

1993

Talent Friends Church 50 Year Anniversary History

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The First 10 Years
October 1913 to October 1953

MOTTO: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE ON THE
FOUNDATIONS OF THE PAST

PASTORS OF TALENT FRIENDS CHURCH

Milo and Helen Ross, Oct. 1943-April 1945

George and Elenita Bales, Asst. Pastors, Aug. 1944-April 1945

George and Elenita Bales, May 1945-June 1947

King's Herald Quartet - summer 1947

Irwin and Zarilda Alger, Sept. 1947-Aug. 1951

Leroy and Elva Neifert, Sept. 1951-Aug. 1957

A. Clark and Elizabeth Smith, Sept. 1957-Aug. 1967

Randall and Norma Emry, Sept. 1967-June 1970

Roy and Josephine Dunagan, Sept. 1970-June 1977

Mark and Jan Kelley, July 1977-June 1981

Paul and Patsy Miller, July 1981-June 1987

Steve and Lesta Johnson, Youth Pastors, 1985-1987

Rick and Mary Ellen Hunt, Nov. 1987-Oct. 1988

Homer and Lois Smuck, June 1989-1993

Dave and Colleen Russell, Sept. 1991-1993

In the early 40's, Talent was a town of about 500 people. Talent Friends Church was started in 1943. Milo Ross was the founding pastor and was here from 1943 to 1945. The first preaching service of the Friends Church was held in a Baptist Church building on Main Street, the evening of October 3, 1943. Prior to this service there had been prayer meetings in the homes of interested people concerned with the spiritual condition of the community and its young people.

During the Easter season of 1944, some young men from Pacific College (now George Fox College), Arthur Roberts, Paul Thornburg, and Terrell Repp, came to Talent to preach, sing and play their instruments. The Lord blessed their ministry and 29 people came to know the Lord as their personal Savior.

Lillian Frazier from the Salem area came to Talent and worked as a parish worker until 1947. She was followed by Verda Craven. George and Elenita Bales came to assist Milo Ross in 1944 and became the pastors from 1945 to 1947. A truck was purchased to be used as a Sunday School bus and for youth activities and trips to Twin Rocks. It made 3 trips to Twin Rocks during the summer of 1945. Thirty-six children and young people attended the 3 conferences with many being saved.

From the church's beginning, the women have had a concern for home and foreign missions. The Women's Missionary Union helped paint the interior of the church and also the benches. They learned about the mission work in Bolivia and prayed for it. One project on which they worked was to piece a quilt for the missionary home in La Paz, Bolivia.

George and Elenita Bales left Talent in June of 1947. The King's Herald Quartet from Pacific College served as supply pastors until Algiers came in the Fall. The young men in this quartet were Clair Smith, Gene Hockett, Dave Fendall, and Lorraine Lehman.

Irwin and Zarilda Alger served as pastors from 1947 to 1951. A new parsonage was built on North 2nd Street in time for their

arrival. The building materials for this parsonage came from a dismantled building at Camp White, an unused Army base. During this time the Sunday School outgrew the Baptist Church building, so some of the classes were taught in the City Hall.

Talent Friends officially became a church, April 8, 1949. That same year, the Baptist building was no longer available to use, so Talent Friends moved to the City Hall.

People began to seriously think about building a church of their own. In 1949, the congregation decided to buy the lot and a half where our present church stands. A chart was drawn up to show the property divided into blocks.

A person or group could buy a block for \$13.50. There was such enthusiasm about this fund raising project, that before long the money was raised for the purchase of the property.

In 1951, LeRoy and Elva Neifert were called as pastors to plan and lead in the construction of the new building. The lumber for the building was purchased from the Talent Saw Mill (located where Candlewood Mobile Park is now on Colver Road). The congregation moved in on June 8, 1952.



