

Highway Tabernacle celebrates 100 years of continuous city ministry

On November 20 Highway Tabernacle of Philadelphia, Pa., will celebrate its centennial. The church predates the establishment of the Assemblies of God by 20 years and continues to promote the gospel in the heart of a spiritually needy city.

The minutes of the 1894 re-organizational meeting of the Cross and Crown Association record the foundation of what would become the second oldest Assemblies of God church. "Siloam Methodist Episcopal Church, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Thanks-

giving Day, Thursday, November 29th, 1894. At an all-day meeting which some eight or nine surviving members of the disbanded Cross and Crown attended at the kind invitation of the pastor, Reverend Charles Langley. At about two o'clock in the afternoon it was suggested we reorganize our association after all who were present expressed their opinions and suggested plans of work....After these arrangements had been made we adjourned to the meeting which was in progress upstairs and

which proved to be a grand spiritual feast."

Over the next two decades the revived Cross and Crown Association would develop a permanent mission outreach as the Union Highway Gospel Mission, then as the Highway Mission Tabernacle. Fred Reel, the first pastor, eventually aligned himself with the Pentecostal movement. His emphasis on the ministry of the Holy Spirit was challenged at first, but more than two-thirds of the congregation supported him at a crucial vote.

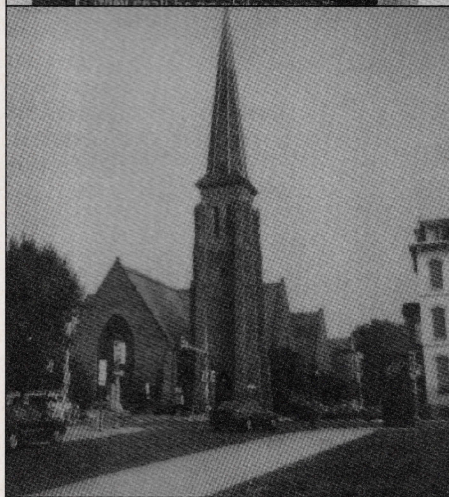
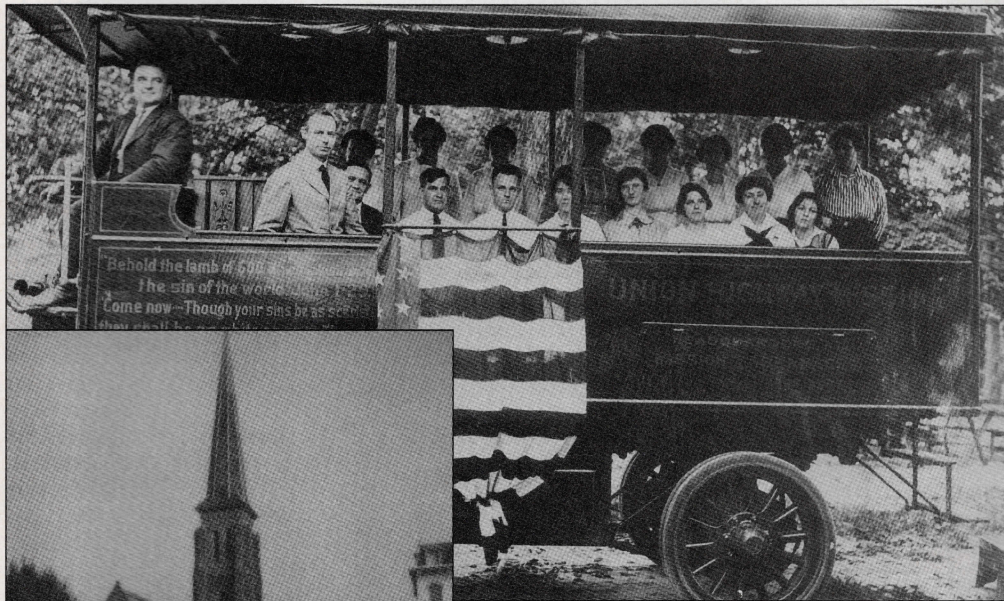
In 1918 the Highway Mis-

sion Tabernacle voted to affiliate itself with the Assemblies of God. The next year Ernest S. Williams became the church's first Assemblies of God pastor. Both Williams and Wesley R. Steelberg, a later pastor, eventually became general superintendents of the Fellowship.

