

**From the Jubilee Committee:**

## **Reverend Peter Brouwer Leads Our Congregation Through the Formative Years of Spiritual and Numerical Growth**



The week of our Jubilee Celebration is fast approaching and is, in fact, now less than two months away. The Lord willing, we will have the privilege of celebrating our first 50 years as a congregation with three of our former senior pastors returning to join our two current pastors this coming March 9-16, 2008. In this issue we will look at the ministry of our first pastor, Rev. Peter Brouwer.

After Chino Christian Reformed Church was organized on March 19, 1958, one of the first issues that our church had to deal with was to find a temporary place to worship while the Council was in the process of purchasing land and designing and constructing our permanent



**The Chino Community Building as it looks today**

house of worship. On Sunday, March 23, the congregation worshiped at the Ontario Christian Reformed Church, a service that was led by Dr. James Putt, pastor of the Ontario church. The following two Sundays, the Council rented the Chino Community Building on “B” Street at Tenth St. but immediately realized the auditorium was too small to hold our congregation for worship. The El Rancho Elementary

School multi-purpose room, located on “C” Street at Oaks

Avenue, was secured for worship and was rented until our facilities were completed. Among other fine points to address, a committee was established to set up a library. The Library Committee met a few obstacles such as one which led to the following bulletin announcement:

“All members having books from the 1<sup>st</sup> church [Ontario CRC] library please see that they are returned, if not by yourself, by some friend or relative. Others are waiting for these books.”

Also, since the facility was inadequate for a nursery, a plea was sent out requesting that a family



**El Rancho Elementary School Multi-purpose Room as it looks today**

be willing to provide their home for nursery usage. The following announcement was also placed in the bulletin on April 20: “The nursery committee is planning a nursery in the near future. This will be held in homes near the school [El

Rancho]. Will all the mothers who are interested in bringing children 2 years old and younger, please contact the committee, Mrs. Everett Ligtenberg, Mrs. Steve Van Hofwegen, or Mrs. John Verhoeven? Also others who are willing to work, and girls of 12 and over, please see this committee or sign the paper in the rear of this building.” The following week Mr. and Mrs. Jim De Vries, the parents of current members Pete De Vries, Cathy Smith and Liz Groen, whose home was located nearby at 13416 Oaks Street between Chino and Schaefer Avenues, willingly offered their home for the nursery and it was used until construction of our facilities was completed.

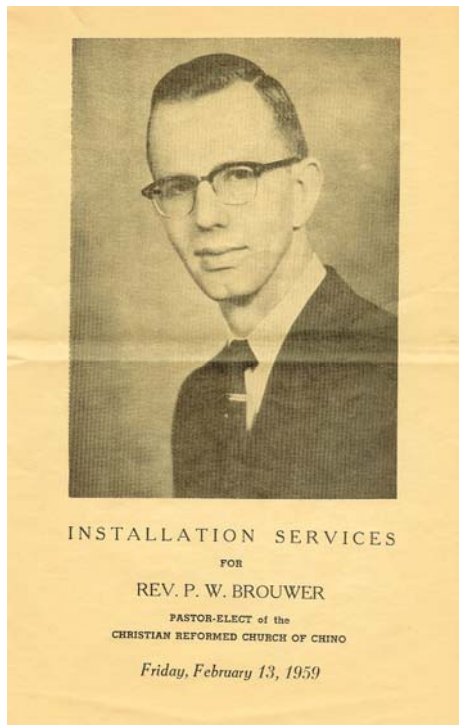
Plans were in place to offer a Young Peoples’ Society and the following announcement was placed in the May 4 bulletin: “The young people of our church are requested to meet at the Everett Ligtenberg’s home tonight,



**Main entrance to the back of the El Rancho Elementary School Auditorium**

immediately after the evening services. The purpose of this meeting is to organize our own Young Peoples' Society. Parents talk this over with your young people and urge them to be there. Remember: after the services.”

In the ensuing months, Mr. Bastian Van Elderen of Alameda, a student at the University of California School of Divinity and a future Calvin College professor, took the bus down from Berkeley nearly every weekend to lead the services. Rev. James Kok, pastor of the Chino Protestant Reformed Church agreed to fill the daily needs of the church in the interim of having a full time pastor which included ministering to the sick and elderly. Dr. Putt agreed to serve as counselor to the Council.



