

THE WESTER Thursday, September 7, 2000

SCW Presbyterians break ground



Members of the Desert Palms Presbyterian Church congregation in Sun City West recently attended a ground-breaking ceremony for the church building expansion program. Participating in the ceremony were (l. to r.) Robert Dahl, chairman, Session Property Committee; Jack and Miriam Schuler, Associates for Property, Presbytery of Grand Canyon; the Rev. Kenneth Moe, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Grand Canyon; James Overlock, Desert Palms Corporation president; Lois Shook, church historian and the Rev. Bernad W. Nord, pastor of Desert Palms.

Photo, Ray Bushnell

SCW

B2 Friday, Oct. 18, 1996 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Desert Palms welcomes pastor

Staff report

Dr. Peter Hintzoglou is the new pastor at Desert Palms Presbyterian Church in Sun City West.

Hintzoglou comes to Desert Palms with 25 years of experience as head of staff for other churches with large memberships. He cites as his major contributions, preaching, teaching, visitation and "equipping the people of God for the work of ministry."

Hintzoglou's previous pastorates were at Silverlake Presbyterian Church, Fallbrook Presbyterian Church and Concord Presbyterian Church, all in California.

He was born in Athens, Greece, in 1941 as World War II struck the country. He came to the United States at the age of 19 knowing only 300 English words.

Hintzoglou enrolled in Barington College as a scholarship student and graduated summa cum laude in 1965. He later earned another scholarship which enabled him to get his Doctor of Pastoral Theology degree at Fuller Theological Seminary.

Since 1970, Hintzoglou has been adjunct professor of New Testament at Fuller. He has kept his birth language and is



Dr. Peter Hintzoglou

able to read and translate directly from his native Greek. This knowledge has contributed to his ability as a Bible teacher.

Hintzoglou views pastoral work as caring for the total person and, in his preaching, applies the scriptural message to everyday life.

"God is personal, though infinite, seeking to bring men and women unto Himself through Jesus Christ," he said.

Hintzoglou and his wife, Elaine, have two children, Timothy, 23, and Stephanie, 21, both of whom reside in California.

SCW church reflects Southwest

Third in a weekly series

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

With its rounded walls and vaulted ceiling, the sanctuary of Desert Palms Presbyterian Church looks, to some, like a traditional Navajo *hogan* — a hexagonal, dome-shaped home built by Southwest Indians.

But for architect Tom Casey, who designed the sanctuary of the Sun City West church nearly 10 years ago, the unique shape was not intended to reflect Indian architecture.

It was born from the congregation's requirements for light and seating.

"There was no effort to make it look like a hogan. I think that is their interpretation," said Casey, an architect with Scottsdale's Taliesin Architects Ltd., national headquarters for the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.

Instead, Casey designed what he describes as an example of Wright's "organic architecture."

"The forms of buildings are derived not from any preconceived stylistic application, but from circumstances of the requirements of design," Casey said. "In their case, light and distance (from the pulpit) were very strong determinants in how space was used."

Primarily, members of the church's building committee wanted a sanctuary that would capture daylight, Casey said.

Casey designed a series of high, north-facing windows to catch the natural light, and an overhang facing south, to keep out the sun's heat.

Light also comes from seven chandeliers extended from the ceiling, but designed to project the light upward.

"They didn't want to see any points of light, so we had to resort to indirect lighting," Casey said. "The chandeliers had to project enough light off the ceiling so during evening services you could read the hymn book."

The second requirement set forth by church members was the location of pews in relation to the pulpit.

"They wanted all of the attendants to be within 50 feet of the pulpit," Casey said. "That, together with the requirement for natural light, became the primary determinants of the build-

ing.

"I think we met their requirements pretty nicely."

The high ceiling in the sanctuary was a third requirement established by church members.

"The configuration of the roof reflects a third-dimensional interpretation of the seating arrangement, which is in a segmented, circular fashion surrounded by a rather generous aisle," Casey said. "And in general, we tried to depict or interpret some type of exultation or spiritual content. High ceilings are one way to do that."