Old Baptist Church (1944)
-first place of worship for Talent Friends

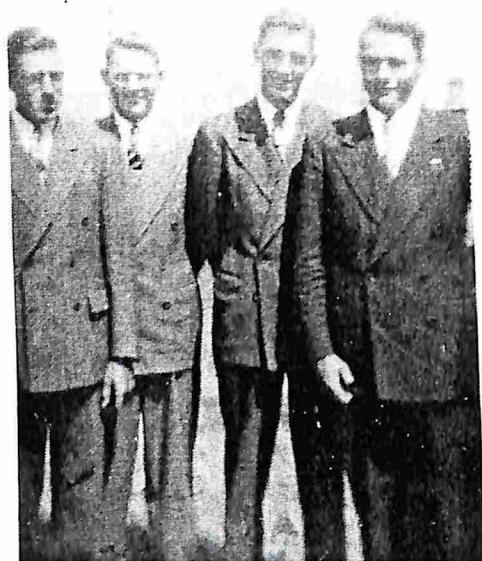
First Decade
1943-1953



Interior of old Baptist Church (1945)



Milo Ross, pastor 1943-1945



King's Herald Quartet (1947)



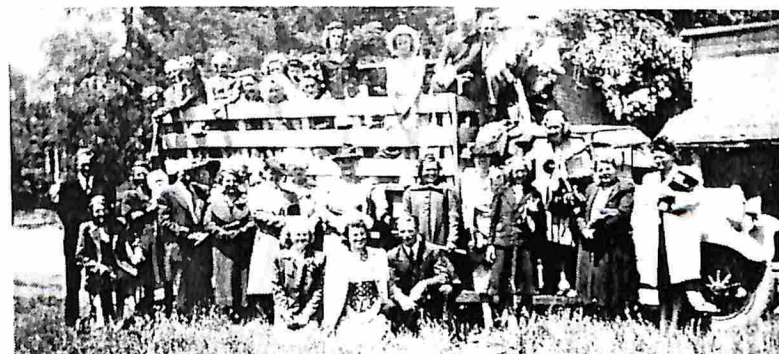
George and Elenita Bales, 1945-1947



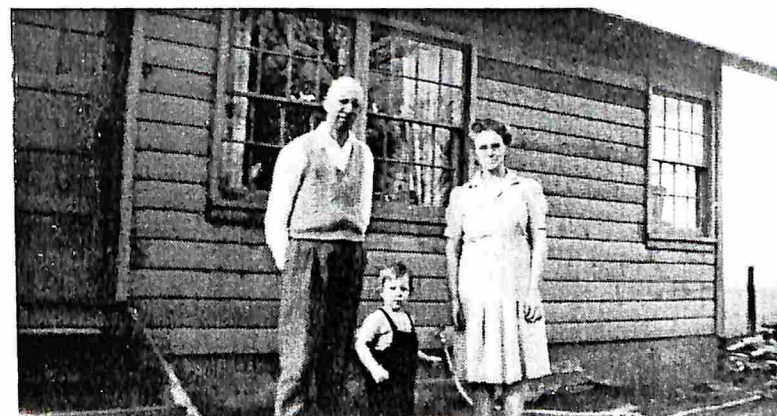
Louise Sample and Sunday School Class
"Hobo Party"



Part of morning congregation, 1945



Truck used as Sunday School bus, 1945



Irwin and Zarilda Alger and Miriam,
2nd Street parsonage, 1947-1951



Tent Meetings with
Hubert Mardock and
Clem Brown, 1951

The Second Decade October 1953-October 1963

The Neiferts continued to pastor Talent Friends for 5 more years after the congregation moved into the new building.

Leroy and Elva lived in the church parsonage located on North 2nd Street. However, the congregation decided to sell that house and buy the two story house located next to the church and use it as the parsonage. Leroy and Elva were the first pastors to live there.

In 1957, Clark and Elizabeth Smith came as pastors of Talent Friends. It was a time of spiritual growth for many.

