go to church unless he perceives that there's something in it for him.

Hill flat-out says to them "We have something here for you" — a church with a tradition of strong, solid leadership, "the best pastoral care" of any church he's found, and effective community outreach programs.

He wants growth, but not too much growth. "This is not going to be mega-church," he said, with disdain in his voice for the modern mega-church trend.

A church committee is currently seeking a new permanent pastor, with help from Hill.

"I lead them to defining their issues," he said.

Sadness tinges anniversary celebration

Congregation bids farewell to pastor

By JEFF OWENS
Staff writer

It is a time of happiness and sadness at Faith Presbyterian Church. The staff and congregation are of course happy that the church is in the midst of its 25th anniversary celebration this month, but the joy is tinged with the sadness of knowing that the Rev. Francis Park III will soon leave.

Park, the church's pastor for the last 14 years, has announced his retirement.

Park will officially retire on April 1, but he will deliver his farewell message this Sunday, because he has the entire month of March off.

"As of February 28, I'm done," he said.

Park had the opportunity to retire last August, but wanted to stick around to see his church's two-month celebration get going this month.

"I thought, 'Oh, we'll get the anniversary started first,'" he said.

A Faith Presbyterian search committee is currently looking for an interim pastor. The search for a permanent new pastor cannot begin until after Park has formally left his post on April 1.

It is a post that Park assumed on Jan. 1, 1984, when Faith Presbyterian was considerably smaller than it is today. On his watch, the church has expanded to a major Sun City house of worship, with the chapel, offices and classrooms all built during his term.

Park admitted that he hasn't quite come to terms with the change he's about to make. "In some ways, it hasn't



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

The Rev. Francis Park, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, has announced his retirement. His church is celebrating its 25th anniversary this month.

really hit me that I'm not going to be working."

It might hit him once he gets out and hits a few golf balls, though.

Park said that while he's ready to hand over the reins, he's also very happy about the opportunities to be-

come involved in people's lives that his work at Faith Presbyterian has brought over the years.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it," he said. "They're a great group of people to work with. It's been a wonderful congregation and we've done a lot of inter-

esting and exciting things."

Park and his wife, Sue, plan to continue living in Sun City. He has accepted an invitation to attend the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for several weeks upon his retirement, where he will serve as Distinguished Pastor in Residence for the spring semester.

A Pennsylvania native, Park went to public school in Chicago and Cleveland, and received his bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. He graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1957, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Cleveland that same year.

He currently serves on Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's board of directors and the Council of Grand Canyon Presbytery. He is chairman of the Presbytery Council's Planning and Evaluating Committee, and is director of Aging Creatively Today/Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Off Campus Study Center.

Closer to home, he is president of the Northwest Valley Community Council, a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, and a member of the Sun City Lakeview Rotary Club Board of Directors. He is listed in "Who's Who in Religion."

The celebration of Faith Presbyterian's 25th anniversary began on Feb. 1 with the rededication of the church's refurbished sanctuary. On Feb. 8, the Rev. Robert Shelton, president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, led the Sunday worship service, and a 100-voice choir from Pasadena, Calif., performed on Feb. 15.

The public is invited to attend each Sunday at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. to join in the anniversary celebration. Faith Presbyterian Church is located at 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd.

SC church benefits W. Valley

By Lori Baker

The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — Faith Presbyterian Church members say they have provided about a \$5 million ministry helping West Valley residents during the church's 25-year history.

In a recent example of their outreach, the Rev. Francis Park III presented \$10,000 from church members to the Dysart Unified School District to help the financially strapped district reinstate part of its music program.

"We feel music is an important part of the education program," Park told Dysart board members at a December board meeting.

Church members also have donated thousands of hours helping the Westside and Agua Fria food banks, Sun Health, Interfaith Services of the Sun Cities and numerous Presbyterian and ecumenical outreach ministries.

"The caring congregation has been responsible for getting Sun City's hospice program off the ground, and the West Valley Crop Walk for Hunger was the brainchild of Faith's peacemaking and social concerns committee," said Rick Carus, associate pastor.

Carus said about \$5 million has been contributed by church members in the hundreds of programs they've held over the past 25 years.

In commemoration of its silver anniversary, Faith Presbyterian, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., has a two-month celebration planned for its 1,500 members. At 8:45 a.m. Sunday, former pastors will attend services and a congregational banquet is planned for the afternoon. J. Davis Illingworth, Faith's organizing pastor, will be among those attending.

