

# THE VISITOR

December 2018

The Congregational Church of Austin United Church of Christ

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Rev. Thomas J. VandeStadt



A voice cries out, “Cry out!”  
The prophet Isaiah responds, “What shall I cry?” What shall I say to people in exile?  
*In exile.* An interesting phrase. *In exile.* To be *in exile* is to be *outside*. Being *in exile* makes you an *outsider*, in a foreign place where you don’t feel at home, a place that doesn’t belong to you, a place where you don’t belong.

To be in exile is to suffer displacement, loss, grief, anger, instability, dread. And hopefully, to hope. To hope that you’ll one day return home. Or at least, that you’ll survive in exile, as the days, months, and years pass.

What shall I cry out? What shall I say to people in exile?

It’s a pertinent question for today. There are so many people in exile in the world today. Syrian refugees, African refugees, Central American refugees. The poor in the rustbelt cities and towns of North America, the people General Motors will soon lay off. People living in the growing homeless encampment under the 183 bridge at Burnett Road. People leaving their homelands because of violence, poverty, corruption, or climate change. People kicked out of the economy. People who no longer feel at home in the place where they grew up, who no longer feel they belong anywhere.

Like Isaiah, some of us may hear a voice crying, “Cry out!” Say something to the people in exile! But what? What shall we cry out? What shall we say?

Are there any words that will do any good? Can words end people’s exile? Can words bring people home? Can words help people feel they belong?

I don’t know. Maybe. But which words?

We often don’t know what to say to people in exile, people who’re suffering. We often feel inadequate, unprepared, and ill-equipped to say something to people who’re suffering in exile. And because we don’t know what to say, because we feel inadequate, we tend to avoid them. Which just exacerbates their suffering and prolongs their exile.

Perhaps instead of feeling inadequate and avoiding those in exile, we need to humbly accept that we don’t know what to say, and then ask God, what shall I say? Isaiah, one of Israel’s greatest prophets, didn’t know what to say. He humbly asked God, what shall I say? Instead of practicing avoidance because we feel inadequate, let’s do what Isaiah did, practice asking God.

And listen for the answer. Listen very intently.

What is the divine voice saying to you?

What is the voice of love, compassion, mercy, and wisdom saying to you?

What is the voice of justice and righteousness saying to you?

What is the voice of your conscience saying to you?

Listen *for* that voice. Listen *to* that voice. And then give that voice *your* voice. If there was ever a time to speak up and cry out, that time is now.

Speak up! Cry out! Proclaim God’s word for people in exile today, with your voice.

(Cont. on page 2)

(cont. from page 1)

Speak up! Cry out! You may help end someone's exile, help someone home, or make someone feel she or he belongs. At the very least, you may give someone hope, help someone hang on one more day in exile.

Speak up! Cry out!

Tom

### **Sunday, December 16, 7:00 pm: Candlelight Service and Party**

On Sunday, December 16, we will gather for our Annual Candlelight Service and Party. We will read from the prophets and the gospels, sing our favorite Advent and Christmas hymns and carols, and light our candles from the Christ candle to dispel the darkness. Afterwards, we will gather in Fellowship Hall to enjoy one another's company, along with eggnog and other holiday specialties. Please join us, and bring your family and friends!

### **Christmas Day Open-Door Dinner**

We will once again serve our Christmas Open Door Dinner on Christmas Day. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with a short worship service at 12:00 noon, and at 12:30 pm we serve a dinner that consists of ham, turkey, home-cooked vegetables, rolls and butter, and dessert. We will need folks to set up in the morning, serve at 12:30, and clean up after the meal. We start setting up around 9:00 am, and we're usually all done with everything by 3:00 pm. As you make your Christmas plans, please consider providing some food, or helping to set up, serve, or clean up. Sign-up sheets are located in Fellowship Hall, or you can let us know if you can cook or help out in some way by sending us an e-mail: [ucausti@swbell.net](mailto:ucausti@swbell.net)

### **Deacons' Fundraiser: 2019 CCA-UCC Stained Glass Window Calendars**

Looking for a holiday gift for family and friends? Yourself? The Congregational Church of Austin has our very own calendars just in time for the holidays! These calendars feature our gorgeous stained-glass windows along with several other CCA-specific points of interest. Beginning with December 2018, the calendars go through March 2020. That's 16 months! This project is a deacon-sponsored fund-raiser for the church. Watch for them to be on sale after worship on December 16th