**Program cover for the installation services of Rev. Brouwer**

Our very first pastor Rev. Peter W. Brouwer, a 1953 graduate of Calvin Seminary, was soon to arrive to shepherd our flock. At the Congregational meeting held on December 1, 1958, the congregation elected to extend a call to Rev. Brouwer out of trio of ministers that included Rev. John Zwaanstra and Rev. Vincent I. Licatesi. A few weeks later, our young congregation received an exciting Christmas gift, as his letter of acceptance written on December 23 was received and read at the December 29 Council meeting. Following is that letter of acceptance:

Momence, Illinois

December 23, 1958

The Consistory and Congregation  
Chino Chr. Ref. Church,  
Chino,  
California.

Dear Friends,

For the past number of weeks I have been considering the call which you extended to me. From the information which was given me I can readily see that you have great need of a minister of your own. But the question remained: Am I the one to fill this need? I have made this a matter of earnest prayer; and I trust that you have also been praying about this. In answer to my prayers God has led me to feel that I should accept your call. So in response to your request “to come and help you”, I say, “I will come”. May this decision be pleasing to our God

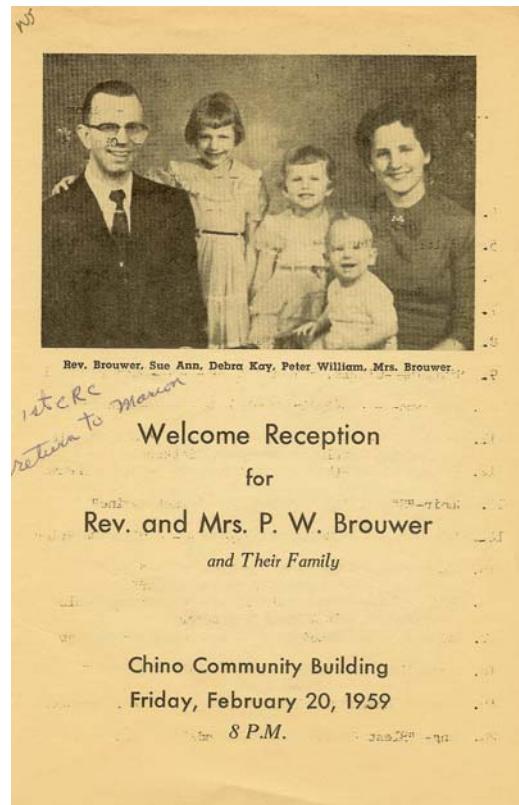
and the Head of the Church, our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is our hope and prayer that we may soon be united as pastor and congregation.

Will you now also raise with me a prayer of thanksgiving to God, who has so plainly led by His Spirit, and given grace to do His will? Will you also join with me in praying that the Lord may soon give the congregation in Momence another minister, too?

And now, I, my wife, and children extend to you our warmest greetings and wish you God's richest blessing.

Yours In Christ's Service,  
Rev. Peter Brouwer

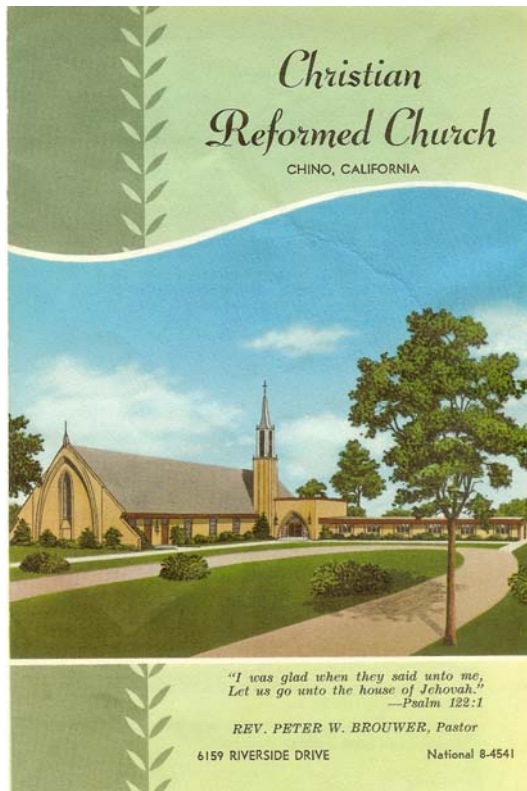
Rev. Brouwer began to make plans to move his family from wintry Momence, Illinois to sunny Southern California. He, his wife Phyllis, along with their children Sue, Debra and Peter would soon be adding to our church family. It was noted at the New Year's Eve service that our church family consisted of 71 families, 11 individual members, and 370 souls. It should be noted that Rev. Brouwer was paid an annual salary of \$5,000 plus an auto allowance of \$500 that first year. The Installation Service of Rev. Brouwer was held on Friday, February 13, 1959, and involved Rev. John Van Ryn who led the congregational prayer and read Scripture, our choir sang "Open Our Eyes", Rev. Kermit Rietema delivered the sermon, Rev. Isaac Apol gave the charge to the minister and Mr. Bastian Van Elderen gave the charge to the congregation and closed in prayer. The following Friday, February 20, a welcome reception for the pastor and his family was given by the congregation and was held at the Chino Community Building. A variety program including accordion duets and solos, singing groups and skits highlighted the evening. Rev. Brouwer concluded the evening with closing remarks and prayer followed by singing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" by the audience.