Meanwhile, Park is retiring effective April 1 after serving 14 years as pastor.

"The new millennium Faith faces beckons with ever-greater challenges upon pastoral leadership and the personal resources of energy that will be needed," Park said in his retirement request.

He said he is most proud of initiating the Aging Creatively Today program. Started in 1987, ACT is a special ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church in cooperation with the seminaries of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is designed to help seminarians and pastors prepare for ministry with older adults. The purpose is not only to determine the needs of older adults but to recognize their abilities.

Park, who along with his wife, Sue, will continue to live in Sun City, will be serving as a distinguished pastor in residence at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary this spring.

Carus said an interim pastor will serve at Faith while the congregation searches for a pastor.

Cleric's gift

Joan Miller heard call from God and answered

By KIMBERLY HICKS
Daily News-Sun staff

Like many working women of the '90s, Joan Miller is learning how to strike a balance between her full-time job and family.

Unlike most other 30-year-old career women, however, she dons a pastoral robe and goes to work in a sanctuary.

Joan Miller — the Rev. Joan Miller — is the youngest associate pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City. She was approved by a vote of the congregation May 23 and began her duties as an associate pastor for specialized care Wednesday.

Working in the ministry has enabled Miller, a former U.S. Navy chaplain, to answer a calling she first felt as a teen.

"I had a very real sense that if I didn't do this, my life would never be as God had intended it to be," she said.

Miller said her position in Sun City suits her gifts as a cleric, although she learned about Sun City only last year, when she began a nationwide search for a ministerial position.

"In the military I was working with the opposite end of the spectrum — 18 and 19-year-olds," she said. "They (the church) were looking for someone who could spend time with people during difficult transitions.

"I've been with people in difficult times; whether they're 20 or 80, a crisis is still a crisis. The age may differ, but the emotions are much the same," she said.

Her military and ministerial careers began in April 1989, shortly after she graduated from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Conn., with a master's of divinity degree.

"I joined the reserves while I was in the seminary as a chaplain candidate," she said.

After graduating Yale she joined her husband, Dan, a naval flight instructor, in Virginia Beach, Va.

However, she said finding a ministerial position was difficult, so she signed up for active duty, and was assigned the chaplaincy aboard the

'Any pastor wants to be a presence in the lives of their congregation, and be able to reach out in God's name to people at difficult points in their lives.

The Rev. Joan Miller
Faith Presbyterian Church

U.S.S. L.Y. Spear.

In July 1991, her unit was deployed to the war-torn Persian Gulf.

"It was an intense time period," she said, recalling how Dan's unit had been deployed to the region aboard the U.S.S. Forrestal two months earlier.

"We had been given notice that our ship would deploy ... it was just a matter of when," she said. "It was actually kind of a relief to go. The sooner you go, the sooner you come back."

She said being separated from Dan added to her anxiety; although their ships literally passed in the night once in the midst of the Mediterranean Sea, Joan and Dan were not reunited until November 1991.

Ten days later, they were transferred to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where Joan was an associate pastor for youth ministry and oversaw a chapel program.

Being a chaplain enabled her to expand her ministerial duties to suit many denominations, she said.

"I think you find most chaplains, regardless of their denominational affiliation, are very open-minded," she said.

The Millers agreed to leave the service when their tours were over. Joan, who signed up to serve in-

definitely, left the service in July.

Dan will remain at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, Miss., for another year.

See Desert assignment, B4

Desert assignment

Post near college is blessing for pastor

From B1

Joan, who is settling in Glendale in the meantime, said she is concentrating on her new position, with hopes of becoming a vital spiritual presence in the community.

"Any pastor wants to be a presence in the lives of their congregation, and be able to reach out in God's name to people at difficult points in their lives," she said.

She also is preparing for what could amount to the greatest challenge in her life: motherhood.

Not long after visiting Faith Presbyterian Church in May,

'Being here is an enormous blessing. We never imagined we'd wind up here, but by the power of God, we did.'

The Rev. Joan Miller

the Millers found out their first child is due in December.

Joan said she was assured her pregnancy would not interfere with her ability to minister in Sun City, which came as welcome news.

"We (she and Dan) needed an area where there is a major airport and a major university nearby so Dan can either pursue a career in commercial flight or go back to school," she said. "And I wanted to become an associate pastor near a major metro area.