## **January Visitor Deadline December 21, 2018**

### **Church Leadership**

Trustee Chair	Keith Beresheim
Deacons Chair	Barbara Burnham
Outreach Team	Whit Bodman
Moderator	John Goff
Treasurer	Gail Christeson
Financial Secretary	Bryan Rutherford
Christian Education	Lynne Lemley
	Shaela Rutherford
Youth Sunday School	Sam Clubb (Acting)
Clerk	Jaime Hadley
Historians	Pat & Mel Oakes
Webmaster	Mel Oakes
Member-At-Large	Bill Beardall

## Heart of Texas Association News December

by Liz Nash

**O**ur Heart of Texas Committee on Ministry does careful and essential work for our Association, as do the Committees on Ministry (some also called Church and Ministry Committees as ours was in the past) across the United Church of Christ. This committee is charged with the oversight of UCC ministers as well as working with Members in Discernment (preparing for ordained ministry), licensing ministers, and being supportive when needed. This committee meets five times per year, currently at St. Peter's Church of Coupland.

As our chair of the recent past, **John Gage**, moves to Massachusetts, the Committee has elected **Anne Wehrly** as the new chair. **Anne** brings a wealth of wisdom and previous experience as the chair. **Cindy Miller** is the registrar, an important part of the Committee's work as we keep substantial files -- recordkeeping is crucial to our work. We have just appointed **Tom VandeStadt**, pastor of Congregational Church of Austin, to fill **John Gage's** place on the Committee with a vote of approval from the Association officers. A vote of the whole Association will be taken at our Spring Meeting to approve **Tom** (or another candidate if needed) to continue on the Committee. Other current members include **Jewell Ellis-Eyler**, **Dave Phillips**, **Michelle Dupy**, **Jess Wade**, **Cecile Adam**, and **Darrin Holub**.

At our last Committee on Ministry meeting, we approved **Nicole Crean** and **Eric Dehmer** to be candidates for licensed ministry and **Arlene Turner** to be a Member in Discernment. **Nicole** is a member of Open Cathedral in Leander and is close to finishing

the online Certificate in Ministry program at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has been a hospice nurse for many years and is very active in the work of Open Cathedral. **Eric Dehmer** has been called to be the pastor of Friedens Church of Washington. He has served for several years as a Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church as pastor of the Richards circuit in Grimes County, commuting from his home in Chapell Hill, and serves as a spiritual director in the local Emmaus Walk community. **Eric** has completed a number of classes for local church pastors through Perkins Divinity School (associated with SMU). **Arlene Turner** has a Master of Divinity from Perkins, was in the United Methodist ordination process for a period of time, and served churches in the Corsicana area and in Mart. She is now a member of United Christian in Austin. All of these people have stories of lifelong calls to ministry. It is inspiring to hear them, and we welcome them on their path of discernment and ministry in the Heart of Texas Association. I hope many of you will be able to meet them.

Finally, St. John's UCC in Burton is saying goodbye to **Risa Garza** as their Associate Minister, at the end of November. **Risa**, a licensed minister and Member in Discernment, has taken a full time job at Blinn College in Bryan. She is a student in the primarily online Master of Divinity program at Lexington Theological Seminary. We join with St. John's in our love and support of **Risa** as she enters a new period in her journey in ministry.

Blessings in Christ,  
**Liz Nash**, Association Minister

## Personals by Pat Oakes

In late October and early November the congregation bade a fond farewell to long-time member **Vic Appel** who was moving to Connecticut to be closer to daughter **Debbie** and her family. Since his wife **Betty's** death several months ago, **Debbie** and **Cheryl** (who lives in Madison, Wisconsin) have been playing tag team taking care of **Vic** and making arrangements for him to move—no easy task. Both **Cheryl** and **Debbie** flew with **Vic** on a direct flight to Newark—2 first class seats and one in economy so that they could swap out every now and again. **Cheryl** reports, "We are happy to report that we made it to Connecticut safely and are settling into the Memory Care unit here. We are feeling pretty good about the facility and have encountered not too many speed bumps, so that helps!... Right now I am here with Dad 24/7 and **Debbie** visits every few days. The grandkids (**Emily** and **Sam**) were here last weekend and we went out to lunch and then played a board game. Dad is going to some meals and activities on his own every day and getting to know the other residents and care providers. The day after we moved in it snowed! ... He frequently asks where we are and why we are here, but is happy that we are nearer to **Debbie's** family and can see them more often. Thanks to everyone for the lovely send off before we left! Delicious food, kind words, and very special people. We miss you all, especially during the holidays with so many years of memories! **Debbie** and I hope to visit even if we don't make it to Austin as often when Dad isn't there.

