

## THE WYOMING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MILLBURN, N. J.

The Wyoming Presbyterian Church is located in the Wyoming section of Millburn at 432 Wyoming Avenue on the northeast corner of Linden Street. It is in a real sense a community church and is under the ministry of the Reverend Doctor Donald M. Meisel, assisted by the Reverend Mr. Lawrence H. Kellmer, Jr., as assistant minister and director of youth work.

The Wyoming section of the township was laid out as a real estate project in 1872 by the Wyoming Land Development Company. The Morris and Essex Railroad (now the D. L. & W.) crossed the dirt roadway of Wyoming Avenue at grade. On the north side of the tracks a little east of the road the development company built a little railroad station, the Wyoming Station. The ticket agent was a Mr. Brown Emerson who was an ordained minister.

The few people living in the area wanted "preaching and a Sunday School". Since there were no trains on Sunday the railroad station was adopted as a church and the Rev. Mr. Brown Emerson became the founding minister of the little congregation.

About 30 people attended the first service held on November 9, 1873 and the reported text of the sermon that Sunday was taken from Genesis 28 : 17 - "How dreadful is this place. This is none other than the house of God; and this is the gate of Heaven."

The little group petitioned the Presbytery of Morris and Orange and on April 21, 1875 it officially became known as the First Presbyterian Church of Wyoming, New Jersey.

In 1883 the congregation was given the land at the present site and a wooden church building was erected. The first services in it were held on December 31, 1883. A wing for added Sunday School space was added in 1890.

By 1931 these facilities were inadequate and they were torn down to make way for the present beautiful colonial type brick structure. The sanctuary was dedicated June 5, 1932. The old manse fronting on Linden Street was remodeled for use as Sunday School rooms. This was removed in 1951 to be succeeded by the present wing which houses the church school and was dedicated December 30, 1951.

There is on the active membership roll of the church one who joined on March 1, 1888. It is Mrs. Frederick R. Stoneall, the former Isabella F. Emerson and a granddaughter of the founding minister the Rev. Mr. Brown Emerson. In addition, there are on the active rolls of the church descendants of many of the

families who were instrumental in forming and nourishing the little church in the Wyoming Station of the Morris and Essex Railroad.

The church has grown from the 14 original members to over 700 members and has a Church School of 350 members and a staff of teachers and officers numbering 57.

There is a very active Womens' Guild of over 250 members, and the church sponsors Senior and Junior High Westminster Fellowship groups, a Boy Scout Troop, a Cub Scout Pack, and a young married couples Tandem Club.