**Program cover for the welcome reception for the Brouwer family**

Rev. Brower immediately began to take an active role in leading this growing congregation. At the February 23, 1959, meeting the Council approved Rev. Brouwer's request to preach from the

Heidelberg Catechism beginning with Lord's Day 1 on alternate morning and evening services. The council also gave approval for him to lead various societies, including Young Peoples Catechism and Society meetings, which were initially held on Wednesday evenings. The Elders decided to put in place the long standing tradition of Family Visiting to each family of the congregation and to do it once per family per year. The visitation of families by the elders actually began during the Reformation. John Calvin felt the Roman Catholic practice of families coming to church to see the priest needed to be reversed and that the elders needed to instead go



to the homes of the families. This was affectionately called “Huis Bezoek” by the bilingual Dutch families in the congregation and for those of us who were children at that time a visit by the elders was a night of great anticipation and anxiousness. Many of us have fond memories of peeking through the window to see which elders were making the visit and if the “Dominee” would be one of them. A year later the Council decided to schedule Catechism classes on Tuesday evening and Young Peoples Society meetings every other Thursday evening. In April 1959, Rev. Brouwer began to lead Sunday School teachers meetings every two weeks. The next month, the young married couples received approval to organize a Mr. and Mrs. Club and in November Mrs. Floris Ykema was permitted to organize a girls club. It is also interesting to note there was no church secretary or even an office in the church during the years Rev. Brouwer served our church. All calls to the church were received at the parsonage where Rev.

**Bulletin cover in 1964**

Brouwer had his office. In the early days, Rev. Brouwer approved all the material for the Sunday bulletin and Jacob Schripsema typed and mimeographed the bulletin. A church secretary was apparently not hired until 1967, after Rev. Brouwer had moved on to another call. The first bulletins were simply printed on standard 8.5 x 11” paper with no frills but in the early ‘60s the bulletins were set up in much the same way as we have them today.

After Rev. Brouwer arrived, he was also very involved with the details of the construction of our edifice [as our permanent building was called in our Council minutes]. He was the prominent designer of our themed stained glass windows which illuminate our outside aisles in the sanctuary. [On March 9 after the morning service on the first Sunday of the Jubilee Celebration, Rev. Brouwer will explain to us how he designed those windows.] Since construction of the church was nearing completion, the Council decided at its meeting on August 11 to hold services there on August 23 but since the sanctuary was not quite ready, the first service at 6159

Riverside Drive was actually held in the Fellowship Hall. Another landmark event in the history of our church occurred on Thursday, September 10, 1959 when the Dedication Service of the new church building led by Rev. Brouwer took place. The following evening, a Service of Church Fellowship was held and Dr. Putt delivered the message. Our growing church family of 81 families and 428 souls could finally worship in our shiny new sanctuary.

