

*60th Anniversary*  
of  
LAUREL HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH

November 28, 1969



*A Decade of Stewardship and Service*

*1959-1969*

## FOREWORD

### LAUREL HEIGHTS IN THE 70'S

The past, glorious as it may have been, was not all good. Today is ours to do with as we will. What does tomorrow hold for us and for the church we love? No one can say for sure. The one thing we know is that it will be different; we hope it will be better, and we believe that in many ways it will be.

Crisis is always a time of opportunity and we are in the middle of the most far reaching revolution the world has ever experienced. Where it will bring us will be determined largely by what we bring to life. The militants and the radicals have shocked us out of complacency. We have had to admit neglect, egocentricity, and tribalism. War and greed and corruption and narrow nationalism have held sway and have forced most people to evaluate more carefully attitudes and motivations. As a consequence, people both within and without the church, are asking for and seeking to give justice and righteousness in all human relationships. This is a healthy sign — not utopian, but most hopeful.

I believe that the people who are Laurel Heights United Methodists, will in the 1970's, be the leaven with a mission that Our Lord spoke to us about, and that we will see more genuine Christian concern and service than our church has ever known. Many years ago, the people of our church adopted as a goal: "Doing at least as much for others as we do for ourselves." The nineteen seventies will see the goal reached and passed. I think our church will have a great decade. We have weathered the eye of the storm and now we press on to a more honest sharing of life's burdens, bringing health to a tired and sick world, for ourselves and our neighbors.

Darrel D. Gray

*60th Anniversary*  
of  
**LAUREL HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH**

**NOVEMBER 28, 1969**

In 1949, the history of Laurel Heights Methodist Church during its first forty years was written by Pat Ireland Nixon and C. Stanley Banks, and the book was distributed to the membership at that time.

In 1959, the Golden Anniversary of the Church, another booklet was written by the same authors to cover the ten years from 1949 to 1959.

Now, on the Sixtieth Anniversary, this summary of the activities, accomplishments and areas of service of Laurel Heights Church during the past ten years is presented to the membership.

*A Decade of Stewardship and Service*

*1959 - 1969*

# *A Decade of Stewardship and Service* *1959-1969*

From 1959 to 1969, Laurel Heights Methodist Church was served by the following ministers and officials, listed in the order in which they served our Church:

## BISHOPS

Bishop A. Frank Smith  
Bishop Paul V. Galloway  
Bishop O. Eugene Slater

## DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Donald E. Redmond, D. D.  
Ted I. Richardson, D. D.  
R. F. Curl, D. D.  
Rev. Claus H. Rohlfes  
Rev. Jack D. Heacock

## PASTORS

Howard H. Hollowell, D. D.	1954 to 1960
Ennis B. Hill, D. D.	1960 to 1966
Darrel D. Gray, D. D.	1966 to present

## ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Rev. O. W. Moerner  
Rev. Edwin T. Silliman  
Rev. Lon A. Speer  
Rev. William J. Hughes  
Rev. Fred J. Brucks  
Rev. Don R. Byrnes  
Rev. Ralph M. Reed  
Rev. Gordon Miller  
Rev. Barrett Renfro

## DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Miss Aleene Block

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Henry Holloway

## CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Roy Smith

## CHAIRMEN OF OFFICIAL BOARD

Charles W. Moore	1959 to 1961
John T. Lawson	1961 to 1963
Robert W. Jackson	1963 to 1965
H. S. Piland	1965 to 1967
James M Matson	1967 to 1969
Dr. Guy C. Pryor	1969 to present.

## PRESIDENTS OF WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Mrs. Marvin Folkes	1959 to 1961
Mrs. J. Andrew Smith	1961 to 1963
Mrs. Charles E. Lutz	1963 to 1965
Mrs. George B. Moore, Jr.	1965 to 1967
Mrs. A. A. Worrell	1967 to 1969
Miss Eva Eleanor Long	1969 to present

## SUPERINTENDENTS OF CHURCH SCHOOL

Ben E. Scholl, Jr.	1956 to 1962
W. F. Payette, Jr.	1962 to 1968
(New Discipline discontinued this Office)	

## CHURCH SCHOOL SECRETARY

William W. Betts	1957 to present
------------------	-----------------

## ORGANISTS

Mrs. Almarie Liberto Dieckow  
Mrs Mary Beth Upshaw  
Mrs. Elaine Tomlinson  
Mr. Richard Parrigan

## CHARTER MEMBERS HOLDING CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP FROM 1909 TO 1969

Mrs. Randolph L. Carter  
(Muriel Kokernot)  
Mrs. G. N. Cox  
Mrs. P. J. McNeel  
Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Parkinson  
Mr. W. D. Parkinson  
Mr. A. K. Ragsdale

During this decade the corporate Charter of Laurel Heights Methodist Church, which had originally been taken out with the Secretary of State for a period of fifty years, was amended so as to make the corporate existence of the Church "perpetual."