Ground-breaking at 50 Talent Ave.,
George Bales turning
first shovelful, 1951



Neifert Family, Charles, Leroy, Ruth, Elva, Pat Leroy pastored 1951-1957



Elenita and George Bales
and children

Lillian Frazier

Elva and Leroy Neifert 1951
and children



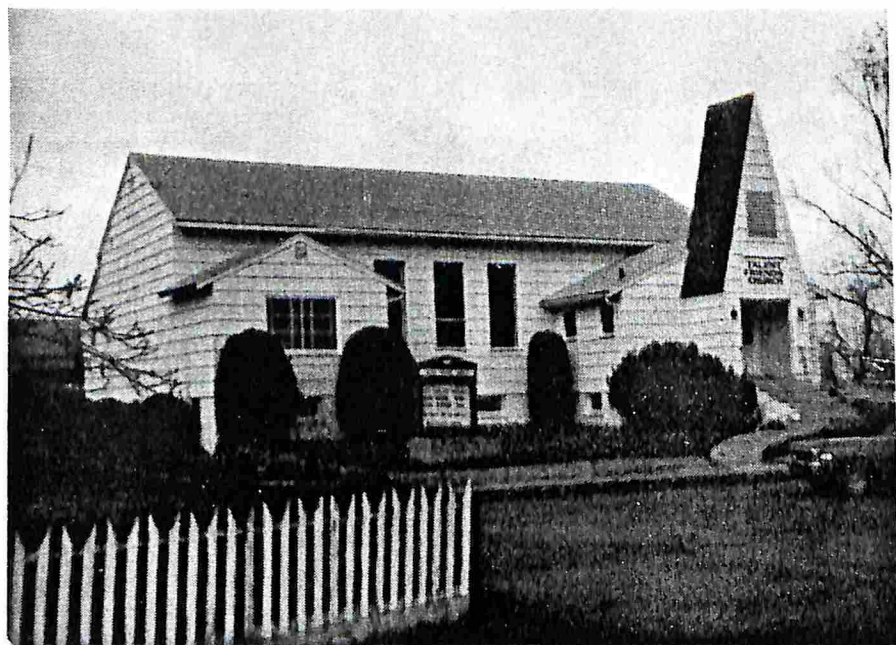
Clark and Elizabeth
Smith, 1957-1967



Herschel Thornburg, 1962

Held Bible School with James Raymond

Sunday School, 1961



Original Talent Friends Church at 50 Talent Ave.



The Third Decade October 1963-October 1973

Clark and Elizabeth Smith continued their ministry at Talent Friends Church until 1967. Elmer Weitzel worked with Clark as assistant pastor.

In 1964, new classrooms were built on the back of the church (westside) both upstairs and downstairs.

Elizabeth was battling cancer and it was a difficult time for this pastoral couple.

Clark resigned and the church called Randall and Norma Emry and their four children to come to Talent Friends Church.

Elizabeth Smith passed away in March after the Emry's arrival.

The Emry family came in 1967 and stayed until 1970. Their first year in Talent was an eventful one. By the end of the year they had taken each one of their children to the emergency room at the hospital.

During Randall's pastorate, Talent Friends Church celebrated its 25th Anniversary. In 1968 the church received its first organ, a Hammond spinet. Clark Smith presented this to the church as a memorial to his wife, Elizabeth.

Roy and Josephine Dunagan were called to pastor in 1970. They owned their own mobile home and lived at Old Pacific Mobile Village. The two story house next door to the church was not used as a parsonage but as classrooms for the church. Roy's interest in horses gave him a special point of contact with many people of the Talent area.

Roy started what has become a tradition at Talent Friends Church, the Sweetheart Banquet. Roy also had a concern for the children that came to Sunday School. He felt that many of them came without breakfast, so he began a Fellowship time (with food) before the services.



Congregation on front steps of church



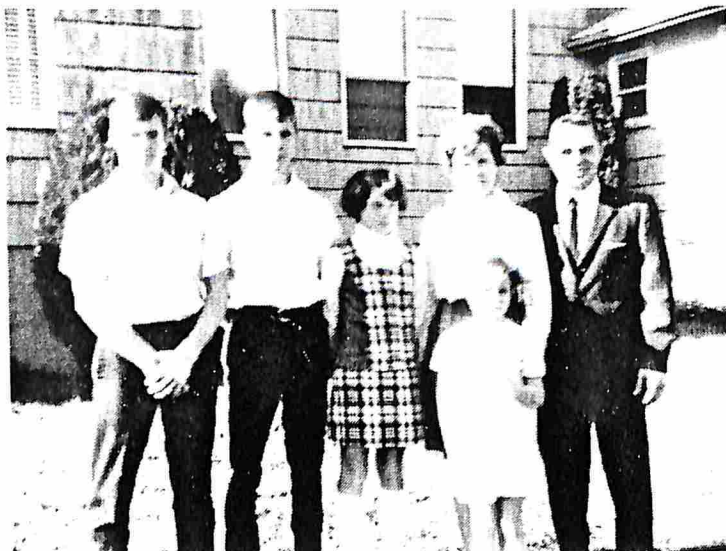
Ground breaking, 1964 Enlargement of church



WMU (Women's Missionary Union), 1966



Josephine and Roy Dunagan, 1970-1977



Emry Family Dan, Roger, Linda, Norma, Randall
Teresa



Congregation in front of church, 1972

The 4th Decade October 1973-October 1983

Roy and Josephine Dunagan continued as pastors until 1977. In 1975, the church sponsored 3 Vietnamese families for a period of 5 years. The congregation worked together on this project. They provided furniture, food, and homes for these Vietnamese families. They didn't stop with their physical needs. The congregation wanted to minister to these families' spiritual needs as well. Grace Smith was asked to teach a Sunday School class. As she shared the Gospel message from the Book of John, the Vietnamese were eager and hungry to learn more. Some of these families were converted from Buddhism.