A large skylight colored in shades of purple, yellow, orange, red, green and blue is suspended above the altar. A large Celtic cross is mounted on the wall behind the altar.

Three years ago, the congregation added on a 530-seat fellowship hall, a small chapel, administrative offices and a columbarium, increasing the church's size 288 percent.

Casey's original design concept was continued throughout the building addition, said Guy Murphy, chairman of the property committee.

Except for fellowship hall and one work room, there are no square rooms, he said.

Instead each has angled corners, and the windows throughout the new portion of the church are triangular.

"We're not square with the world," Murphy said.

Another of the church's outstanding features is its spire, which juts more than 300 feet upward.

Casey said Del Webb's design review committee mandated a spire on all churches.

Desert Palms Presbyterian obliged, with one of the most unique designs in the community: The triangular tower is topped by three crosses sustaining a globe.

A triangle links the three crosses. The design, Murphy said, symbolizes the tying together of the trinity.

The globe, which Murphy described as "the inspiring light of Christ," is lighted by two bulbs, each expected to last 25 years.

"There are 50 years of light up there," he said.

Next week: Temple Beth Emeth

SCW



Stephen Cherek/Daily News-Sun

The distinct, rounded sanctuary in Desert Palms Presbyterian Church was designed by Tom Casey of Taliesin Architects Ltd., in Scottsdale. Another of the Sun City West church's unique features is its spire, a triangular tower topped by three crosses and a lighted globe.

Sun City West Presbyterians create unique house of worship

By SCOTT BONTZ
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Religions say God created the world. But houses of worship are created by men.

Some put much intellectual work into their constructions, trying through architecture to reflect denominational beliefs while meeting congregational needs.

One of the results of such an effort opened its plate glass doors Sunday. It is the Desert Palms Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at 135th Avenue and Stardust Boulevard.

Congregation members who helped plan the temple said there is no other just like it.

The building's heart is a half-dome with a 30-foot-high glass face. A wide masonry-block pier splits the face to support the dome's vaulted ceiling. A three-sided steeple reaches past the pier to double the church's height and end in a trinity of crosses embracing a glass globe.

Inside, ornamentation and curves are rare. Planes, lines and angles rule.

Pews for 500 people bend around the pulpit so no worshipper is more than 50 feet from the pastor. Hooded, triangular windows pierce facets of the dome, helping the northern main glass face to wash the sanctuary in

indirect sunlight.

Pastor Arthur Dahlberg said parishioners have told him they are pleased with the effect and the church.

Dahlberg studied church history and architecture for his part in the temple's creation.

The Desert Palms congregation, which will be 6 years old Monday, previously met in the Social Hall at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. The social hall was meant to be a temporary sanctuary, but Dahlberg said, "It turned out to be a long temporary."

The new church was five years in the planning. Parishioners have spent three years raising more than half the \$1 million cost.

A building committee of members surveyed what the congregation wanted in a sanctuary. Asked for were seating that brings parishioners together and close to the pulpit, lots of natural — but not harsh — light, acoustics sympathetic to both voice and music, and architectural expression of a reformed faith.

The church hired Taliesin Associated Architects to design the sanctuary. The firm's home is Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West in Scottsdale. Its members follow Wright's philosophy of "organic" architecture, in which buildings reflect their natural

surroundings and take form from space requirements within.

Of the Desert Palms church, principal architect Thomas Casey said, "It arrives at its sense of style by what they want to do inside of it."

He said the half-dome design made possible the tall north window that gives the congregation the natural light it wanted. He also said the dome helps create the "aura of the religious building," such as is found in soaring Gothic cathedrals.

"Well, here you can't build something as high as a cathedral, but you can construct a sequence of spaces that gives you that feeling," he said.

That sequence begins just inside the church's doors, where a narrow ceiling hovers less than 8 feet over the floor. Moving into the sanctuary, the ceiling steps up to a little more than 9 feet, then begins an angular ascent to 30 feet above the pulpit.

Casey said meeting the requirements of the congregation, which he said extensively studied other churches, as well as the criteria of the district presbytery and developer Del E. Webb Communities Inc. "took a generous amount of effort to still come out with a space."