In order to provide adequate parking facilities, early in this decade the Church purchased three pieces of property adjoining the Church and the new Educational-Activities Building. In 1960, the home property of Mrs. Simona Wofford, fronting 66.85 feet on Mistletoe Avenue, was purchased for \$20,000.00 cash. In 1961, the Minnie Terry home property, fronting 75 feet on Mistletoe Avenue, was purchased for \$15,000.00 cash. In 1963, the home property of Mrs. Bess Spears Semmes, including a large adjoining rent house, fronting 150 feet on Woodlawn Avenue, was purchased for \$28,000.00, which was paid \$18,000.00 in cash, and the balance of \$10,000.00 in 1965. These three pieces of property were cleared and paved; they are now being used as parking areas.

At the beginning of this decade, the budget of Laurel Heights Church for the fiscal year 1958-1959 was \$163,038.00. Ten years later, the budget of the Church for the year 1968-1969 was \$218,921.00; and the actual amount contributed and expended that year for all the activities of the Church, including missionary and humanitarian work, domestic and foreign, amounted to \$229,288.20.

On January 1, 1970, Laurel Heights Church is conforming its fiscal year to the calendar year; and the fiscal year of the Church will hereafter be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

For some time it has been the goal and hope of Laurel Heights Church to spend at least as much on missionary activities and rendering Christian service to others as is spent on our own church. We have not yet reached that goal, but each year a very substantial percentage of the Church budget is spent for the good of others, rather than on our own local church. The Church budget is replete with such items as world service, missionaries, church schools, colleges, scholarships, Wesley Foundation, Golden Cross, etc. Throughout the past ten years Laurel Heights has expended approximately \$5,000.00 each year to broadcast sermons every Sunday over one of the leading broadcasting stations covering most of Texas and parts of Mexico and adjoining States. The 1968-1969 budget also provided \$8,000.00 for the single item of scholarships.

Throughout this decade Laurel Heights Church has been very active in a number of missionary fields. It has paid the expense of one or more missionaries in Bolivia during the past ten years. The names of our different missionary families who have served in Bolivia during this time are:

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palmiter

Rev. and Mrs. P. H. McAden

Mr. and Mrs. James Morriss, and their children, Terry Lynn and David

The interest of the membership in the outreach of Laurel Heights Church with its Christian service, both at home and abroad, is evidenced by the fact that during this decade a number of the members of Laurel Heights who have been taken by the hand of death have, in their wills, left generous bequests to their Church. In grateful appreciation their names are listed:

Ruth Wiess Sergent  
Nannie A. Nix  
Walter T. Parks  
Winchester Kelso  
Reagan W. Spilman  
Bessie Lake  
Alma Fehr  
Elise Engel  
Blanche Barbee

During this decade Laurel Heights Church has been blessed in having three ministers completely dedicated to the Christian ministry, and whose splendid leadership and devoted service have been a constant inspiration to the membership of the Church and to the entire community. The ministry of Dr. Howard H. Hollowell at Laurel Heights began in 1954, and continued well into 1960, the first year of this decade. Dr. Ennis B. Hill came to Laurel Heights Church in 1960, and continued his ministry here until his untimely illness and death on September 1, 1966, in the prime of his life. Our present pastor, Dr. Darrel D. Gray, preached his first sermon at Laurel Heights on November 20, 1966. His fruitful and meaningful ministry is constantly leading the Church into new and more effective fields of service. On the following pages photographs are presented of these three ministers who have filled the pulpit at Laurel Heights throughout the ten years of this sixth decade in the history of the Church.



DR. HOWARD H. HOLLOWELL

1954-1960



DR. ENNIS B. HILL

1960-1966



DR. DARREL D. GRAY

1966 to present

On Sunday, November 23, a special Sixtieth Anniversary Service is being held in the sanctuary of the Church. Ordinarily there are two services held every Sunday morning, one at 8:30 and one at 10:50; but on this Anniversary Sunday both these services are being combined, beginning at 10:30 and ending at noon. Bishop O. Eugene Slater is preaching the Anniversary sermon; and Dr. Howard H. Hollowell, the first minister of this decade, is an honor guest.

