



Kerr Kronicles Volume XXXIV

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Peek into the Past: In 1952 the congregation reluctantly bid farewell to Rev. McAlister. He developed some vocal problems that made public speaking difficult. During his eleven years at Philadelphia, the membership of the church had grown to 428, an increase of 46%. The total giving of the church had grown to \$22,260 and benevolent giving had expanded from \$546 to \$4325 or 800%. His death occurred in 1981 and it was most fitting that the memorial service to give thanks for his life and witness was held in the new sanctuary of the church, which in many ways was built on the foundation that Mr. McAlister had helped to lay. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

At the dedication services of the Educational Addition in 1944, a speech prepared by Mrs. J.M. Black and Rev. F.R. McAlister and was read by Mrs. Black. The final paragraph follows: "We love and adore our Church, PHILADELPHIA, for all that that name implies, 'brotherly love' including love of country, love for our fellow-man, love for Church and above all, Love for Jesus Christ our Savior. This spirit characterized the founders of this church and has existed in the hearts of its membership down to, and including the present generation. That this spirit of 'brotherly love' may continue to prevail, is our earnest prayer." (*History of Philadelphia Presbyterian Church 1944*)

A Musical "Note": In the fall of 1953, Mrs. Dooley, who had conducted a progressive program of music, resigned to move to Texas where a church had called her husband to head the music program. The music committee quickly found a new director, Mrs. H. V. Carson, the choral director at East High School. For four years she also gave a progressive leadership. When Martha Lee requested to be relieved from her responsibility as organist, Sara Higgins was secured. She became a dynamic part of the music team until 1971. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

Important National Events: 1952 United States presidential election: Dwight D. Eisenhower elected as president, Richard Nixon elected as vice president.