In 1977, Mark and Jan Kelly came to pastor Talent Friends Church and stayed until 1981.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast began in 1978 as an opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship for men in the church. It meets monthly on Saturday. The breakfast is always cooked by the men themselves. The Men's Group, as it is now called, also raises money for various projects around the church building and missions support.

The VIC's (Victors in Christ) was organized in this decade. They planned social events and became a fellowship group of adults. Another adult group was started called the JOY (Jesus, Others, You) group. This provided a time of social activities and fellowship for younger adults.

The church continued to grow. The building that seated 80 people, was "bursting at the seams". The congregation began thinking about enlarging the building. The Stewards and Trustees dreamed of ways that the building could be enlarged.

Funds were raised by community barbecues, auctions and yard sales. Finally, ideas were submitted to an architect. Money was borrowed from the Friends Church Extension Foundation and the people of Talent Friends Church were involved in a major enlarging and remodeling project. Wesley Hartley was hired as contractor, but much of the work was done by volunteers.

In 1981, Paul and Patsy Miller came as pastors. There was much finishing to do on the building project and a large

mortgage to pay off. The congregation continued to work together. The Heavenly Pie Company was formed to help pay the mortgage. On mornings when Elaine Cronk and LaRue Kruger were baking in the church kitchen, there was a "heavenly" aroma that permeated the whole building.

In 1982, the remodeled and enlarged church building was dedicated. Many hours of volunteer work had gone into this project. People gave of their time and money. The end result was a beautiful sanctuary, new classrooms, a larger kitchen, and large fellowship hall that could be used for many kinds of activities. On this Dedication Sunday there was a great deal of rejoicing. The Lord had helped His people to accomplish much!

An outreach ministry to the community was the production of the Christian musical, "Sir Oliver", directed by Terry Dawson and involving adults and children alike.

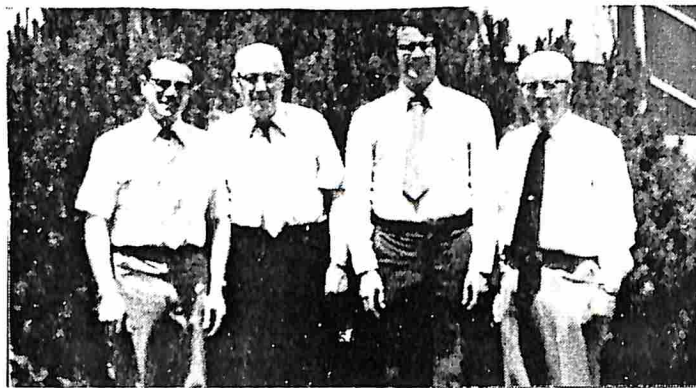
This truly was a decade of outreach, vision, and hard work!