At the conclusion of the Anniversary Service, a reception is being held for the congregation and guests, and a luncheon is being served in the dining room. On display at the reception are some very interesting exhibits, such as the original Church Roll of 1909, showing the complete list of charter members, and the original Record of Marriages beginning in 1910. This Anniversary Service promises to be a memorable occasion.

The associate minister and some of the staff and heads of departments have prepared reports regarding the activities and fields of service of Laurel Heights Church during the past decade leading up to this Sixtieth Anniversary. Portions of these reports are being presented here, beginning with the report of Rev. Barrett Renfro, associate pastor:

### FROM "CROWNING DECADE" THROUGH THE TRANSITIONAL YEARS

Laurel Heights United Methodist Church has grown over the years to meet the needs of the neighborhood. In 1912, the sanctuary building was erected to serve the expanding population of a new residential development in San Antonio, Laurel Heights. As the ministry of our church expanded, new buildings were added. The Educational Building was built in 1928. Times continued to change, and the demand for more educational space and a complete youth building and gymnasium was answered in 1957. These buildings have served well the congregational life and the mission outreach of our church. Tribute should be paid to those far-sighted members who have made this possible.

The years 1949-1959 were "A Crowning Decade" as indicated by the volume published in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the Laurel Heights Methodist Church; and the years 1959-1969 have been a decade of transition. Although the church ministry has continued to expand to meet the changing needs of our congregation

in worship, study, and mission, the 1960's have brought us new and different opportunities. In these years of transition we have studied and taught. We have continued to offer a well rounded church program of worship in sacrament and word, of study in our church school, and in mission through substantial giving to world service and advance specials. Our ministry of music can be rated as one of the best in the State, with choirs from the first grade through adults. Our organizations such as the Laurel Heights Players, Women's Society of Christian Service, and Wesleyan Service Guild are outstanding. Our special services for Christmas and Easter are exciting and meaningful. Our recent District Superintendent, Rev. Claus Rohlf, has said that Laurel Heights does the best job of special services of any church he knows.

The years of transition have been fruitful; but we now know that they have been years of transition. Since 1959, the city of San Antonio has changed drastically. Although Laurel Heights is more a regional church than a neighborhood church, it is set in a particular neighborhood situation. We have a great opportunity to retain a full program, and at the same time minister more widely in our own neighborhood locale. As the urban revolution has hit San Antonio, it has also hit Laurel Heights. We see now that we just cannot continue on the same assumptions that guided our work in the years of transition; we can't do "business as usual." We must plan to meet the spiritual needs of a culturally and racially changing neighborhood. We must plan to meet the needs of a very mobile congregation that is scattered all over San Antonio. We must plan to meet the human needs of our time that demand a higher degree of commitment on the part of the average church member than did the years of transition. We are already moving in that direction through our establishment of the La Trinidad Pre-School Center in the Leona-Colima Area, our work with Kenwood Neighborhood Council, our Summer-Neighborhood Recreational Program, our ecumenical neighborhood cooperation, our Adult Basic Education, and other programs.

In short, we are now standing at the end of an era of sixty years of preparation for the coming years ahead. The call is very clear: God will give us 1970; how will we live it?



Miss Aleene Block



Henry Holloway

Miss Aleene Block has been the Director of Christian Education and Mr. Henry Holloway the Director of Music at Laurel Heights Church throughout this entire decade. Mr. Holloway is presently assisted in the music program by Mr. Richard Parrigan, organist and accompanist, who joined the staff in 1966. Miss Block reports on:

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE PAST DECADE

Christian Education is that ministry of the church which provides the educational undergirding for the church's entire ministry of worship, witness, and work. The objective of the church as manifested through its educational ministry is:

“That all persons be aware of and grow in their understanding of God, especially of his redeeming love as revealed through Jesus Christ, and that they respond in faith and love—to the end; that they may know who they are, and what their human situation means; that they may identify themselves as sons of God and members of the Christian community; that they live in the spirit of God in every relationship; and that they abide in the Christian hope.”

During this past decade our ministry has continued for children from the moment of birth through the elementary division. Regular classes on Sundays have continued and additional days during the summer months have added twenty-five hours of study. Efforts are constantly made to reach children in this entire neighborhood through informal activities in the gymnasium, organized sports, and study. Our weekday kindergarten and nursery school have continued to serve the needs of this neighborhood and our congregation. In the fall of 1968, a new class of two-year-olds was added in response to need.

