

MR. PERCY PRIEBE

(Church of the Nazarene)

INTERVIEWED:

April 8, 1975

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Origin of Congregation

Met in Sidaway School in Richmond as branch of First Church of the Nazarene in Vancouver. Sunday School started under Mr. O. Jones, a Richmond resident, in 1955.

Increased from about 25 children and 4 adults to 6 families as charter members until Rev. A. J. Ferris was called in 1959 under the District Superintendent Rev. Daniels.

Building

Bought lot on Saunders Road in 1959 - 3 acres for \$13,500. - put up a parsonage in 6 months. Still meeting at Sidaway School. Then had Sunday School and church services in basement of parsonage.

Construction of Church - started in 1961.

Architect - built by Mr. Priebe and Rev. Ferris with volunteer labour.

Building

95' x 32'. Scissor-truss roof. Auditorium seats 225, large platform and choir loft. Back of auditorium were Sunday School rooms and kitchen. Foundation of 3 feet of filled sand, concrete slab on top with heating in slab, from one furnace then, another added later. Incandescent lighting. March 25, 1961, started building, moved in December 17, 1961. Dedication Service, May 22, 1962 (see folder)

Cost

For building - \$14,500. - financed by loan from headquarters, Kansas City. Mortgage - since paid off.

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Changes Made

Interior altered around 1968 during ministry of Rev. Shaftoe.

Background of Congregation

All local Richmond Residents, a few Oriental families.

Upkeep

By free-will offerings and tithing envelopes.

Groups

Caravan - form of Scouts
Sunday School
Bible-study groups
Women's Missionary groups.

Role of Women

Sunday School teachers, in any administrative posts.

Clergy

Church Board looks after church - women can be on it.

Youth

Well involved, teen-age Sunday School teachers.

Special Events

Well attended meetings for visits of District Superintendent.

Ministers

Rev. Ferris	1959
Rev. Donaldson	1965
Rev. Shaftoe	1966
Rev. Wiggins	1971 - 1972

Closure of Church - 1972

Lack of funds, people interest and leaving of Pastor.

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Building retained as belonging to District. 1½ acres of property sold to sub-division going in behind church and proceeds repaid mortgage.

Dispersal of Congregation

Some went to First Church in Vancouver, Mennonite Brethren and other churches. Congregation had dropped to about 6 families.

Re-opening of Church - Sept. 1974

New District Superintendent heard of a keen new minister, Reverend Tucker, who would come and re-open church.

Original members did not all return, many members are new.

Some new groups have started.

Affinity

Church is one of 17 churches in the District of British Columbia, with a District Superintendent over them, responsible to the Headquarters General Superintendent in Kansas City administering to all the world churches. Congregation responsible to minister.

M. NOBLE.