You are all in our hearts and prayers! "**Debbie** adds, "We just got our moving pod with Dad's stuff from Texas, delivered two days ago, so we are in the process of unloading it now. We are also still helping Dad get settled in his new place and getting to know the new caregivers and fellow residents here, as well as the new program. Dad has enjoyed the singalongs, brain teaser activities, and documentaries. He still cannot get over the snow on the ground, cold weather, short days/long nights, and tall, tall trees!" Vic's new address is 435 Danbury Road, Apt 118 Wilton, Connecticut 06897—about a 35 minute drive from the **Appel-Knowlton** family.



10/28/18 Vic Appel was one of the lucky raffle winners in the annual youth group carved pumpkin raffle. l-r--Reuel Nash, Barbara Burnham, Vic, and Cheryl Appel (Whit Bodman in the far back right)



11/22/18 Vic Appel in the parlor of his new home with Cheryl and Debbie



11/4/18 Old friends and new saying goodbye to Vic Appel at coffee hour--l-r John Goff, Sarah Darter, Vic and daughter Cheryl Appel, Pastor Tom VandeStadt (who spoke eloquently about Vic's contributions to our church community), Bill Mueller, and Naomi Rutherford

## Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

From October 23rd to November 1st, **Nodie** and **Dennis Murphy** enjoyed a Road Scholar adventure in Alsace. The adventure began with two days of sightseeing in Strasbourg, the spectacularly beautiful capital of the Grand Est and now the official seat of the European Parliament. However, most of the trip was spent on the *Madeleine*, a barge cruising the Marne canal from Lagarde back to the Marne's confluence with the Rhine in Strasbourg. Along the way there were daily stops at points of interest, which included everything from an enormous stained glass window in Sarrebourg created by **Marc Chagall** to the center of French hops culture and beer brewing in Wingersheim. The **Murphys** particularly enjoyed a day spent in Saverne, a small city that boasts of a 12th-century church, a monastery founded in the 14th century, imposing 18th-century administrative buildings, and a whole neighborhood of cross timbered houses. In the interest of full disclosure, **Nodie** says it must be stated that a key feature of the trip--- particularly on the barge -- was.... FOOD. The *Madeleine* had its own chef, and he served multi-course meals every midday and evening, each of them featuring Instagram-worthy dishes. Luckily, a path ran alongside the canal from the start of the cruise to its finish, and passengers could disembark and walk ahead as much as they wanted. Without that, **Dennis** says, he would doubtlessly have gained more than the 3.5 pounds he managed to lay on during the trip.



10/29/18 Dennis took this photo as he and Nodie walked along the canal after a delicious meal on the barge

In more **Murphy** news, on November 4th, right in the middle of **Nodie's** fall choral concert, **Dennis** got a text from son **Ned**: "We have a baby now! Her name is **Adalyn Quinn**, 7 lbs 14oz, 20 inches. **Faye** is good, everyone is healthy." **Dennis** shared the news with **Nodie** as soon as the concert was over, and they turned on All Caps to respond: "CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CONCERNED! We love having a granddaughter named **Adalyn Quinn!**" A later request for "pictures when you catch your breath" produced several, including one of **Adalyn** (one day old) with her big brother **James**, and another of **Adalyn** at one week with her dad **Ned**. A couple of weeks later **Dennis** got a special birthday present from Minneapolis when **Ned** and **Faye** arranged for his first FaceTime visit with **Adalyn** and **James** together. "Sometimes," **Dennis** says, "you just have to love technology."