Our ministry with youth during this time has been strong on some points, and not so strong on others. However, work to strengthen all levels continues. Regular weekly study-times are held, as well as informal activities. Additional study-times are added through weekend retreats and schools of religion.

The ministry with adults has included the regular church school classes, plus additional sessions for short-term study. There are instances where new classes have been formed, and after serving the immediate need have disbanded; whereupon, as other persons reached adulthood, new classes formed again.

Through all this, a continuing effort is being made to develop leadership, and to train for a more responsible ministry.

Drama and the arts have continued to be a part of the educational ministry as persons have been involved in study and worship, and have experienced fellowship through these media.

The Library has grown to 3,400 volumes, with special attention given to resource materials for use by the teachers and leaders of study groups.

A brief summary of the music program at Laurel Heights Church is presented by Mr. Holloway:

## THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Methodist Church has been from its beginning a singing church. The great hymns of Charles Wesley were as important in the establishment of our denomination as the preaching of his brother, John. Methodism today recognizes the importance of music in teaching great Christian truths and expressing the joys of our faith.

The ministry of music in Laurel Heights United Methodist Church serves in three important ways:

1. It serves the worshipers through the presentation of the best in sacred music.
2. It serves the choristers by making available training in musical ability, by the teaching of Christian truths, and by developing an understanding and appreciation of the fine art of worship.
3. It serves the Church by giving to every member—men and women, boys and girls,—an opportunity to have an active part in the life and work of the Church, and to share in the responsibility and privilege of preaching the Word of God through song.

In all of these ways it serves God by involving and directing people in the Celebration of God's work among men.

In this decade, the choral program of Laurel Heights has grown from four choirs to six,—three children's choirs, two youth choirs, and an adult choir. The Caroler Choir is for first and second grades, the Wesley Boy Choir for boys in the third through the sixth grades, the Wesley Girl Choir for girls in the third through the sixth grades, the Chapel Choir for seventh and eighth grades, the Youth Choir for the four high school grades, and the Chancel Choir for adults and the college-age youths.

In addition to the music for the regular services of worship, the choirs have participated in several festival occasions throughout the year. The Festival of Lessons and Carols presented annually on the Sunday before Christmas has become an event anticipated by the community at large.

Cantatas and oratorios presented by the Chancel Choir, some in conjunction with the Youth Choir, have included:

Christ Lay in Death's Dark Prison (No. 4) – Bach  
Messiah – Handel  
Come, Redeemer (No. 61) – Bach  
St. John Passion – Handel  
For Us a Child is Born (No. 142) – Bach  
The Creation – Haydn  
Magnificat – Bach  
The Seven Words of Christ – Haydn  
St. John Passion – Bach  
Elijah – Mendelssohn  
Sleeper's Wake (No. 190) – Bach  
Hymn of Praise – Mendelssohn  
Requiem – Brahms  
Song of America – Ringwald  
Open to Me Gates of Justice – Buxtehude  
Five Mystical Songs – Vaughan Williams  
Rejoice, Beloved Christians – Buxtehude  
The Shepherds of the Delectable Mountain – Vaughan Williams  
The Invisible Fire – Effinger  
Gloria – Vivaldi  
Dettingen Te Deum – Handel

The Youth Choir Show, which is presented each summer, as a fund-raising project, has become a well established annual event.

The Wesley, Chapel, Youth, and Chancel Choirs all participate in a varied program of camps, retreats and workshops which offer opportunity for musical development and personal enrichment.

A camp, held each summer for the Wesley Choirs, offers intensive musical training as well as opportunities for outings and recreation.

The Chapel Choir spends five days each summer in a program of musical and religious training in an outdoor setting.

The Youth Choir enjoys a weekend retreat each summer, as well as a five-day workshop held in conjunction with a sight-seeing tour of various sections of the country. Sites for the Workshop have included Association Camp at Estes Park, Colorado, the American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, Wisconsin, and Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California.

The Chancel Choir participates in at least two seasonal retreats each year. The purpose is for fellowship and for intensive work on cantatas, oratorios and other special music.

Other opportunities for service and training during the year have included singing visits to homes and hospitals, and weekend or one-day workshops with visiting directors. A highlight for the Chapel and Youth Choirs is the Annual Southwest Texas Methodist Youth Choir Rally held in various Churches over the Conference.