Interior of church, 1977



Ground breaking for major remodeling, 1981

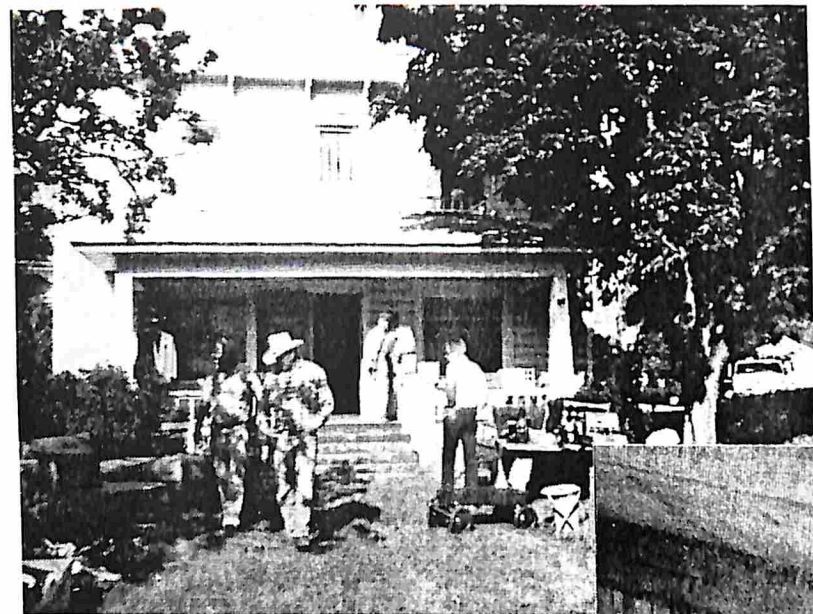


Randall Emry

Clark Smith

Mark Kelley

Roy Dunagan

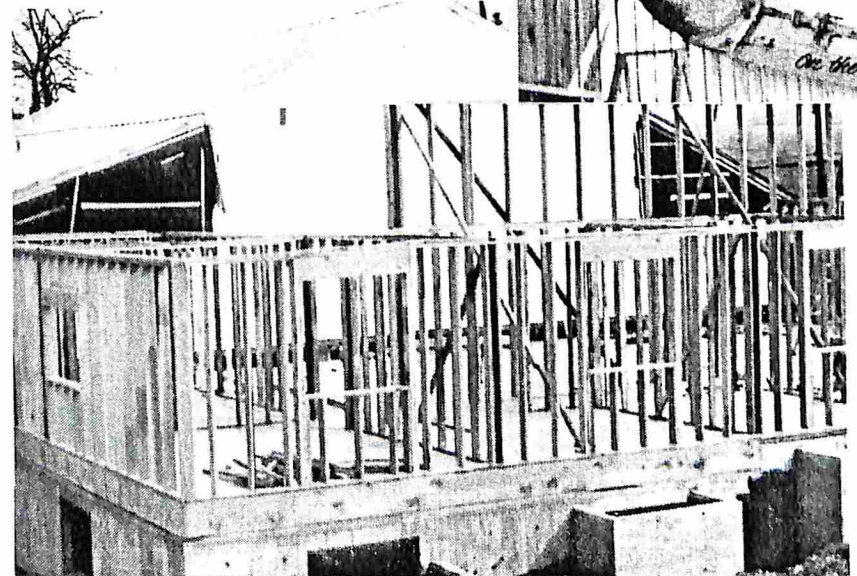


Auction in front of old parsonage, 1982



Norma Emry painting

Construction scenes



Mark and Jan Kelley, 1977-1981



Heavenly Pie Company, 1982

The 5th Decade
October 1983-October 1993

Paul and Patsy Miller served as pastors until 1987. The Food Bank began in 1984 as a concern of the Outreach Committee. The committee began by taking Hot Line calls for food at Talent Community Center. Later, the Food Bank was moved to the church building where there are shelves, a freezer, and refrigerator for storage. Groups in the church and community continue to make donations of money and food. Other foods are purchased through ACCESS. In 1990 the Food Bank gave out a 3-day supply of food 1,317 times to people in the community. Many people have given countless hours of volunteer service to this outreach.

In 1985, Steve Johnson was called as Youth Pastor. Steve and his wife, Lesta, worked in this capacity for two years.

In 1987 Talent Friends joined other churches in a mission outreach to Mexico during Spring Break. It was called Get-Away, Give-Away. This has become an annual event. Adults and youth aid in construction of pews and buildings, paint, teach children's classes, and do many other work projects.

In 1987, the Johnsons moved to Colorado and the Millers to Alaska. The church was without a pastor during the Summer and Fall months. Paul Baker, pastor from Medford, preached for the morning service and David Hooker in the evening.

In November 1987, Rick and Mary Ellen Hunt and their family arrived in Talent to carry on the pastoral work of Talent Friends Church. At this time Mary Dumke had a concern for reaching out to the community by doing a special event at Christmas time. This was the beginning of the annual Live Nativity. Mary with her sister, Cathy Kruger, organized this event for two years. Since then, many others have been involved in keeping this tradition going.

Rick Hunt resigned in October 1988. The church was again without a pastor. During the 7 months while there was no pastor, different ones took turns preaching. Jeff Dumke was appointed as Church Administrator. A ministry team was

formed consisting of Jeff Dumke, Cathy Kruger, Rich Mann, Dave Russell and Gary Colfax. This team met together regularly for Bible Study and prayer and seeking God's leading for the church. Different ones from this team preached for morning and evening services.