11/5/18 Big brother James Murphy with his new baby sister Adalyn Quinn



11/11/18 Dad Ned Murphy with his new daughter Adalyn

## Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

There was a delightful Thanksgiving celebration at the **Lemleys** in Round Rock—five doors down from the **Murphys**—where Thanksgiving was celebrated for the first time with **Jeffrey's** new Canadian wife **Rachelle**. She's from Halifax, Nova Scotia; she and **Jeffrey** intend to live here in Austin and will soon be embarking on the path of obtaining green card / work visa / eventual citizenship. **Rachelle** is a self-taught artist who has sold several pieces in Canada and will be working on getting to know the Austin art scene very soon. She'll also be looking into part-time gigs as a personal trainer—she's in fabulous shape herself and knows a lot about how to bring that condition about in others also. (She's generously offered to start with attempting to whip her mother-in-law into a little bit of shape.) **Katie** drove up from San Marcos to first deliver room-mate **Emily Howicz** to her family, and then arrived with her culinary contribution: her very first home-made blueberry pie: it was delicious. **Geneva Ross** was able to attend, bringing the traditional green bean casserole, taking a short break from caring for her adorable husband **Michael Neberman**, who has recently finished a six-week course of radiation for throat cancer which has absolutely wiped him out. The smallest exertions exhaust him at this point, and among other consequences, he has lost his sense of taste and had to have numerous teeth removed. Rounding out the **Lemley** crowd were a couple more long, long-time family friends who also brought food, so everyone wound up happily fulfilling the Thanksgiving imperative of eating until nearly comatose.



11/4/18 Lynne Lemley with her new daughter-in-law Rachelle and son Jeffrey

Many thanks to our great office manager **Donna Cravens** for sharing some of her pecan bounty (shelled, no less) with members of the congregation after church on the 25th. Lucky bakers were glad to take home some pecans! **Donna** lives in a pecan grove and has been taking advantage of Mother Nature's gift.

**Debby Kohrt** was honored to be with her Smiles International Foundation group this past October in Cabo San Lucas ...her fifth year of service! As many already know, this is a surgical mission which **Debby** works on twice a year, April and October, to be with the same surgeons, anesthetists, nurses and speech therapists. Their mission is to perform charitable surgery and care for the children of Mexico with cleft lip and palate deformities. The Web site for this organization is :

[www.smilesinternationalfoundation.org](http://www.smilesinternationalfoundation.org)



10/18 Debby Kohrt with her nursing team (2nd from the left in the back with the radiant smile)

## Personals (cont)

by Pat Oakes

We've missed seeing **Doris Williams** at church on a regular basis since she moved to **Pflugerville**, but she has missed us, too, and vows to come more regularly. Folks had a great time catching up with her on the 25th. She shared that she has been busy with a group she organized called ATXVETS, a non-profit. **Doris**, a retired Army Lt. Colonel, has been active in veteran's issues for some years. The main focus of the first project of the group has been to insist that the Confederate flag not be carried/flown in military parades in Austin. A group called the Sons of the Confederacy has done so for years, but this year, thanks to the lobbying of ATXVETS, that was not the case. Her point is that the Confederacy broke away from the USA and fought against it, so why should they be allowed to march in the parade alongside folks who supported the Union. Good work, **Doris!!**



11/25/18 Doris Williams at coffee hour enjoying catching up with Dave Ross, Kevin Dietz, and Dennis Murphy



11/11/18 Retired Army Lt. Col. Doris Williams (3rd from left) marching down Congress Avenue with Mayor Adler and other city officials at the front of the Veterans Day parade

**Beth Gleason**, a former member here and now pastor of Christ Congregational Church, UCC, in Fort Morgan, CO, was delighted to have a visit with two of our members recently. **Greg Futch**, who now lives in Denver, and **Jaime Hadley** who was in the area on business, worked out a visit with **Beth**. A highlight of the visit was having dinner together at The Fort restaurant which **Jaime** nostalgically selected. It's comparable to the Oasis out on Lake Travis, kind of a Colorado themed restaurant complex "on steroids" with a mostly wild game menu.



10/27/18 Greg Futch, Beth Gleason and Jaime Hadley enjoying a get-together at the Fort Restaurant in Fort Morgan

How many of you knew that **Pam Tucker** has her own plane? Her dad had an airplane when she was growing up, so flying was pretty normal for her family. When she was 16, her dad asked if she wanted to learn to fly. He said that she could use his plane and he would pay for gas if she would pay for instruction. He bought her a ground school book and she had to pass the written test first. She studied the book and took the test and passed. She would go to the airport 2 - 3 times per week before school for a flying lesson. She got her license while she was in high school. After she got out of graduate school, she bought her own plane—her dad had sold his plane a few years earlier. **Pam** is a fair weather (VRF) pilot only. This past summer she flew to Colorado, but was unable to fly back due to weather and drove back with **Alison**. She was able to get a cheap airline ticket to Denver and a Greyhound ticket to the town where her plane was tied down, but when it came time to leave, she didn't take the flight because the weather