The Ministry of Music at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church throughout this "Decade of Stewardship and Service" has followed the direction of Saint Paul where he tells us "Express your joys in singing—psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making music in your hearts for the ears of God." (Ephesians 5:19). At Laurel Heights the Ministry of Music has epitomized the words of Albert Schweitzer, "If you are called to play or sing at a Church service, never forget that you are accorded one of the greatest privileges, one more beautiful than to attend the most brilliant concert." The Ministry of Music at Laurel Heights looks forward to continued service for Christ and His Church.



Mrs. C. Stanley Banks is the Historian for the

#### WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

and she gives their report for the past decade:

The Women's Society of Christian Service is well named. Originally organized to contribute to the work of Foreign and Home Missions, it is involved also in local church activities, community service, and national issues. There is a continuous study program where the members are acquainted with current problems and opportunities for service.

In 1968, The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church were united; and automatically the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Women's Society of World Service of the United Brethren were combined. The members chose as their official name "Women's Society of Christian Service." The Charter signing service was held on October 1, 1968.

The Wesleyan Service Guild, an auxiliary of the Women's Society of Christian Service, was organized for the purpose of providing a channel through which employed women, meeting in the evenings, could have an active part in the women's work of the Church. The Wesleyan Service Guild is divided into three Circles. The Women's Society of Christian Service has six Circles averaging about forty members in each Circle.

Response is the official magazine of the Women's Society of Christian Service, which continues to be the largest women's organization in the United States.

The rolls of these two societies over the past decade have included a great host of the most faithful and dedicated women of this Church.



The Blue Birds have had a most remarkable record for rendering unselfish Christian service both in Laurel Heights Church and in the Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital. Mrs. S. Jack Rieger was president of the Blue Birds in 1960, when it was decided that the organization would undertake the duties of Auxiliary to the Methodist Hospital. Mrs. Rieger reports for:

### THE BLUE BIRDS

In 1920, a few young women of Laurel Heights Methodist Church, under the inspirational guidance of the pastor, A. Frank Smith, and the Woman's Missionary Society, founded The Blue Birds of Laurel Heights Methodist Church with Mrs. H. S. Clarkson as the first president.

They had one aim — Service; one hope — forgetfulness of self; one aspiration — the love and fellowship of Jesus Christ. The Blue Bird, signifying the happiness they hoped to bring into the lives of others, was chosen as their symbol.

The Blue Birds grew with the church from this early period until the year 1960, and the lives of both were intertwined with service and love. The name "Blue Birds" gained recognition over the city as the members turned their interests and financial efforts to the Home Mission Field and community charities, but always supporting the activities of Laurel Heights Methodist Church.

The Blue Bird members had felt a need to concentrate their energy and interest on one project, and as the dream of a Methodist Hospital for San Antonio became a reality — and the need of an Auxiliary was recognized — The Blue Birds decided to turn their interests in this direction. A letter was sent to the pastor, Dr Ennis B. Hill, stating in part, “At the general meeting of the Blue Birds on October 24, 1960, the membership voted to become the Blue Bird Auxiliary to the Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital at the end of May, 1961. It is with a feeling of sadness that we terminate our present activities, but we look with anticipation to the challenge and privilege of broadening our endeavors with the hospital work.” And so The Blue Bird Auxiliary was born — cooperating with the Board of Trustees and the Administrator to render service, and to help create and maintain a Christian atmosphere in the Nations first Nuclear Age Hospital, dedicated to “Serving Man to Honor God.”

The Auxiliary membership is open to anyone interested in the Methodist Hospital. The membership has grown from approximately 500 in 1961 to 755 in 1969, and is one of the outstanding Auxiliaries of the State. The Blue Birds Thrift Shop, located outside the Methodist Hospital, and the Blue Birds Gift Shop, located within the hospital, are the two money making projects of the Blue Bird Auxiliary. The proceeds derived from these projects are given to the Methodist Hospital for its needs.

Among the many gifts made to the Hospital in the last eight years are the Radioisotope Laboratory, the fluorescent ortholux microscope, the cardiac monitoring unit, and many special surgical instruments.

In 1966, the Methodist Hospital began its drive for funds to add five additional floors. The Blue Birds pledged \$100,000 to this fund, which is to be paid in a five-year period of \$20,000 a year. In all, the Blue Bird Auxiliary has given over \$180,000, which included \$60,000 to the building fund of the Methodist Hospital.

The number of volunteer hours given by the Blue Birds in these eight years is staggering — approximately 600,000 hours.

The success of the Blue Bird Auxiliary is due to the help and interest of the Board of Trustees, the Administrator and Staff of the Methodist Hospital, our Director of Volunteers, Mrs. Taylor Perryman, who has guided us through these years, to the Blue Bird officers and members, and, above all, to the patients, their families and friends, and the citizens of San Antonio.