It was during Howard Roberson's ministry that Highway Tabernacle's current sanctuary was purchased in 1960. A Gothic, Victorian building predating the Civil War, the church has continued to serve the congregation and has been completely restored from a devastating 1986 fire.

Steve and Florence Bogdan have pastored Highway Tabernacle since 1979. They believe the unique calling of Highway Tabernacle is illustrated by its continued presence in Philadelphia's Center City. The church has not departed from the founders' objectives to minister to all classes and cultures of people. Today ethnic diversity in the church is manifested in the college fellowship representing students from every continent of the world. The church has many letters on file from professionals grateful for the church in the city during their formative years as students.

"Suburban churches make it attractive to abandon the city church," Steve Bogdan said. "However, from experience we have found the national treasures of every country of the world, in the form of their university students, in our city. Highway Tabernacle stands as a monument to the faithfulness of God." □



Above: Ernest S. Williams (second from left) leads members of his congregation on an evangelistic outreach. The motorized "gospel car" pictured was a continuation of the horse-drawn "gospel wagon" ministry promoted by the original Cross and Crown Association. In 1895 the Association purchased a wagon from a sympathetic Baltimore businessman on generous terms. By that October they had parked the wagon at 29 locations and conducted 70 meetings reaching an estimated 35,000 people. Inset: Highway Tabernacle's sanctuary predates the Civil War. It was carefully reconstructed in 2 years after a severe 1986 fire.

EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

STATE	CITY, ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR	STATE	CITY, ASSEMBLY	DATE	EVANGELIST	PASTOR
Ala.	Madison, A/G	11/13-16	Lynn Wheeler	J. Sayre	Minn.	Mound, A/G	11/13-16	John G. Hall	R. Kimbler
	Selma, Calvary	11/13-16	Tim Todd	W. Andrews		Plymouth, Word of Life	11/18-20	Dominic Galati, Jr.	B. Huston
Ariz.	Tucson, Glad Tidings	11/13-16	Ed Rimer	R. Hilton	N.Y.	Deposit, Maple Lane	11/13-17	J.E. Chamberlin	K. Myrick
Ark.	Greenbrier, Trinity	11/13-18	Bob J. Huie	J. McEwen	Ohio	Canton, Bethel Temple	11/13-16	Sam Farina	R. Graber
	Hot Springs, Pleasant Hill	11/13-16	Paul Grigsby	W. Clark	Okla.	Minco, A/G	11/13-16	Burl Rogerses	C. Warren
Calif.	Red Bluff, Bethel	11/13-16	John Everett	D. Billings		Stroud, A/G	11/13-16	John & Lafern Pratt	D. Wilburn
	San Bernardino, Calvary	11/13-16	Harry Umfleet Min.	R. Mitchell	Pa.	Chambersburg, Bethel	11/13-16	Greg Hubbard	P. Kyllonen
	Delta, First	11/13-16	James Wests	W. Bishop		Reading, Faith	11/13-16	Angel L. Berrios	D. Benjo
Conn.	New Haven, Estrella de Jacob	11/17-20	Steven Danser	A. Marsach	S.C.	West Columbia, Airport	11/13-16	Praisemakers team	O. Walters
Fla.	Durant, Pleasant Grove	11/13-16	Addison Peadens	J. Cooper	Tenn.	Memphis, Overcomers	11/13-18	David Ames	J. De Sanctis
Ill.	Effingham, First	11/16-21	Aaron & Jeanette Pack	D. Wallace		Brownwood, Southside	11/13-18	Everett Burns	T. Reid
Ind.	Evansville, Westview Temple	11/13-16	Barry Jorries	M. Pyle		Quannah, First	11/13-18	Mike Eddys	T. Saali
Kans.	Caldwell, A/G	11/13-16	Wesley Butler	R. Burcham		Stratford, First	11/13-18	Mark Fleming	M. Leonard
Ky.	Jeffersonville, First	11/13-16	Darryl League	G. Arnold		Sunset, A/G	11/13-16	Wayne Kirk Min.	C. Reed
Mich.	Belleville, First	11/13-16	Levernon Davises	K. Miller					

Announcements must reach the *Evangelist* at least 8 weeks in advance.