## Personals (cont) by Pat Oakes

was going to be bad and she would not be able to make the return trip. Each week she would look at the weather for the weekend to see if she could retrieve her plane. There were a lot of rainy days this summer/fall. Pam was worried because it was parked out on the ramp and could get hail damage. In early October, **Alison** and **Pam** drove to CO. They stayed a few days but the day that was supposed to have good weather was socked in and they drove back together, leaving the plane again. **Pam** talked to her friend **Bob** who is also the mechanic for the plane here and he told **Pam** to keep her schedule open. **Pam** met him one morning at the Georgetown airport at 6:30 am. The weather was beautiful. They had a little trouble getting his plane started, but he got it going and they took off. There was a problem with the airspeed and cylinder head temperature and he realized that the gear had not retracted. They went back to the airport and he fixed the gear problem quickly. They could not get the plane started again. **Pam** left to pick up some breakfast for them. He had determined that that fuel pump was not putting out enough pressure, but if they could get it

started then they would not need to use the pump--it is needed only for start up. They did get it started and headed out. **Bob's** plane is a Lancair which he built. **Pam** thinks her plane, a 4 passenger Mooney Executive, is pretty fast as it is 4 hours to get to Colorado, but **Bob's** plane is much faster. The trip took 2 hrs and 45 minutes! When they arrived **Pam's** plane looked great, but she was worried about the battery. It did have just a little bit of battery left, but the starter was not engaging, probably from sitting on the ramp in rain. **Bob** lubricated it and it started working, but then there was not enough juice to start the plane. **Bob** had brought another battery, so they jumped her plane and got it going. **Pam** waited to make sure **Bob's** plane started. They taxied down and **Pam** took off first, then **Bob**. They went to a separate frequency and **Bob** radioed **Pam**. She asked where he was and he said, "Look out your right window". When she did, she saw him zoom past her. **Pam** told him thanks and see you later. She says he's a great guy and has been working on her plane for nearly 30 years. Her plane is safe in its hangar in Georgetown now.



3/19/2009 An older picture of Pam Tucker and her plane, a 4 passenger Mooney Executive

**Personals (cont)**  
by Pat Oakes

Everyone had a great time at **Tommie Pinkard's** 90th birthday party in Brevard, NC, the weekend of Nov. 1. **Tommie** was so happy to have her sister **Jackie** there, as well as grandkids, nieces and nephews, and new friends from College Walk. Folks came from Georgia, Florida, California, New York and North Carolina. All of the **Pinkards** were thinking of old friends back in Austin, and **Tommie** got a big kick out of the beautiful card sent by us with all the warm wishes! We miss you, **Tommie!**