Presidents of Blue Birds of Laurel Heights Methodist Church:

Mrs. Charles Barrow	1959 to 1960
Mrs. S. Jack Rieger	1960 to 1961

Presidents of Blue Bird Auxiliary to the Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital:

Mrs. John Bohmfalk	1961 to 1963
Mrs. Leland Palmer	1963 to 1965
Mrs. Virgil Lundell	1965 to 1967
Mrs. Morris S. Buchanan	1967 to 1969
Mrs. Alfred H. Hill	1969 to present



Miss Lucy Banks recently completed two years service as Chairman of the Commission on Missions and Social Concern at Laurel Heights Church; and in response to a request for an outline of some of the work being done by the Church through its members and its financial aid in various local charitable organizations, Miss Banks submits the following:

#### LOCAL CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

During the decade of the sixties, San Antonio Methodism experienced an unprecedented growth in its institutional facilities and community services. Laurel Heights members played an important role in the fulfillment of this ambitious program of expansion. Many of them gave generously and worked untiringly to bring into being two new Methodist institutions and to relocate and enlarge two existing centers. It has been found difficult to compile a complete roster of those members who have rendered service to these four insitutions during the past decade. Suffice it to say that whenever leadership and support were needed "Laurel Heights was there," and it will continue to accept responsibility for the ongoing program of Methodism in our community. The institutions to which reference has been made are:

Morningside Manor, a retirement home, was formally opened on September 24, 1961, under Methodist sponsorship. It is now sponsored by the Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches of the city.

The Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital, had its formal opening on September 21, 1963.

The new Wesley Community Center on Fitch Avenue, formally opened on January 24, 1965.

The new building of the Methodist Mission Home of Texas, formally opened on February 14, 1967.

In September, 1963, the Commission on Christian Social Concerns of Laurel Heights Methodist Church voted to sponsor weekday classes for functional illiterates. Miss Kate Adams was appointed to be the contact leader for this group. The classes began the following month. This educational program was soon expanded to take care of the needs of people on different educational levels, some studying to pass the United States citizenship test, some preparing for the eighth grade equivalency test, and others with little formal schooling. Under the direction of Miss Adams, there are now (October, 1969) about sixty pupils and a volunteer teaching staff of fourteen. During the past six years our Literacy Program has helped many people to achieve a more satisfying life.

In September, 1968, La Trinidad Pre-School was established as a joint enterprise of the Wesley Centers, the Colima-Leona Neighborhood Council, La Trinidad Church, and Laurel Heights Church. Financial aid and volunteers from our church made this venture possible. Now in its second year of operation, the Pre-School is proving its worth to the Colima-Leona neighborhood.

In the fall of 1969, the Work Area on Ecumenism in planning for another outreach of our Church into the community. Recent meetings of this group have been attended by representatives of the Kenwood Neighborhood Council who have presented the needs of their small community. Churches of all faiths in the general area have been invited to participate with the Neighborhood Council in improving the situation. The response has been encouraging.



## CONCLUSION

It would unduly enlarge this booklet if an attempt were made to cover all phases of the activities and fields of service in which Laurel Heights Church is engaged. They are so numerous and widespread that it would be difficult to encompass them in such a booklet as this.

It seems that each year brings new challenges that call for greater effort and more earnest dedication. However, the spiritual morale of the members of Laurel Heights Church remains at a high level; and the devotion of the membership to the Church never seems to weaken when confronted by problems or difficulties. That is one of the glories of Laurel Heights Church.

The Church has now come to the end of its sixtieth year. Since 1909, sixteen dedicated ministers have served the Church and preached the gospel from the Laurel Heights pulpit. During the past ten years many things have been accomplished, and many souls have been brought nearer to God. If, in some matters, the Church has not accomplished all that was hoped, that should only lead to increased devotion and greater effort on the part of each member of the Church.

This booklet recording the history of this decade is dedicated to a greater future for Laurel Heights Church — greater in service, greater in sacrifice, greater in dedication, and greater in efforts to bring mankind closer to the kingdom of God.

To conclude this brief sketch of “A Decade of Stewardship and Service,” we invoke the words of a grand old hymn very dear to the hearts of the loyal and devoted members of Laurel Heights Church:

“I love Thy Church, O God!  
Her walls before Thee stand,  
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,  
And graven on Thy hand.

“For her my tears shall fall,  
For her my prayers ascend,  
To her my cares and toils be given,  
Till toils and cares shall end.”