"It's a thoughtful process that takes time to develop," he said of integrating a design.

Casey's initial plan did not include the cross-topped steeple. Instead, in the central pier, he wanted to replace strategic blocks with glass, creating a crucifix pattern that would glow with sunlight when viewed inside.

"They seemed to get the idea," Casey said of the building committee, "but they ran up against the developer. They (Webb executives) have a somewhat stereotyped vision of what a church should look like."

Casey scrapped the cross pattern and drew in a more conventional steeple, a move he said satisfied the developer without compromising the integrity of his design.

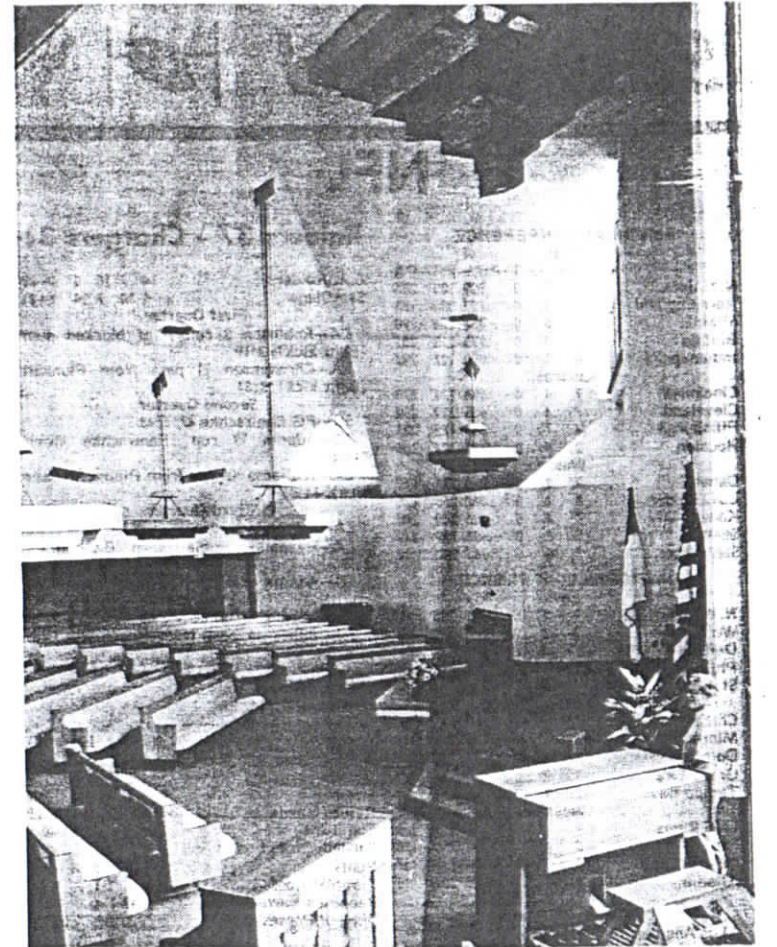
After all the planning, Casey said, construction took relatively little time.

Ground was broken in June. Congregation members with backgrounds in contracting, engineering and other fields lent their expertise during construction, prompting general contractor Gaston Major to say, "Never before have I worked for so many owners."

Dahlberg, church member Dave Busse and building committee members Phil Corbell, Arve Dahl and Andy Van Boeyen said it was thrilling to watch the temple rise after helping plan it.

Corbell said, "You feel like you built it yourself."

An open house to celebrate the new sanctuary and the congregation's birthday will be held 5-7 p.m. Sunday.