"Being here is an enormous blessing. We never imagined we'd wind up here, but by the power of God, we did."



Kimberly Hicks/Daily News-Sun

The Rev. Joan Miller is the youngest associate pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City. Miller, 30, began her duties as associate pastor for specialized care Wednesday.

What you see is what you get

Pastor's wife enjoys life being natural

Years ago, a pastor's wife was expected to dedicate herself to church business and spearhead programs to help the less fortunate. Although some have continued in the tradition, others may live a different life today. Some pursue careers of their own. Others may take liberal positions on issues their husbands' congregations do not support. The following article is the second in a series that explores the lives of ministers' wives.

By **KIMBERLY HICKS**
Daily News-Sun staff

As far as Sue Park is concerned, there is only one problem with being a minister's wife.

"It changes the subject of a conversation immediately," she said. "As soon as I say I'm a minister's wife, I hear about someone in their family who was married to a minister. It's as if they have to 'match you' or prove they are religious. I wish the conversation could just be natural."

After all, natural is all Sue has ever been during her 40-year marriage to the Rev. Francis Park, pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City.

"What you see is what you get," she said.

What you get is a college graduate and former educator who supports feminism and said she has drifted away from conservative political beliefs.



Stephen Chermek/Daily News-Sun

The Rev. Francis Park and his wife, Sue, say they have forged a strong partnership since they met on the campus of the College of Wooster in Wooster,

Ohio, more than 40 years ago. The Parks have lived in Sun City nearly 10 years. Rev. Park is pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City.

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Pastor's wife is 'very human'

—From B1

I had to come home and deal with all the bills and things like that," Francis said.

Francis said he was "trained well" to be a sexist, but supports feminism and finds Sue's opinions helpful.

When he wonders how members of the congregation might react to a new program, for instance, he turns to Sue.

"I think he uses me as a sounding board," she said.

Sue recalls being inside a hardware store and seeing a member of Fran's congregation.

"She was so surprised to see us in a place like that. People seem to think that we don't need nails and screws. ... But we think we're very human."

"I was a latch-key kid before anyone knew what that was," she said. "I was given a lot of responsibility and taught to think for myself."

Sue still thinks freely, although she admits she'll keep some of her views to herself.

"I try not to say things I think would shock people. And I consciously avoid saying things that would jeopardize Fran."

"But I have never felt the church made life miserable for me. I've always thought being a minister's wife was super."

Growing up, Sue was active in the church. As a child, her aspiration was to be a missionary.

"I always thought it would be special to be part of a minister's family," she said. "So marrying a minister seemed natural."

Francis said he and Sue have forged a strong partnership since they first met on the campus of the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

They were married during their senior year, and immediately began supporting one another.

Sue studied English and French and earned a teaching certificate.

Francis was a political science major. He was chairman of the Wooster Young Republicans and considered a career in politics.

Disheartened by politics, however, Francis entered the seminary while

Sue taught junior high school English.

After Francis' ordainment, Sue took time off from work to raise their son and two daughters, and "make a home for Fran."

It was a decision they made together after realizing the demands put on a minister.

"Fran is a very dedicated minister. At times I wish he was a little less dedicated to the church and a little more dedicated to me — especially when our children were little," she said. "But, because I take care of all the nitty-gritty of our daily lives, he doesn't have to expend energy doing things like paying bills or taking care of repairs."

She also became, and remains, an

active volunteer.

She is a former board member of the Sun City Community Fund and volunteered with Meals of Wheels for nine years.

At present, Sue is a plasma and platelet donor.

"I do it every two weeks," she said. "That gives me a lot of satisfaction. It makes me feel good to know I'm helping other people."

She helps Francis as well, offering her insight and the support that enables him to build a stronger ministry.

"Literally, she manages the house and our personal matters, so when I'm home, it's a time for me to get rejuvenated. I wouldn't be able to do that if

See Pastor's wife, B5

Faith church has surpassed expectations

By KIMBERLY HICKS
Daily News-Sun staff

The Rev. Davis Illingworth remembers contemplating seven acres of land on Del Webb Boulevard with visions of building a church.

What he never imagined, however, was founding what would become one of the Sun Cities' largest churches, Faith Presbyterian. Today, it boasts a membership of more than 1,800 people and provides support programs and ministries locally and around the world.

"No, no, I never thought it would be like this," Illingworth said, recalling the days when he was sent to Sun City by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon to establish the community's second Presbyterian church.