With the rapid growth, it was essential for the church leadership to be well organized. At the January 5, 1960 Council meeting, it was decided to have one full council meeting once a month and separate meetings as elders and deacons. This would give the elders an opportunity to discuss Catechism classes, House Visitation, and discipline cases and the deacons the chance to count money, address benevolence situations and designate offerings. The Council approved to continue using the name "Consistory" for the combined meetings and "Elders" and "Deacons" for the separate meetings. In January 1961, the Council approved the request of young people to start a young adult society and in February 1962, the Men's Society accepted the responsibility to start the Cadet Corps program. In September 1964, the Ladies Society requested that Rev. Brouwer lead them in their Bible study. The committees in January 1964 included Welcoming, Pulpit, Communion, Catechism and Organization, Blood Bank, and Publication. As one can see with all these activities, it was very evident early in our history that our church was active not just for Sunday worship but also during the week in training and fellowship.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:00 A.M.</b></p> <p>Prelude            Silent Prayer (Announced)            *Psalter Hymnal Number            *Votum and Salutation            Reading of Law or Creed            Response No. 94:2 or 493            General Prayer            Offertory            *Psalter Hymnal Number            Scripture Reading            Sermon            Prayer            *Psalter Hymnal Number            *Benediction            *Doxology No. 487            Postlude</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7:30 P.M.</b></p> <p>Prelude and Song Service            Silent Prayer            *Psalter Hymnal Number            *Votum and Salutation            Reading of Law or Creed            Response No. 94:2 or 493            General Prayer            Offertory            *Psalter Hymnal Number            Scripture Reading            Sermon            Prayer            *Psalter Hymnal Number            *Benediction            *Doxology No. 326:1, 2            Postlude</p>
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\*Congregation Standing

**THE CONSISTORY**

Rev. Peter Brouwer, Pres.

ELDERS: Everett Ligtenberg, Vice-Pres.; Henry Bode, Clerk; George De Jong Ass't Clerk; Allied Bos, Cornelius Camping, Bert Mallema, Albert Vedders, Martin Verhoeven, Jake Wielenga.

DEACONS: Jake Vanden Berge, Pres., Ass't Treasurer; William Gerritsen, Vice-Pres.; Cornelius Scheenstra, Secretary; Henry Docter, Treasurer, General Fund; Dirk De Vries, Benevolence Treasurer; Sidney Hibma, Evangelism Treasurer.

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

Consistory.....	The first Monday of the month,	7:30 P.M.
The Elders.....	The third Monday of the month,	7:30 P.M.
The Deacons.....	Mondays, following the second and last Sundays of the month,	7:45 P.M.
Catechism for Grade 11.....	Wednesdays,	8:30 P.M.
Catechism for Grades 12 and above.....	Wednesdays,	8:30 P.M.
Catechism for Grades 5 through 10.....	Sundays,	11:15 A.M.
Sunday School, Mrs. J. Rietkerk, Superintendent.....	Sundays,	11:15 A.M.
Young People's Society, Niel De Witt, President.....	First and third Thursdays,	8:00 P.M.
Young Adults Society, Betty Koning, President.....	Alternate Wednesdays,	8:00 P.M.
Calvin Men's Society, Peter Wielenga, President.....	Second and fourth Thursdays,	8:00 P.M.
Lydia Circle, Mrs. Floris Ykema, President.....	Second and fourth Tuesdays,	10:00 A.M.
Morning Ladies Society.....	Second and fourth Tuesdays,	8:00 P.M.
Mr. and Mrs. Society, Charles Palma, President.....	First and third Thursdays,	7:30 P.M.
Young Couples Society, Fred Douma, President.....	Alternate Mondays,	7:00 P.M.
Choir, Mr. Dick Ravenhorst, Director.....	Wednesdays,	7:30 P.M.
Cadets, Fred Douma, Head Counselor.....	Alternate Mondays,	7:00 P.M.
Calvinettes, Mrs. J. Frings, Mrs. P. Hilvers, Leaders.....	Alternate Mondays,	7:00 P.M.
Mrs. G. Kamstra, Mrs. J. Harmsen		

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated the second Sunday of March, June, September and December. Baptism is administered the first Sunday of the month. Please obtain a baptismal blank from your pastor in advance.

Evangelism: We sponsor the Calvary Chapel, 12791 Yorba St., Chino, evangelist, Mr. Miner Tantis, 12791 Yorba St., Chino, NA 8-5385. Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Worship Services - 11:00 A.M., 6:00 P.M.

Radio Program: The Back to God Hour over KHJ (930 kc.) at 10:00 P.M. Sundays.

Custodian: Peter De Witt, 13225 - 16th St., Chino. Tel. 628-1690.

The Pastor will gladly, if informed, call on the sick, strangers, or those in need of any spiritual help.

Bulletin: All announcements for the Bulletin must be received by Thursday noon.