The Rev. Arthur Dahlberg surveys the Desert Palms Presbyterian Church sanctuary. Suspended lights, when on, shine upward to reflect off the white ceiling. (News-Sun photo by Scott Bontz)

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1984 NEWS-SUN A9

*Church to feature Taliesin design

—From A8

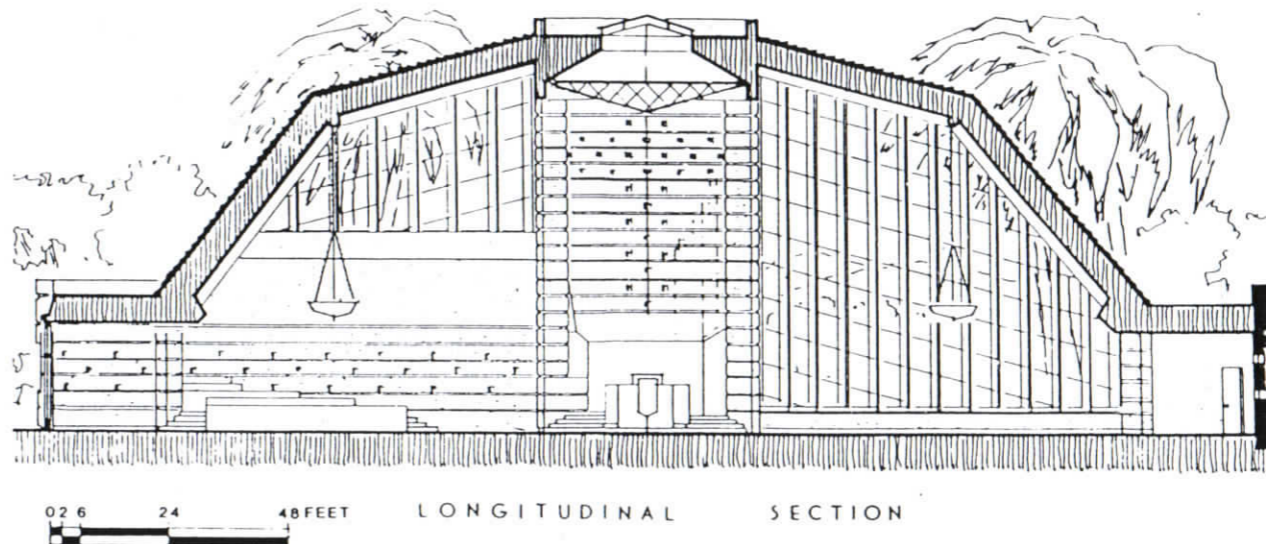
of all of the firm's activities in Iran from 1969-78.

From 1959-69 Casey was involved in completion of more than 25 projects designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, procurement and execution of new architectural commissions and continuation of the Taliesin Fellowship, the school of architecture.

Discussing other aspects of instructions from Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, he explained that church members asked for a fellowship hall and sanctuary to seat 500 people.

"IN ADDITION, they want every parishioner to be within 48 feet of the pulpit," he added. This then became the largest single element of the design. The dome he conceived has elements of geodesic design.

The preliminary plan, approved in concept, has steel beams exposed in the sanctuary ceiling. Interior surfaces of some of the masonry walls will be exposed to allow light through the pattern of small openings



Design by Tom Casey, Taliesin Associated Architects Inc., features north walls of glass which will flood the interior with lots of soft, natural light but keep most direct sunlight out.

seen in the exterior walls, such as in the cross.

Almost two-thirds of the north wall of the church will be glass screens supplemented by deeply shaded clerestory openings in the south facing facets of the roof. Perforations will provide soft colored lighting during day-

light hours.

A SMALL skylight illuminating a translucent colored ceiling panel will light the chancel from above. Chandeliers will provide indirect light during night use.

It is hoped that approvals will be forthcoming soon, so that construction options can be studied

and selected.