"When I came here, the community was growing. People responded to the kind of programs we had in our church. We were blessed with many good people."

This month, the church at 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd. is celebrating its 20th anniversary — and two decades of community support.

Among its most-noted achievements was helping to establish the Royal Oaks Life Care Center in Sun City.

Congregation members provided interest-free loans, creating a pool of money that enabled the care center to open its doors, said the Rev. Francis W. Park, pastor.

"It literally did grow out of Faith Church," he said.

Park, who became pastor when Illingworth retired in 1984, said the church's programs today range from providing blood-pressure screening and programs for the visually impaired to donating one-third of the church budget to mission programs worldwide.

Other programs include Aging Creatively Today, in which seminary students and ministers are taught how to work with senior citizens; the Care Ministry, which puts church members in touch with people who have experienced hard times; and the Deacon Neighborhood Areas program. Thirty-nine deacons and volunteers help people in "neighborly ways," such as shopping or running errands.

Volunteers play a major role in church activities and have contributed to its growth and success.

"We live by volunteers," Park said. "Everything, from the printing of our bulletins to answering our phones, is done by volunteers."

The church relies on 200 volunteers on Sundays alone to assist with worship services. That number more than doubles the number of people who attended the first service in 1973 inside a Lutheran church.

In the early days, the congregation met in a variety of places, including a

restaurant, Lakeview Center and the Alco Theater.

The sanctuary, designed by Dean L. Glasco Architects, was completed in 1978.

During the past 20 years, 14 men and women have served as ministers. Each of them will take part in anniversary services Sunday.

"We have come a very long way," Park said. "Another minister in town told me, 'Faith church is programmed and organized to help people live well.' That's sort of our slogan."

Events to mark Faith Presbyterian Church's 20th year begin Sunday with "Anniversary Sunday." Services are scheduled for 8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Illingworth will return to the pulpit to deliver the sermon.

"My theme is 'Let the Church Speak,'" he said. "My point is, the church is 20 years old and it certainly would want to say something."

"I ask that the congregation imagine my words and my voice are that of the church. I will say there are some things that make me happy about the church and some things that make me sad. Speaking as the church, I'll say I'm proud of my age and grateful for the clergy and the people who, throughout the years, have been a part of my life."

Charter members of the church and present and past ministers will be recognized.

Church historian Helen Brown has prepared two videos tracing the history of Faith Presbyterian.

The first, which focuses on its formative years from 1971 to 1980, will be shown at 10 a.m. Monday in Illingworth Hall. The second, highlighting growth during the past 11 years, may be seen at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

And a congregational dinner to honor former ministers, charter members, elders and deacons is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Feb. 14 in Lakeside Banquet Center, 10484 Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City.

Pianist Mac Frampton will entertain. Tickets are \$12.50 and are available in the church office.

For information about anniversary events, call 974-3611.

JVF



Stephen Cherek/Daily News-Sun



The Rev. Davis Illingworth, above at left, founding pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Francis W. Park, current pastor, stand next to a Celtic cross in the church's courtyard. The Sun City church is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month. At left, Rev. Illingworth is shown as he posed for a similar picture two decades ago, next to a sign announcing the church would be built. Illingworth said the church started with little more than seven acres on Del Webb Boulevard; today the church boasts 1,800 members.

Wednesday, March 17, 1982 NW The Arizona Republic

Congregation is viewing loss of pastor with mixed feelings

Retired in style

By Glenn B. Sanberg
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY — Dr. J. Davis Illingworth, senior minister at Faith United Presbyterian Church, has announced that he will retire in July.

The action sent shock waves throughout the congregation that since has been followed with sadness, anxiety and the paradox of happiness.

To those who have watched Illingworth, 64, lead a missionary church founding from infancy to a healthy, mission-minded congregation inching toward 2,000 members, the end of his era brings understandable sadness.

Others ponder the natural letdown in church loyalty that almost always follows long-term leadership change. To them, Illingworth is Faith Church.

Personal friends, however, take a more optimistic view. At long last, they said, Illingworth and his wife will have a chance to pursue some personal interests that the demands of the church have made impossible.

Some parishoners still don't like to talk about his leaving. When asked about his departure, many just shake their heads and look away.

While the congregation worries and plans for the day their leader puts his ecclesiastical robes, Illingworth seems unconcerned about his future plans.