LITHOGRAPHED BY MMH COLOR PRESS, AUBURN, MA. PRINTED AND BOUND BY THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, 1001 GLENN ST., ST. LOUIS, MO. 63101

**Bulletin back cover in 1964**

Nearly eight years after Rev. Brouwer had accepted the call to be the first minister of our congregation, he announced at the November 7, 1966 Council meeting that he had accepted a call from the Edgerton (Minnesota) Christian Reformed Church. After the many years of strong leadership, nurturing of God's people and the faithful proclamation of God's Word from Lord's Day to Lord's Day, he delivered his farewell sermon on January 15, 1967. At the time when Rev. Brouwer, Phyllis and their three children departed to serve the Edgerton congregation, our church membership had grown to 200 families and 989 members.

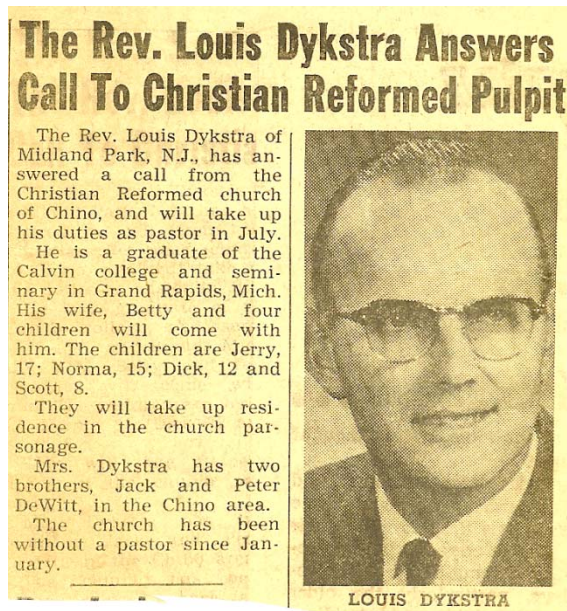
**From the Jubilee Committee:**

## **Our Large Congregation Remains Devoted to God Throughout Rev. Dykstra's Ministry**



We will have the privilege in just a few days, the Lord willing, to celebrate our first 50 years as a congregation. Our three living former senior pastors will return to the Chino Valley to join our two current pastors in celebrating our Jubilee with us during the activities of March 9-16. One of our beloved pastors, Rev. Louis Dykstra, has already been called to be with our Lord and has joined the church triumphant. In this issue, we will look at his ministry and godly leadership in the midst of our congregation.

As Rev. Peter Brouwer and his family were preparing to leave our congregation to take up his charge in Edgerton, Minnesota, the Council wasted little time to begin seeking our next pastor.



**The announcement of Rev. Dykstra's arrival in a local newspaper**

On November 14, 1966, just one week after being informed by Rev. Brouwer that he had accepted the call, the Council approved a trio of pastors to present to the congregation, Rev. Marvin Beelen, Rev. Wilton Doornbos and Rev. John Fondse. Rev. Doornbos was extended the call by the congregation but he promptly declined. A second trio of pastors was proposed, Rev. John Blankespoor, Rev. Edward Knott and Rev. Fred Van Houten, from which Rev. Knott was elected. One month later, Rev. Knott declined the call. A third trio of pastors was submitted to the congregation, Rev. Marvin Beelen, Rev. Enno Haan and Rev. Vincent Licatesi. Rev. Beelen was extended the call but one month later, he, too, declined our call. Rejected but not defeated, the Council, at their March 10, 1967 meeting, formed a fourth trio of ministers from which another call

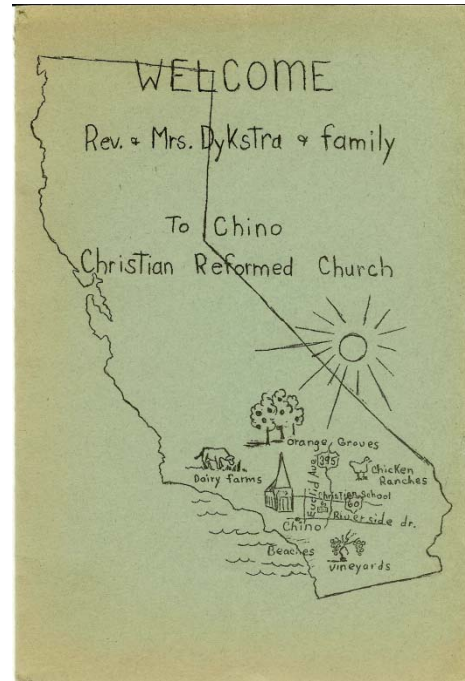
would be extended. This group included Rev. Louis Dykstra, Rev. George Ebbers, and Rev. Jacob Eppinga. At the congregational meeting on March 20, Rev. Dykstra was elected to receive our call. Mrs. Betty Dykstra had two brothers in the Chino area and a sister in Redlands. Her brother, Jack De Wit, was a charter member of our church and a deacon of the first Council so the church members were hopeful that maybe this time we would get a "yes" phone call. Much

to their delight, the Council was informed at its April 10, 1967 meeting that Rev. Louis Dykstra from Irving Park Christian Reformed Church of Midland Park, New Jersey had accepted our call, with plans for him and his family to arrive in Chino during the week of June 20.