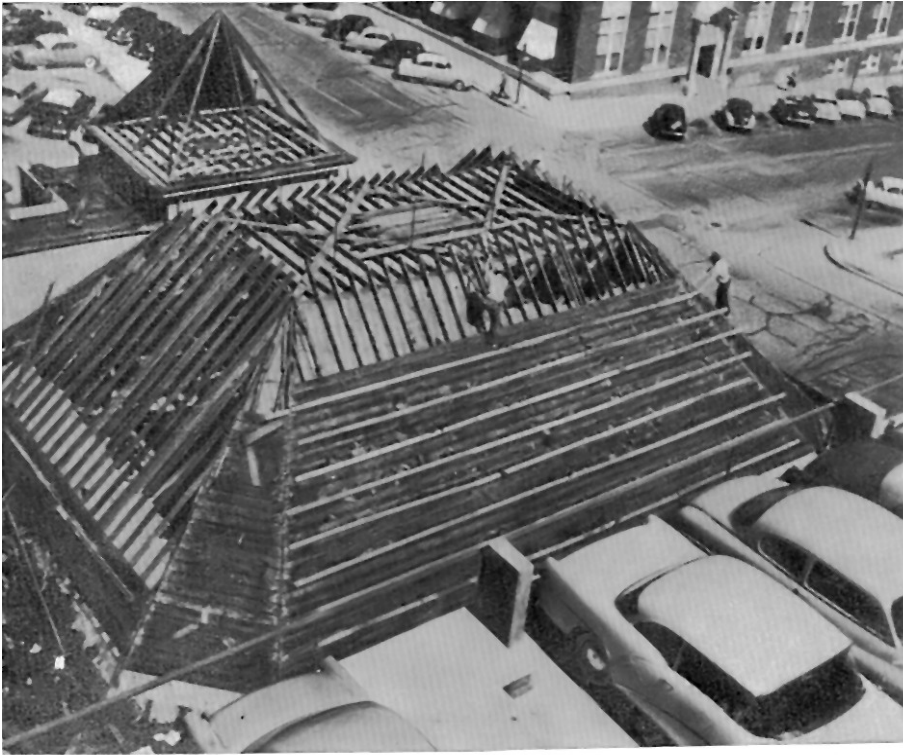


1/2/18 Tommie Pinkard's 90th birthday celebration--Front row, L to R: David Pinkard, daughter Daphne, Tommie, William (Chris's son), Chris Pinkard; Back row, L to R: Suzanne (David's wife), Kiana (Chris's daughter), Rizza (Chris's wife)



11/18 Fran and Rambie note that it has been 11 years since the last big flood--and that means he and Fran are also 11 years older. It is taking longer to clean up their years and garage than they would like, but they are glad that things weren't worse!

## History Corner



Early 1950s—This shows that the front of the church was on Colorado Street. We found this treasure at the Austin History Center.

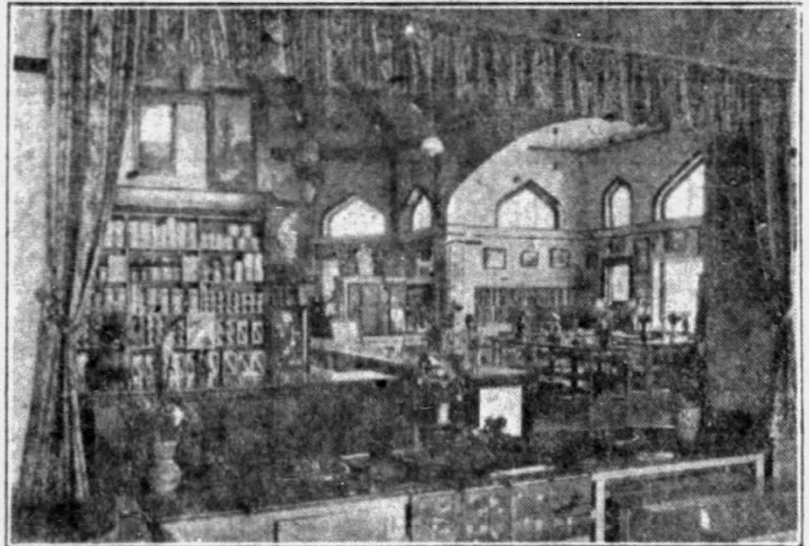
**ANOTHER LANDMARK PASSING** — The famous old First Congregational Church in which the late Dr. R. J. Briggs occupied the pulpit for many years is being razed to make room for a parking area for the Mac Scott pigeon hole garage. To more modern Austinites, the structure at the southwest corner of Ninth and Colorado is the old Bradford Paint Company Building, which the paint firm vacated several weeks ago in the move to its new plant

*Staff Photo*

at Fourth and Guadalupe. The site has been leased to the Mac Scott Parking Inc., firm owned by John Linn Scott, Austin architect, and Roy McClellan, Waco businessman. Scott said present plans provide for establishing entrances to the pigeon hole garage on both Colorado and Ninth Streets and provide off-street parking for cars until they can be placed in the garage. This will avoid a waiting line on Colorado Street.

1923 Austin Statesman story on the Bradford Paint Company using the old church building at 9th and Colorado as its store from about 1921-1955--note the familiar window frames which were duplicated in our current sanctuary.

### *Bradford Store Attractive*



The home of the C. A. Bradford Paint and Varnish company is without doubt one of the most attractive stores of its kind in the south. Until purchased by Mr. Bradford, the building was occupied as a church. Its roomy interior has

afforded the Bradford company to fashion it into not only a large store, but into an artistic series of display rooms to show the many wares to the public. The store is located on the corner of Ninth and Colorado streets.

**History Corner** (cont. from pg. 10)



About 1920—the First Congregational Church. You can see Colorado Street. at the front. You can also recognize the shapes of the windows which were moved when our present church building opened about 1921.



This building, still a parking garage, currently occupies the southwest corner of the intersection of 9th and Colorado—Colorado Street. is running south to north (left to right) and 9th St. east to west (left to right)