

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF QUEEN ANNE CHRISTITAN CHURCH**

### **1902 - 1906**

Long before any worth while movement is launched or building undertaken it has been visualized in someone's dream and so it was that our church was born in the minds of a small group of women, all of whom were member of First Christian Church in Seattle.

On January 15, 1902, this group of women—Mrs. L.A. Kinnear, Mrs. A.J. Kensley, Mrs. J.R. Shaffer, Mrs. T.F. French, Mrs. D.J. Patterson, and Miss Maud Stubbs, who would later be know as Mrs. W.H. French—met and formed the Queen Anne Hill Christian Workers Society.

They decided to purchase a lot and begin work to establish a church on Queen Anne Hill. They bought a lot that measured 60' by 120' at the corner of First West and West Galer for \$500. Funds were raised by donations, dues, and sewing so that on May 28, 1902 the deal was closed and with \$400 in the treasury and a no-interest loan for \$100 from Mrs. L.A. Kinnear.

In the four and a half years that followed the population of Queen Anne Hill had grown and as other members of First Christian Church moved to the Hill there seemed to more of a need for a Church and Sunday School. In November 1906 a rough board tabernacle was built on the lot and on December 6, 1906 Brother Darst organized the Queen Anne Christian Church with about 60 charter members. He served for about a year and a half.

### **1906 - 1910**

In the 4-1/2 years that followed the initial founding of QACC in 1902 the population of the Hill had grown and other members of First Christian Church had moved here, and there seemed to be more of a need for a church and Sunday school. In November, 1906 a rough board tabernacle was erected on the lot and on December 6, 1906 Brother Darst organized the Queen Anne Christian Church with about 60 charter members. He served as pastor until June 2, 1907. The pulpit was then supplied by Brother F. Waldon until a new minister could be installed.

Joseph L. Greenwell began his ministry July 15, 1907 and continued until Dec. 31 1912. It was his understanding that they would build a permanent building during the first year but the financial panic of 1907 made it necessary to postpone the building for 4 years.

The Congregation was without a church home for two years so the Baptist Brethren offered the use of the little mission hall at Garfield St. between Queen Anne Avenue and First Ave North which

was formerly used by them.

### **1911 - 1963**

The old sanctuary, our Fellowship Hall, was dedicated on October 1, 1911. Evangelist Crim conducted services in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Under the leadership of Rev. J.A. Greenwell the church had grown from 81 members in 1909 to an enrollment of 250. Rev. Greenwell led the congregation from the rustic tabernacle, to rented facilities, to that day in 1911 when they dedicated the \$20,000 building.

At the time the church was described in this way: “The new Queen Anne Church is of clinker brick and attractively arranged. Shower baths, kitchen, dining room, robing rooms, baptistry, auditorium, class rooms and parlors are all included in its make up. Following the dedication Evangelist Crim and his singers, Henry Filer and Mrs. Hamann will conduct an evangelistic campaign.”

In 1958 ground was broken for the current sanctuary. A photo taken from that era shows a group of children holding ropes attached to a plow that forms a furrow behind it. The plow is guided by Fred Sparkman, a veteran member of the congregation. The current sanctuary was consecrated on November 9th of that year. The cost to remodel the older building and build the new one came to \$75,000.

In 1963 QACC church historian Earl C. McComb wrote: “During the past 57 years there have been many changes in our locality. The population has doubled several times and there are many more churches of other denominations on the hill. We still have a small church but must realize that the Lord does not recognize our success in terms of numbers but on the good that each one of us does in a small way in our little world around us.”

### **1963 - 2006**

We, today, could echo the words Earl C. McComb. During the past thirty-three years we have seen the population of Queen Anne Hill grow even more rapidly. Many older homes have been torn down to make way for condominiums and town homes. The landscape is proving to be fluid and changing.

During this period the young minister and the small band of disciples were disappointed but never discouraged. The little tabernacle that they had been using was lined with paper and

uncomfortable for the winter so everyone went to work with a will to further the building of the new church.

In November of 1909 the lot at First West and Galer which was bought for \$500.00 was sold for \$4,800.00 cash. The present lot 80 by 100 feet was purchased for \$5,250.00. This lot at Third West and West Lee was more desirable as to location and the dimensions were more suitable for a Church building.

In 1995 we undertook the writing of a mission statement that has served us well over the last eleven years:

**As a church growing in Love we seek to:**

**Worship God,**

**Love Others,**

**Serve the Community, and**

**Share the Good News.**

In the years since we have done our best to live that out through vital worship, attention to small groups, education for children and adults, and various service projects.

As it is with any building maintenance has become a big concern. In 2000 we renovated the sanctuary. Then a few years later we renovated the nursery and pre-school areas upstairs and completed needed exterior work. This year we re-roofed the building and renovated The Children's Worship space.

In this time lots of babies were born into this congregation of faith. Many young families have come to call this community of faith home making it a remarkable inter-generational church.

During these years we reached out to the community and became place of hospitality for many groups offering space for rehearsals, concerts and movement groups: The Esoterics, the InterPlay community, Gallery Concerts, The Children's Workshop, Parent! Baby! Toddler! Classes, and the Red Cedar Circle (a Native American spirituality circle.)

## **2006 - TO THE PRESENT**

In 2006 we asked: Who can know what our future will hold?

At that time we have just put up a fifty-year roof so we had some sense of confidence in our future!

On Sunday, December 10, at our 100 year anniversary, we planted a *Peace Pole* outside the front

door that reflected our deep desire to engage with each other and the world in significant, life-giving ways.

In discerning what the future that Spirit held for us at that point we observed that we might do well to grasp this invocation:

*How do we know that God is with us?*

*We know that God is with us because  
we will be led to places we didn't plan to go.*

As we continued to search for God's leading we entered into a different kind of renovation project and looked closely into the culture, gifts and resources of our church community through a planning process called "New Beginnings."

As a result of this process we began a congregational search to name our core values we found ourselves drawn to these simple statements: We have—

*a heart for children;  
a welcoming spirit;  
the desire to grow and deepen our faith;  
and an openness to the leading of God.*

For the past eight years we have sought to keep these core values at the center of our life together. Through worship, classes, book groups, service projects, and continued hospitality to new groups of people—Kavana, Viva Vocalists, fund raising for Journey with an Afghan School at Coe Elementary—we have sought to be ever more mindful of our core values.

This summer at our annual congregational meeting in June of 2013 we adopted the following statement of welcome:

Queen Anne Christian Church  
is a community of seekers and friends  
~ faithful, hopeful, loving ~  
striving to follow Christ on the great adventure.  
We encourage ourselves, and each other,  
to live and love in grace.  
We gather, we welcome,  
We sing, we pray,

We break bread,  
We learn, we teach,  
We grow.  
We are open to, and affirming of,  
the full participation of all  
as equal members in Christ's Body:  
People of all colors, shapes, and sizes  
People of varied abilities  
People of all life experiences and backgrounds  
People of all sexual orientations  
and gender identities  
Children and elders, and all in between  
No matter where we are on our spiritual journey,  
God's love is big enough for all of us.  
Christ's call is strong enough for each of us.  
The Spirit is moving among and between us.