Rev. Dykstra and his wife, Betty, arrived with their four children, Jerry entering his final year of high school at Ontario Christian High, Norma a sophomore, Rich in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Scott in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The family was warmly welcomed by the church members and immediately settled into the parsonage on Riverside Drive. The installation service for Rev. Dykstra, a 1949 graduate of Calvin Seminary, was held on July 5, with a Congregational welcome on July 7. At the welcome night, Mr. Miner Tanis opened the program with prayer followed by skits, readings, a brass trio and vocal numbers. The cover of the program featured an outline of the state of California with a map of the church location including beaches, orange groves, vineyards, chicken ranches and dairy farms. At the back of the program were the following words of encouragement to Rev. Dykstra:

We pray, dear pastor, that our Lord will give you:

- Wisdom – to rightly divide the Word of truth,
- Understanding – to apply the Word to every heart’s need,
- Patience – to help us when we falter and fail,
- Endurance – to see us through each and every trial,
- Courage – to stand for the truth when it would be so much easier to compromise,
- And Faith – to claim God’s promise that He will supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.



**The Welcome Night program for the Dykstra family**

Above all we pray that God by the Holy Spirit will fill us all with His Love that we may stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Rev. Dykstra began serving a church that had now grown to 200 families and nearly 1000 members. On an average Sunday morning, the sanctuary was completely full and the Fellowship Hall was lined with rows of folding chairs. The head usher at that time, Frank Helgesen, would



THE CHURCH COUNCIL  
REV. LOUIS J. DYKSTRA, PRESIDENT

**The 1974 Council**

often walk to the front of the sanctuary and ask everyone to squeeze together so more worshipers could find a place to sit. The Fellowship Hall was also so full in the morning the men ushering became very skilled at adding more chairs and handing out extra Psalter Hymnals and Bibles.

As reported before, many of our members were active with the Calvary Chapel home mission church and when Rev. Dykstra arrived the Council was in the process of adding classrooms to the Yorba Street facility. Over time, Rev. Dykstra was instrumental in guiding those families who desired to start another Christian Reformed Church in the valley. But even though

Calvary Church was established in September, 1969, and several families had left our church to join it, the void left by those families was swiftly filled primarily by the influx of more dairy families from the Bellflower area and families of dairy related businesses. In January, 1970, our membership numbered 212 families and 975 members. On Sunday evenings in those years, our church became the gathering place for many of the young people and young adults of our affiliated churches. Often the young people would meet in the parking lot and walk into church in mass. The traffic disturbance became so great during church hours that the Council decided to install a chain gate on the driveway at the east side of the Fellowship Hall to be attached during the service. Later, "10 mph" traffic signs were placed at the three entrances to the church property. Later yet, speed bumps were placed across the driveways and across the parking lot



**The Cadet Club in 1974**

from the west corner of the church to the Education Building to discourage youthful speeding and reckless driving.



