

HISTORY OF CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

***2020 East 79th at Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103***

- 1880** Beginning January 1, 1880 with 73 present, in an abandoned wooden chapel, which was moved to E. Madison (Now 79th Street). Growth to 250 required the building of a spacious stone chapel in 1883. (now Fellowship Hall) with 200 members and 300 in Sunday school. Known as Calvary Chapel, Mission of Old Stone Church, served by ministers in rotation.
- 1888** Cornerstone laid for Sanctuary MDCCCLXXXVIII (longest Roman numeral date possible since the birth of Christ).
- 1890** Large Sanctuary completed and dedicated on Jan. 5. (Same worship service repeated January 7, 1990) Bolton Chapel founded as Mission of Calvary united also with Old Stone Church in Collegiate organization, ministers in rotation.
- ****** **1891** Calvary Presbyterian Church incorporated May 22, and 311 charter members received. Dr. Mears and Dr. Freeman, pastors.
- 1900** Gym was built, a first for a church and still a prime asset. Dr. T.S. McWilliams called, pastor for 12 years, 272 members added to rolls. First telephone installed in 1903. A Collinwood Mission Chapel was begun & supported many years. It became Immanuel Presbyterian Church.
- 1910** Cleveland's first missionaries sent to China. Dr. and Mrs. Dilley served there many years for Calvary. More utilities added. Lot to west bought for open space, Mr. Adelbert Higley called to pulpit in 1915.
- 1920** More people moved into this neighborhood, apartments replaced big estates, many moved to suburbs but kept membership. Mission Sunday School begun in Shaker Heights Fenway School. Merger with Bolton Avenue Church in '22 created a strong, active church and made Endowment Fund possible. Radio broadcast begun.
- 1930** Church adjusted to Depression by increasing care to needy and thoughtfully restricting operating costs. Affirmed again to stay in the city.
- 1940** Focus on prayer for peace in WW-II as in WW- I. Transition from 29- year pastorate of Dr. Higley to Dr. John Bruere in 1945. Many lively activities nurtured Christian camaraderie and concern for the neglected in inner city.

- 1950** Two lots on 79th purchased for parking and play yard. Garden on West planted with four WW –II memorial trees. Baby care during worship service begun. Integration of membership began quietly and naturally. Pastor and members joined in vigorous neighborhood clean-up campaigns.
- 1960** “Religion That Works” radio program Sunday at 9 a.m. was initiated and proven a strong mission in Northern Ohio. 300 children in Saturday-Sunday Youth program. Hough riots coped with and proven non-interruptive. NOAH INC born to address low-income housing needs. Sudden death of Dr. Bruere brought the call of Dr. Roger Shoup.
- 1970** Thoughtful and prayerful integration continued. Calvary Choral Group flourished. Justice-Line panic phone system used for anonymous reports of crime in community. Houses and apartments being raised. The Restoration Campaign successful raised capital funds and renovated major portions of church sanctuary and kitchen in particular.
- 1980** Mr. William Kight called as pastor, Church responded to needs of members and neighbors with clothing and food, AA program begun many years ago, continues. The building of Rainbow Place II and I on 79th St. Food and clothing given to needy continuously. Mental health program.
- **** **1988** 100th Anniversary of laying of Cornerstone celebrated with Special Worship Service and Luncheon. Church in time of transition. Two years with interim pastor.
- **** **1989** Midtown Area a wasteland for several years awaiting development. Dr. Tyrone Burkette called as pastor. Congregation anticipates challenges of rebuilding the area to re-strengthen Calvary Presbyterian Church.
- **** **1992** Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Incorporation with special Worship Service and Luncheon.
- **** **1999** Rev. Adrian T. Lynum called as pastor. At time of ordination, congregation suffers serious decline, as neighborhood has not rebuilt adequately.
- 2006** Dr. Rev. Bertrice Wood served as Temporary Supply Pastor. Day Care returns to Calvary. Mid-Town Corridor completed along Euclid.
- **** **2009** Calvary Celebrated 129 years on the corner of East 79th and Euclid Avenue. Rev. Floyd Rhodes, Jr. served as Temporary Supply

2011 May, 2011 Calvary entered into a two year partnership with Glenville New Life Community Church. Pastor Rick Gillespie-Mobley, Pastor Toby Gillespie-Mobley and Pastor Kellie Sullivan served as rotating pastors.

2012 The first exploratory meeting took place at Calvary on 12/8/12 at 8am to discuss the possibility of a merger with Glenville New Life.

2013 On June 2, 2013 Calvary Presbyterian Church voted to merge with Glenville New Life Presbyterian Church. Calvary Presbyterian Church held its last worship service on September 1, 2013. The new church will be known as New Life At Calvary with the first official service on September 8, 2013.

