

THIS WEEK'S GUEST WRITER

Mrs. H. D. Sturdivant came to Alpine in 1933 from Jacksonville, Florida. She is active in church and community affairs, and is another Grandma Moses when it comes to painting. With the Alpine Church approaching its 57th Anniversary she is here able to give an intimate history of its past.

No community is complete without its church. When Alpine came into being in the stage-coach days, its church minded people worshiped in the Alpine Center, now known as The Woman's Club. This small community organization has left today, four living charter members. One, Mrs. Ida Stephenson celebrated her 99th birthday on the 18th. The others are Miss Pearl Foss, Mrs. Lena Williams, and Mr. Percy Foss.

Those consecrated Christians wanted a church home of their own. So, with a small sum of money, and the labor donated, all in all, materialized into the little church that now stands, and is so dear to many of us. It stands a living monument to their memory.

Rev. W. H. Fuller, the first pastor, affectionately called it "The Little Brown Church in the Hill."

In 1934 the church was dedicated, and Alpine had a church.

All too soon the church found the small sanctuary inadequate to serve its people.

Rev. Fuller and a few zestful members were instrumental in adding the annex. I recall that the late George Marston gave \$500.00 toward this building.

We were very grateful for these extra accommodations. We were able to house the Church-School primary department, and use it also for social occasions. The kitchen, well equipped, is used also on Sunday's for a class room.

Rev. William I. Jones succeeded Rev. Fuller. He, too, came out from San Diego on Sundays. While his messages gave all a spiritual outlook, still, the church needed a resident pastor.

The Church Guild, through hard work and thoughtful planning, was instrumental in building the church parsonage, of which we are indeed proud.

The Church then called the Rev. Fred Line. He and his wife were the first to answer that need.

Our present pastor, Dr. Roger Larson, succeeded them. The Church finds that with his two years of efficient leadership, and with the population growing in leaps and bounds, church inadequacy to serve its people are greater than ever.

Having in mind a potential outlook for a better community by giving ample room for Christian fellowship, Dr. Larson and the various church committees decided there was no greater need than a church befitting our Jewel-village studded with homes, sheltering the future generation, and a new sanctuary was conceived.

This inspiration spread throughout Alpine, evidenced by generous contributions by many. The late Mrs. de Forest Smith left a five thousand dollar endowment to be used in the building fund.

And while the building committee was seriously planning the proposed new church, on such a small space of property, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bennett graciously donated the adjoining lot, for which the church expresses its continued thanks.

Next Friday night, February 23rd, at the regular Friday night observance of Lent, the Fifty-Seventh Anniversary will be observed.

The Church hopes to be in its new building by Christmas. Obviously, some think that this is strictly a Congregational Church and not a Community Church. Dr. Larson repeatedly explains that it is both, and he urges all denominations to make this their church home.

So come, and worship with us!

Mrs. H. D. Sturdivant