**THE CHURCH CHOIR**  
Mr. James Joustra, Director; Mrs. Ralph te Velde, Organist

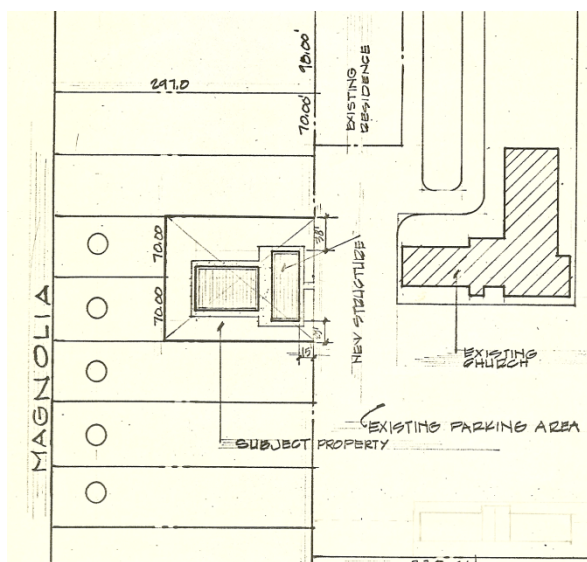
**Our church choir in 1970**

In the late '60s, the Vietnam War and the psychedelic drug era had an effect on our congregation. In those years, many of our young men were drafted or enlisted into the military and were called to protect our country in the homeland, Germany or Vietnam. Members of the congregation signed up to take their turn writing letters of encouragement to our servicemen. The

Council approved installing a plaque on the foyer wall naming our men and women in the service and in those years a dozen or and more were listed. Drug usage by some of our young

people also reared its ugly head in our congregation. Perhaps the saddest moment in our church history occurred because of drug misuse. On a Saturday night in September, 1969, a young man of our congregation of only twenty years of age was trapped in the wrong place at the wrong time, overdosed on LSD and collapsed into the arms of Mr. Miner Tanis at his home at Calvary Chapel. The life of a person with so much potential and zeal for his faith was snuffed out. The next morning at Sunday worship, Rev. Dykstra stunned the congregation to enormous sorrow with the shocking announcement.

There were a great number of programs offered to members of our congregation in the years of Rev. Dykstra's ministry to help God's people grow in their knowledge of the Lord and his creation and to foster good fellowship. Sunday School and Catechism continued to be taught



**The Site Plan for the Education Building (1971)**

faithfully to the children and young people. The Sunday School teachers met weekly to receive instruction in preparing their lessons. Monday night was Calvinette and Cadet Night and a large number of kids took part in the excellent programs led by passionate and loving leaders. Tuesday night was choir night and the choir loft was filled with joyful singers. Other meetings offered were Teen Bible Club, Young Peoples Society, Young Adults Society, Young Couples Club, Mary & Martha Society, Mr. & Mrs. Society, Lydia Circle, Calvin Men's Society and small grow groups. Midweek Bible Study, a Bible study curriculum offered to children of our neighborhood, was held at 3:15 every Wednesday and continued for many years. With all the activity, the need for a secretary was felt so in July, 1967, the Council employed Mrs. Janet Frings as part-time secretary to the pastor for the mighty sum of \$2.00 per hour. On June 3, 1968, our first associate pastor was hired when candidate Mr. Gerald Frens, a student at the Claremont Graduate School, asked the Council if he could do spiritual work in the congregation during his time at the school. He was ordained as minister in the Christian Reformed Church on Sunday morning, September 22, 1968. In addition to periodic preaching duties, he was enlisted to help teach catechism classes and lead societies. Rev. Frens stayed on as assistant pastor for nearly four years at which time he accepted a call to the Newton (New Jersey) Christian Reformed Church. He led his final service at Chino on June 25, 1972, after which he, his wife Margery and young son Jeremy departed for the east coast. In 1971, increased day-to-day accounting needs convinced the Council to engage Mrs. Wilma Hilvers as part-time bookkeeper.

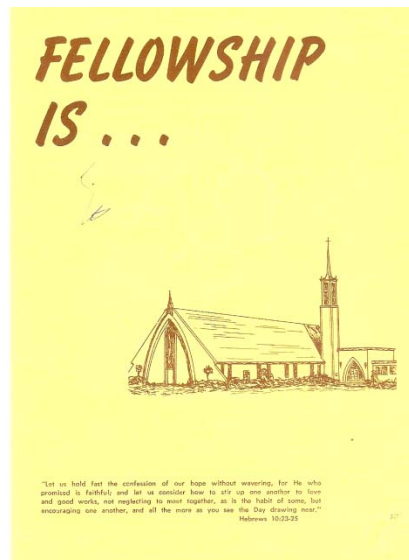
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With the continued growth in church membership and the great number of families with young children, the Evangelism Committee realized the church lacked enough classroom space and meeting rooms for Calvinettes, Cadets and Midweek Bible Study. At the September 8, 1970 meeting, the Council approved plans for a proposed Education Building at an estimated cost of \$67,800. The proposal was approved by the congregation and after repeated visits to the Chino Planning Commission and Chino City Council by several members of the congregation mainly in response to protests by neighbors against construction of the building, work on the new structure at last commenced and was completed in January, 1972. The congregation also approved to purchase the two houses to the west of the proposed Education building on Magnolia Avenue for a total of \$35,000 for both. The homes had been owned by the parents of Pete Bosch and Steve Van Hofwegen. The Council chose to designate the Bosch house as the home for the custodian.



