

**“100 YEARS YOUNG”
JUNE 2008**

Helen and I recently returned from a short trip to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Trinity Reformed Church flew us up in order to participate in their Centennial Celebration. This was my first pastorate after graduating from seminary. I was their pastor from 1978 to 1988. Helen and I have many fond memories of our time there and all three of our children were baptized at this church.

Since returning to Tampa Bay, many persons have asked me about this unique trip up north. After all, it isn't every day that one gets to participate in a centennial. Many thoughts come to mind as I reflect on those days in Michigan. We woke up one morning and discovered that it was only 36^o outside. In spite of a couple of chilly days, Helen and I really enjoyed this special celebration.

We attended two big events while in Grand Rapids. The organizing committee had sent us two tickets to the Friday night Centennial Celebration Banquet. It was a joyful event as we renewed acquaintances with many friends from Trinity Church. Children that I had baptized were now taller than me. I was asked to give the closing prayer at this banquet. We also attended the Sunday morning worship service which celebrated 100 years of the church's ministry. It was a joyful service that both honored the past and looked forward to the future.

The days we spent in western Michigan were very busy. As you know, both of our families live in that part of the state. Here are some of the other highlights:

- Seeing 100 candles lit on a birthday cake during the Sunday morning service.
- Attending a Saturday night hamburger fry at the home of Helen's sister, Carol.
- Having lunch at Russ' Restaurant in Grand Haven with my family. This is a popular Dutch restaurant chain located in western Michigan.
- Walking through the tulips that line the streets of Holland, Michigan. Photos of these colorful flowers are posted in Smead Hall.
- Visiting the Lord's Bounty Used Clothing Store. This ongoing ministry was started when we were at Trinity Church.
- Attending a Sunday afternoon luncheon at the home of the chairperson of the Centennial Committee. Many of our friends were there.

Helen and I were honored to participate in this joyful Centennial Celebration. It was exciting to see how God is still using Trinity Reformed Church to be a blessing on the west side of Grand Rapids. We serve a faithful God who has big plans.

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