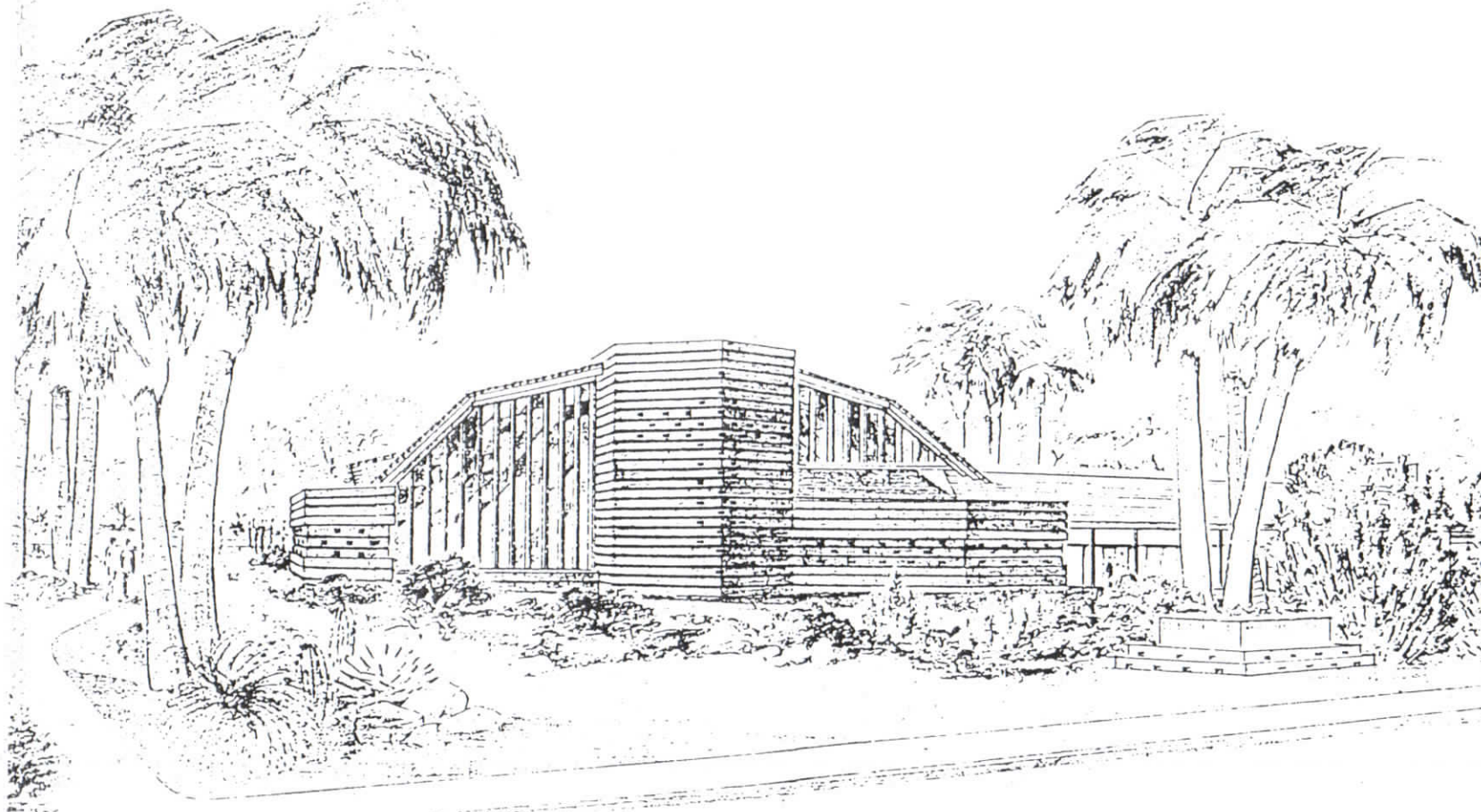
An official groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled for Sunday following Thanksgiving.

Parishioners hope to hold services in their new sanctuary, with part of the projected three acres of parking, sometime in spring of 1985.

COMPLETION SET FOR NEXT SPRING

Presbyterians OK church plans

A8 NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1984



The master plan for the \$600,000 Desert Palms Presbyterian Church of Sun City West has been approved by church planning

committees and parishioners. Approval must now be obtained from the area Presbytery for construction to commence.

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Small stained glass windows outlining the pattern of a cross in the north walls of the chancel will be visible from both 135th Avenue and the inside of Desert Palms Presbyterian Church of Sun City West.

The plans have unanimously been approved in concept by the Church Long Range Planning Committee, The Sessions and the Congregation. They have been submitted to the architectural review committee of the Del E. Webb Development Co., which will make recommendations within two weeks.

Then they must be approved by the Grand Canyon Presbytery, which has said that \$600,000 may be spent on this first phase of construction.