He says he still is too busy to make many plans and that God always has taken him by the hand when the future was uncertain.

Faith always has been an Illingworth trademark, and by his smile, one knows it still is working. His faith has followed him through his career in the ministry.

Born and raised in Ohio, where his father was a Presbyterian minister, Illingworth graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and later obtained a divinity degree from what now is Pittsburgh Seminary. His first charge in Petersburg, Ohio, oddly enough, was the same church where he was baptised and to which he brought his young bride, Jeanne.

Pastorates in Pennsylvania churches followed as well as calls to West Virginia and New York State. In 1965, he was named General Presbyter of North

Coastal Area, Synod of California. Three years later, he was named Executive of Gold Gate Synod, a post he held until moving here in 1972.

"The Logic of Love" was the title of the first sermon preached in November 1972 to a congregation of 75 people in the Fellowship Hall of Fountain of the Hills Lutheran Church.

Jeanne played the piano for the hymns.

It was a modest beginning, but the theme had been established. Concern for others became a contagion that was to ignite a spirit comparable to the mustard seed, which has been used ever since as a symbol of limitless growth and power for good.

A modest man, Illingworth is quick to caution care in ascribing too much credit to him for the progress of the church.

The recent development of Royal Oaks, the multimillion-dollar life-care center, now is emerging from the drawing boards, is an example.

Commenting on the enthusiasm displayed by the 1,200 people who attended three explanatory meetings last week, Illingworth said, "This was really not my idea. It was Roe Walker's dream from the first."

He said that Walker, president of People of Faith Inc., suggested three years ago that Sun City needed a life-care facility and that Faith Church might take the lead.

People of Faith, the named used in the development of the idea, became a realizable goal when more than 800 people, mostly members of the church, provided seed money in the form of interest-free notes. With the down payment on a 30-acre site in hand, the project became financially respectable.

While a group of dedicated lay people have carried the heaviest workload of development, they all agree that without the encouragement of Illingworth, the project never would have succeeded.

Realizing this, the church's Board of Trustees have asked Illingworth to assist them starting Jan. 1, 1983. Eventually, they would like him to become the chaplain at Royal Oaks.

Meanwhile, Illingworth's plans for the first months of retirement are flexible.

"I think we'll spend a couple months at our summer home at Lake Winona, Indiana," he said. "After that, I've got some work to do on my Model A Ford, and then there's the garage."

He said that a friend visiting here from Titusville, Pa. had said he was sure it was the messiest garage in Sun City.

OVER



Roy Cosway/Republic

Dr. J. Davis Illingworth, minister at Faith United Presbyterian Church

"to GOD be the GLORY"

Outstanding Features Of Our New Church MEMORIAL TOWER

One of the prominent features of the new church is the 65 feet in height tower and Celtic Cross which stands at the front of the church. The tower and cross stand as a majestic reminder of Christ to the thousands of motorists who pass it daily.
From the top of the tower, beautiful melodies of faith cascade down and bells sound forth each hour during the daylight hours.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AND DOORS

The central window is the Faith Window. In the center is found a mustard seed surrounded by a tree of life with birds nesting in the branches and all against the background of a beautiful Arizona sunrise. The colors are then picked up by the doors and narthex windows.

THE ORGAN

The Allen three manual organ is a memorial gift. It is one of the few three manual organs in the area and is computerized for programming a whole service of worship. It was installed by the Allen Organ people in Phoenix to give the finest acoustical properties to the organ.

THE COMMUNION TABLE

The carving of the Lord's Supper was hand carved in Oberammergau, Germany, and the table built by a leading furniture company in Cleveland, Ohio.

THE PRAYER GARDEN

Though not a part of the Sanctuary, yet one of the outstanding features of our building complex, is the prayer garden located between Westminster Hall and the Sanctuary. One of the features of the garden is the Celtic Cross handcrafted by Charles and Matilda Snee and mounted on a lava rock behind a reflective pool.

This month the Faith United Presbyterian Church celebrates the dedication of the new building...a new Sanctuary...new Office Facilities...new Memorial Tower and new Prayer Garden. As we celebrate our dedication, no other sentiment seems more appropriate than "to GOD be the GLORY".

"to GOD we give thanks"

- For our loyal members who gave so generously of their time and talents to make our Dream a Reality
- For the community where we live
- For our friends in other churches and synagogues

"we give GOD our thanks".

