



News from the Executive Director

Rev. Claudia Lovelace

Greetings in the Name of Our Risen Christ

As this newsletter goes to print, Rev. Claudia is in Nicaragua on a Volunteer in Missions trip . Her column will return next month. However, she would want you to know that the Pepsi Refresh Everything Grant has rolled over again to August so please KEEP VOTING!

www.refresheverything.com/clothesforkids

Continued from Page 1

Jacoby Glass operated for 75 years and according to the archivist for the catalogue of the Jacoby Glass Company, the windows at 8th Street began with number 902 and were among some of the earliest windows produced by Jacoby Glass.

The pipe organ was built in 1909 by Hinner Organ Company in Pekin, Illinois. It was installed in January 1910. Hinner organs were hand-crafted and were prized for their beautiful cabinetry and also for their excellent tone. The organ was still in use in the mid 1990s, and became unplayable when plaster and debris settled into the pipes, a result of the Murrah Building bombing. the possibility of rebuilding the organ has been discussed by the local Members of the American Guild of Organists.

The congregation worshipped in German until 1925 when it left the West German Conference and united with the Oklahoma Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and became known as the Eighth Street Methodist Church.

In 1952, under the pastorate of Rev. Guy Ames, an addition was built on the north side of the original church building. This area now houses the Skyline offices and Conference Room. Rumor has it that his hand prints are in the concrete under the carpet of the Conference Room. In 1966, the congregation celebrated its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, tracing its founding date back to November 15, 1881 when the German Methodist Church was founded with four members and fifteen probationary members.

Skyline Urban Ministry came into being in 1966 as an agency of the United Methodist Church. It was officially incorporated in 1974. Skyline has been housed in the 8th Street Center and in the McKee Center since the late 1970s.

And now Skyline welcomes a new congregation, Crosstown Church, who will worship in our historic building on Sunday mornings. The pastors of Crosstown are Rev. Clint Carter and Rev. Ben Janssen. Both live in the neighborhood; Rev. Carter and family have just purchased the green, three-story home just east of Skyline on 8th Street. Their congregation members are striving to live out a calling to be in ministry where they live. As you visit 8th Street, you will see some changes. We have rearranged the office space to provide them an area for childcare for the toddlers of their congregation.

Crosstown Church will hold a series of membership meetings during the Sundays in August and will officially kick off with their first worship service on September 12. Worship will begin at 10:30 AM. They will also soon add Sunday School Classes. Welcome to Clint and Carey, and Ben and Mindy and the members of Crosstown Church.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 8TH STREET BUILDING

By Garrett Johnston, Editor

The 8th Street Center houses the Skyline Community Cupboard, the Community Charity Eye Clinic, and Alive in Christ on Saturday Night. But did you know the building has a long and varied history?

If you were to enter the building from through the steps to the Sanctuary, you would see a cornerstone that reads: *Erste Deutsche Methodistenkirche, 1892-1907* The German Methodist Church. This was actually the second building built by German immigrants and members of the German Methodist Church.

The First German Methodist Church was built in 1892 at 411 W. California (in the heart of what is today, Bricktown.) By 1906, the congregation had grown and decided to sell the property and purchased the land that the 8th Street Center is built on. The members, being skilled craftsmen, built the building themselves. The new church was dedicated August 18, 1907.



The most beautiful features of the building are the original stain glass windows. They were donated by

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Anton H. Classen, one of the influential business men in early Oklahoma City history. The Jesus Blesses the Children Window contains the inscription: *Die Fenster in dieser Kirche wurden gestiftet von Anton H. Classen zum Andenken an seine Mutter* (The windows in this church were donated by Anton Classen in commemoration of his mother). The other two large windows are the Annunciation Window and the Resurrection Window.



Beside these large windows there are nine long windows in other areas of the Sanctuary. Each of these windows is topped by a circle insert that contains a symbol of the story of Christianity: the Shock of Wheat, Lilies, Chalice, Holy Bible, Anchor, Cross and Crown, Dove, Lamb and Torch.

The windows were produced by the Jacoby Glass Company, in St. Louis, Missouri. The Jacoby Glass Company was founded 1896 by H. H. Jacoby, whose father founded the first German Methodist Church west of the Mississippi. Many of the windows listed in their catalogue were produced for German Methodist Churches across the Midwest region of the United States.

Continued on page 4

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