"LOTS OF ambient light, lots of natural light in the sanctuary was one of the elements requested," said architect Tom Casey in a recent interview with News-Sun staff writer Roberta Landman.

"Their site allows north facing windows toward the mountains in the distance ... that's very nice for light. If you position the building carefully enough, you're

never going to have too much sun," he added.

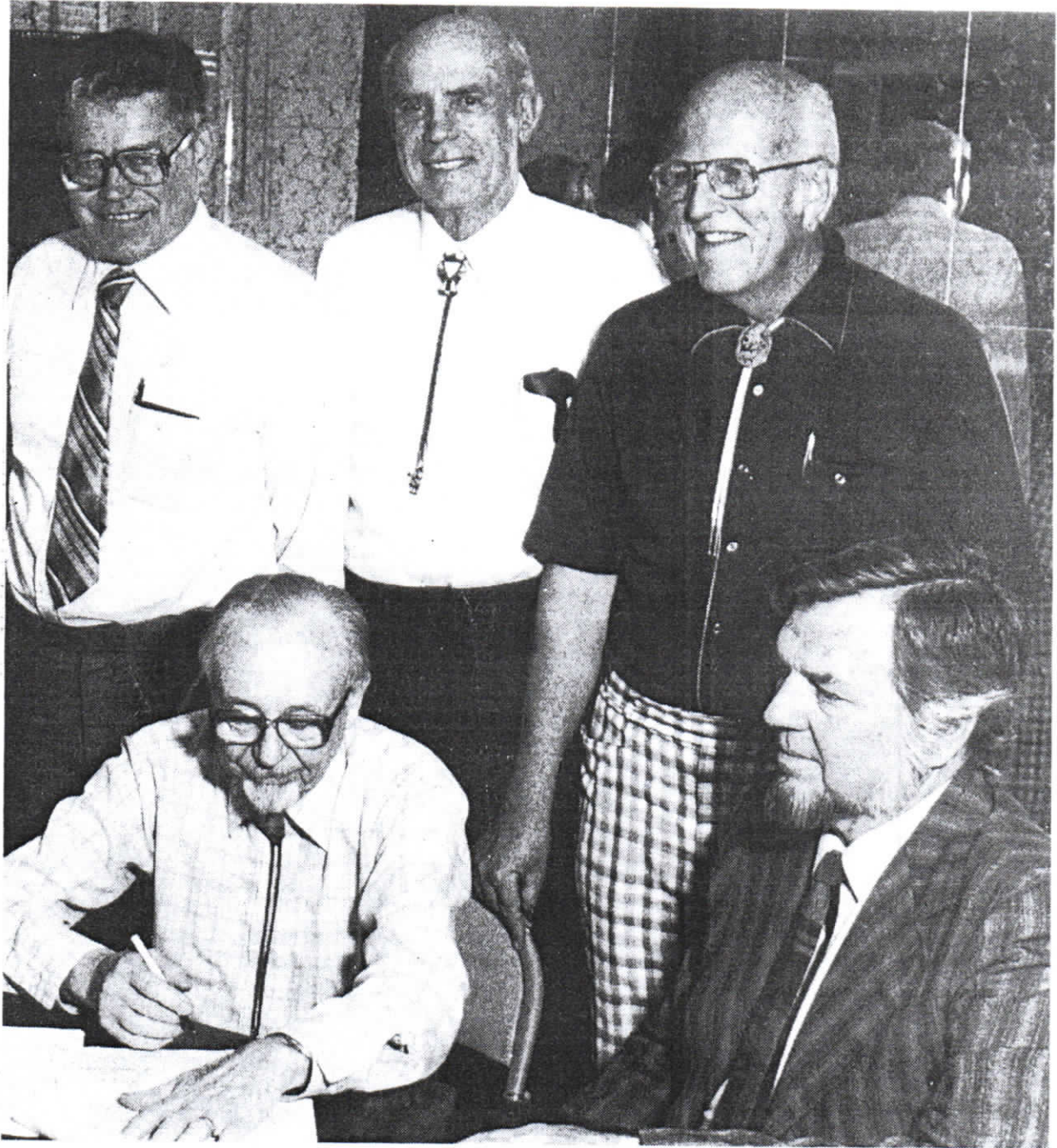
Casey's firm, Taliesin Associated Architects Inc., a subsidiary of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in Scottsdale, was selected by the church from a group of 12 architectural firms.