Brief History Of Our Church

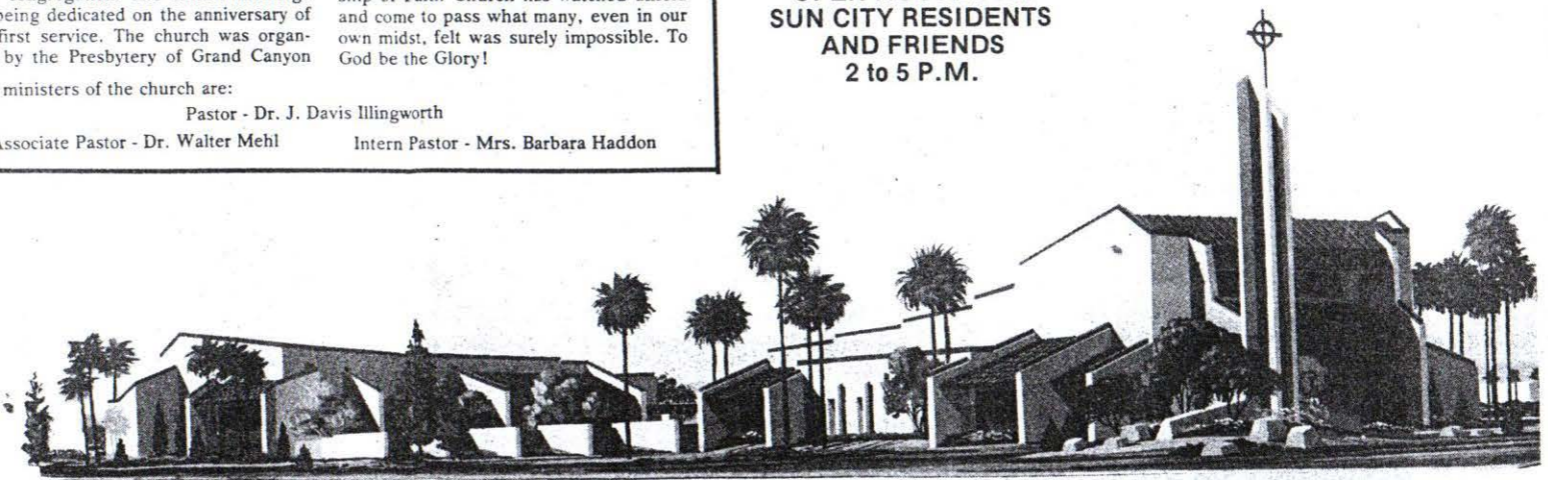
Faith United Presbyterian Church held its first service of worship Sunday, November 5, 1972. The first services were held in the Fellowship Hall of the Fountain of Life Lutheran Church through the kindness of their congregation. The church buildings are being dedicated on the anniversary of the first service. The church was organized by the Presbytery of Grand Canyon on Sunday, February 4, 1973, with 89 charter members. Today the church has a membership of over 1300 and they have completed the building program that had been planned. In six years the membership of Faith Church has watched unfold and come to pass what many, even in our own midst, felt was surely impossible. To God be the Glory!

The ministers of the church are:
 Pastor - Dr. J. Davis Illingworth
 Associate Pastor - Dr. Walter Mehl Intern Pastor - Mrs. Barbara Haddon

CELEBRATION EVENTS

- SUNDAY, NOV. 5, DEDICATION SERVICES**
 9 and 10:30 a.m. Guest Speaker — William P. Thompson, stated clerk of the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
- SUNDAY, NOV. 12, CANTATA - "ALLELUIA"**
 A praise gathering for believers," this beautiful cantata will be presented by the Chancel Choir at our worship services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.
- SUNDAY, NOV. 19, WORSHIP AND DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL GIFTS**
 OPEN HOUSE FOR SUN CITY RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS 2 - 5 P.M.
- SUNDAY, NOV. 26, "A FESTIVAL OF BANNERS"**
 This service of Praise and Festival of Banners will depict symbols of the various creeds of our church.
- WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29, DRAMA - "THIS IS YOUR FAITH"**
 A cast of the Faith Drama Club will present scenes of the early life of Faith Church.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 19th
OPEN HOUSE FOR
SUN CITY RESIDENTS
AND FRIENDS
2 to 5 P.M.**



Faith United Presbyterian Church

1600 N. DEL WEBB BLVD.
Church telephone
974-3611