**The Education Building in 2008**

For the first decade of our church's existence, only men were allowed to vote at Congregational Meetings. That policy ended in September, 1969 when the congregation approved the Council's proposal that all heads of households be permitted to vote. This course of action included widows and single women not living at home. At the May 31, 1971 Congregational Meeting, the



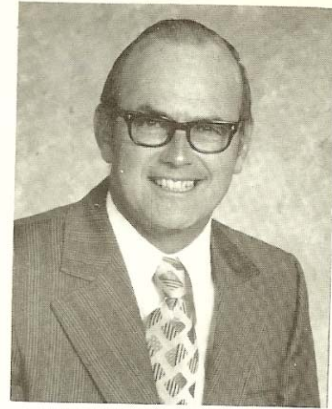
membership approved changing the name of our church from Chino Christian Reformed Church to the First Christian Reformed Church of Chino primarily to avoid confusion with Chino Calvary Christian Reformed Church.

Despite the large size of the congregation, evangelism was a major emphasis of its leaders. The desire for outreach in the community prompted the Evangelism Committee to take over control of Sunday education and led to the experiment of year round Sunday School. In 1970, the Council approved to broadcast the weekly worship services on a Riverside FM radio station. A complete listing about the church was placed in the Yellow Pages. Our designated missionaries were generously supported by our membership. The deacons were assigned to

send delegates to an M-2 Halfway House meeting. In 1974, a monthly church newsletter began

publication, it was given the clever name the “Fellowship Is...” To build camaraderie amongst the athletes in the congregation, softball and basketball teams were formed. Awareness of the future of the Christian community led the Council to appoint member Sylvester Vander Tuig to serve on a steering committee to investigate a proposed Christian Home for the Aged in this valley. This move eventually led to the establishment of Inland Christian Home. In 1973, the Council approved purchasing Revised Standard Version Bibles for the worship services to more easily understand the Scriptures. These new Bibles replaced the old King James Version Bibles.

With the departure of Rev. Frens, the congregation realized that Rev. Dykstra was being over-worked and an assistant pastor was necessary. Rev. Van Puersem was hired to lead various societies but the band-aid solution wasn't enough to noticeably lighten the load. At the February 5, 1973 Congregational Meeting, the members elected to call Rev. Thomas Van't Land as associate pastor on a 2/3 part-time basis and by 1974, he was hired on a full-time basis. His duties included publishing the “Fellowship Is...”, leading Young Peoples, Young Adults and other societies, teaching weekly catechism, be available for twenty sermons per year and serve as an elder to help with Family Visiting and discipline cases. Despite the busyness brought upon him by such a large congregation, Rev. Dykstra was able to find time for recreation and vacation. Rev. Dykstra was a skilled woodworker and was able to build various pieces of quality furniture. He and Betty also loved to travel and to spend time with fellow church members, many of whom became dear friends during their time here. Beginning in 1968, Pastor and Betty organized extensive tours joined by several couples of this congregation and others and were able to visit Europe, the Holy Land and Russia, Micronesia and the Orient, South America and the Scandinavian countries and were able to enjoy wonderful experiences with their many friends. Although somewhat soft spoken but witty, Rev. Dykstra delivered Sunday messages that were thought provoking, challenging and glorifying to God.



REV. LOUIS J. DYKSTRA

On March 18, 1975, Rev. Dykstra accepted a call to Modesto Christian Reformed Church, nearly 8 years after arriving in the Chino Valley. At his April 20 farewell services titled, “Choose Life!” and “God Be With You”, Rev. Dykstra commented that while in Chino, he officiated in 100 weddings, performed 175 baptisms, heard 176 professions of faith, conducted 34 funerals and delivered 698 sermons in our church. He stated in his final sermon that “it is better that I leave too early than to stay too long”.

Next month, the Jubilee Committee will again report on another era or landmark of our church's brief history. Do you have any interesting accounts of our church history you would like our congregation to know about? Or do you have any photos, newspaper articles or documents that might be of interest to others? **We are still seeking old church bulletins from the 1960s and back issues of the Fellowship Is...** Please give this information to a Jubilee Committee member and we will consider including it in our archives.