CASEY IS A principle in the architecture firm and is director of education in structural systems in the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. He was director and chief administrator

* Church, A8

OVER

A8 NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1984



Contract signed

Desert Palms Presbyterian Church signed a contract recently with Taliesen West architects to design a sanctuary. Clockwise from upper left, Rev. Arthur Dahlberg, pastor; Bob Thompson, planning committee; Don Lyle, treasurer; Tom Casey, architect; and Virgil Chamberlin, Presbytery treasurer, signing.

SCW church to receive charter

Special Sunday services will mark formation of a new Sun City West church.

Desert Palms United Presbyterian Church will receive its charter from the Grand Canyon Presbytery.

Rev. Arthur Dahlberg, organizing pastor, will welcome the presbytery commission, church members and guests at services at 7 p.m. in Johnson Center's social hall.

REV. PAUL Calhoun, interim organizing pastor, organized a Sun City West Presbyterian fellowship Dec. 2, 1979.

From the few founding members the fellowship grew to 66 members by last June 1, when Mr. Dahlberg became the organizing pastor.

Since then the group has grown to 132 persons now formally petitioning for membership in Desert Palms United Presbyterian Church.

The church has established the goal, "Every Member a Minister."

HELEN WARDLAW, ministries coordinator, has organized a variety of ministries, including 10 neighborhood groups that met during September and October to study the book, "How To Spell Presbyterian" and suggest names for the church.

The brass ensemble of the Monday Night Band of Glendale Community College will open the services.

Howard Soule, ruling elder at Sunnyslope Church of Phoenix and moderator of the presbytery, will lead the call to worship.

Rev. Shereda Benfield, assistant pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Phoenix, will give the invocation.

AL BELIKOW and Ruthagene Robinson of the Desert Palms Church will read passages from the Old and New Testaments.

Dr. Calhoun will lead in the pastoral prayer, while Rev. Douglas Wright, pastor of the First United Presbyterian Church of Sun City, will speak on "Pioneers, not Pillars."

Helene Gilchrist, choir director-organist, will direct the singers in "Good News" and "Bless the Lord O My Soul."

Mrs. Gilchrist also will play the prelude and postlude. Bob Ingersoll will be soloist.

AN ORGANIZATIONAL meeting will follow the services.

Moderator will be Rev. Robert Chapman, executive presbyter of Grand Canyon Presbytery. Mr. Dahlberg will present the names of those who have petitioned for membership.

Rev. Larry Corbett, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Phoenix and chairman of the local church commission of the presbytery, will re-

ceive the members.

Marilyn Stoops, chairman of the nominating committee, will present a slate of nine elders and nine deacons for election.

REV. J. DAVIS Illingworth, pastor of Faith United Presbyterian Church in Sun City, will lead the organizational-prayer and service of ordination and installation of officers.

Soule will present the declaration of organization.

Desert Palms was developed in cooperation with two other denominations.

THEIR GREETINGS will be delivered by Rev. Edward Hastings, executive of the United Church of Christ, and Rev. Bruce Jones, executive of the Christian Church (Disciples).

Greetings also will be given by Rev. Frederic

James of the United Church of Sun City and Rev. David Wasserman, co-pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church of Glendale.

A consecration service will be conducted at the site of the new church Saturday after an 8 a.m. breakfast in Crestview Restaurant for the congregation.

Bud Sluter will lead the caravan to the site at 135th Avenue and Stardust Boulevard. Dr. Calhoun will speak briefly and the congregation will share a litany of consecration.

W.J. VAN Lenten is chairman of the Charter Day committee. Lucille Witzigreuter is chairman of the reception committee.

Mrs. Stoops has coordinated the work of two groups making confessional banners to be presented to the church.