In June 1989, Homer and Lois Smuck and family came to Talent. Homer has served as pastor the past 4 years.

October 7, 1990, was a red-letter day. The mortgage had been paid and was burned!

Under Homer's leadership the church has written and adopted a "Philosophy of Ministry", which is a guide identifying who we are and our goals for ministry.

The Happy Hearts group has been formed to provide sight-seeing trips and social activities for the Senior Adults.

Dave Russell was hired as Associate Pastor in September 1991. Dave and Colleen are involved in Bible Studies and Children and Youth Ministries. Dave was recorded as a minister at the 1993 Yearly Meeting Sessions.

The 50th Anniversary was celebrated on October 2 and 3, 1993. Previous pastors and church family members returned, and along with resident people, celebrated God's faithfulness and goodness.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

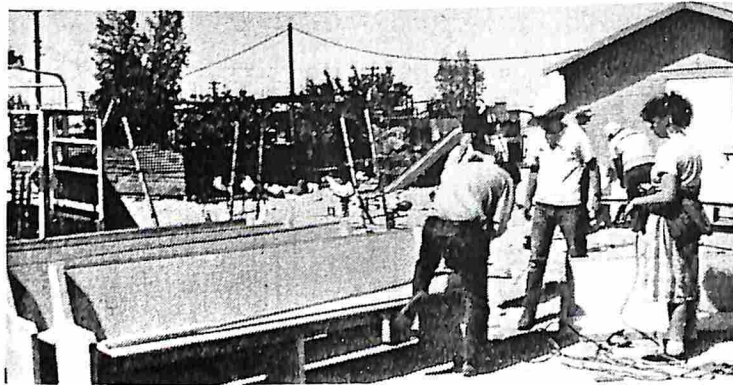


Paul and Patsy Miller

1981-1987



Steve, Lesta, and Forrest Johnson, Youth Pastor, 1985-1987



Get Away, Give Away Work Projects



Rick and Mary Ellen Hunt, 1987-1988



Homer and Lois Smuck.

1989-1993



Live Nativity

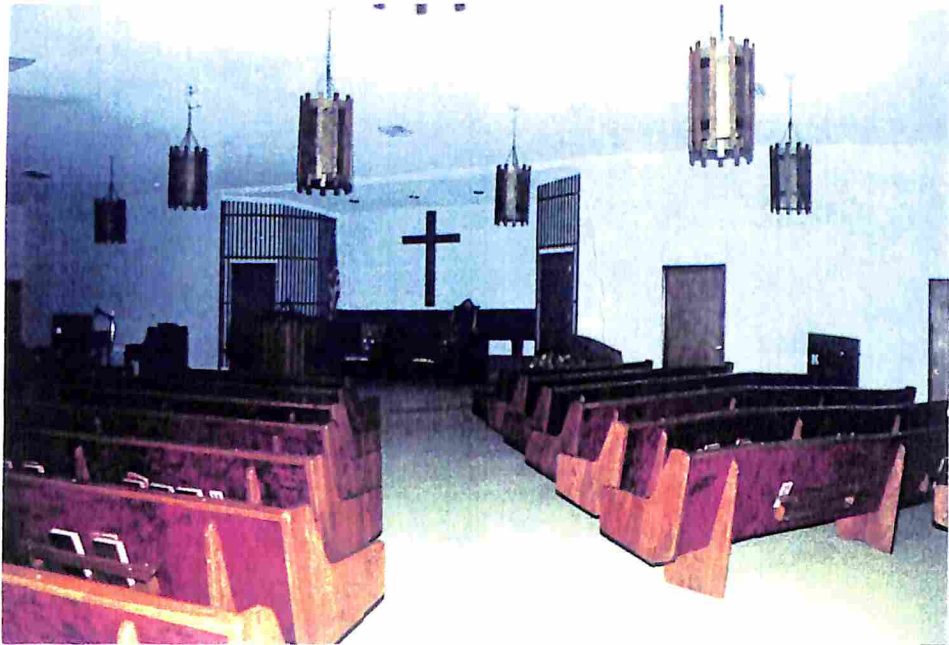
(Dave Russell and Cathy Kruger)



Mexican pastor and wife, Dave and Colleen Russell, Associate Pastor, 1991-1993



Youth preparing Valentine Banquet, Church Kitchen



Interior of Church