75th

ANNIVERSARY

1899 - 1974

Park Avenue Congregational Church

PARK AVENUE and PAUL REVERE ROAD

ARLINGTON, MASS. 02174
It is with great pride that the members of the Park Avenue Congregational Church present this program of our 75th Anniversary to those who founded this church and to the many who, throughout these years have sustained us by their devotion. We celebrate their faith with a pledge to continue to serve this community with Christian faith and unity.
A Letter from CRIS

There have been times when, for need of direction and strength, I have walked alone through our sanctuary and listened to the hymns and prayers and sermons that have been raised up to God for 75 years.

Even though the old church is gone and the new one stands in its place, one can still sense its presence. Countless persons unknown to me are still alive here; their voices join in with ours to celebrate God's love for His people. There is Power in this place, if for no other reason than the collective aspirations of so many good people that have been channeled through the Christian community for three-quarters of a century.

The ancients believed in such holy places and I do also because I feel in our sanctuary a kinship with those who have labored lovingly to build their lives around the adoration of God. I feel more open in this holy place, not only to my brothers and sisters who are gone now, but to the God who called them before me and now calls us all to faithful worship and service.

I am proud to be serving as the pastor of this church during the celebration of its 75th anniversary, not because it is simply a milestone in the life of an institution, but rather because we share together in renewing our appreciation for our forebears whose devotion to God inspired them to establish this church community for themselves and their children.

We are their children by Christian adoption, and I hope that our remembrance of them will move us to continue in faith the rich heritage they have established.

Faithfully,

The Reverend Harold C. Criswell, Jr.
Senior Minister

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A Letter from KELLY

A time to live, and laugh, and love, and rejoice. A time to touch, to hope, to pray, and to anticipate the future, inspired and uplifted by where we have come, and God willing where we may go by the leading of His spirit. Our 75th anniversary, as part of the living body of Christ, should be an event worthy both of sober reflection, and of uproarious joy.

The celebration of a 75th anniversary is an occasion to which we come but seldom in life. Perhaps a goodly number of us have enjoyed, or may anticipate, a 75th anniversary of our personal birthdays. Far rarer would be a 75th anniversary of a marriage—most of us will not be around that long. Yet in a true sense, we who share today in the life of Park Avenue Congregational Church, share in an unbroken, ongoing life history of seventy-five years.

Whether you have come, like me, only recently, or whether you have invested a greater portion of your years in this fellowship, we all do well to remember the aspirations of our chartering forebears, who founded our church in order to integrate the joy and the holiness of their faith within the life of a growing Arlington community. And like them, we do well to honor a life history which far transcends even the seventy-five years of our fellowship, reaching back to the calling of our common Master, to come and follow Him.

May this celebration bring us an outpouring of joy and laughter, and of praise, like we have never experienced before.

Faithfully,

Rev. Kelly S. Barge
Assistant Minister
The Ministers of Park Avenue Congregational Church

1899 -

1900 - 1915                      REV. JOHN G. TAYLOR

1916 - 1920                      REV. JOHN M. PHILLIPS

1921 - 1927                      REV. HAROLD L. STRATTON

1927 - 1931                      REV. ARTHUR G. LYON

1932 - 1933                      REV. ARTHUR W. DYCER

1933 - 1940                      REV. CLIFFORD O. SIMPSON

1941 - 1943                      REV. FRANK J. LANDOLT

1943 - 1947                      REV. PAUL E. SHELDON

1947 - 1949                      REV. DAVID H. BREMER

1949 - 1957                      REV. MILTON F. SHADEGG

1957 - 1971                      REV. WILBUR D. CANADY, JR.

1972 -                           REV. HAROLD C. CRISWELL, JR.

The History of Park Avenue Congregational Church

Previous to the year 1885 religious services had been held in Union Hall, Arlington Heights. On April 14, 1885 a corporation was formed to find a site, raise funds and build a chapel. Under the efficient leadership of the Chapel Guild (now known as the Women’s Guild) $2,500 was pledged as a Chapel Fund. On August 15, 1885 the lot at the corner of Park Avenue and Vine Street (now Paul Revere Road) was purchased and the Chapel built and dedicated on December 30, 1885.

On March 22, 1899 the church became known as the Park Avenue Congregational Church. On May 1, 1900 the Reverend John G. Taylor was chosen pastor of the church and served until 1915.

In the year 1928 the Parish Hall was erected on Paul Revere Road. The first floor was completed. The auditorium has been the scene of many happy occasions and also many heated and important meetings and discussions.

Under the leadership of the Reverend Clifford Simpson (1933-1940) the Parish Hall proved its worth with the Youth Organizations. Reverend Simpson saw the need of a central cabinet, and the Church Council was formed.

In the year 1941 the Reverend Frank J. Landolt was called as pastor and served until 1943. World War II was affecting the life and activity of every person and every organization. One hundred and fifty-eight young people were on our Honor Roll, 7 of who lost their lives during World War II; and in January, 1943 Reverend Landolt decided to join the Armed Forces as a Chaplain.

The Reverend Carl M. Gates served as interim. The Reverend Paul E. Sheldon was called on November 14, 1943 and served until 1947. Following the end of the war money was raised to complete the second floor of the Parish Hall, due to the deep faith and personal commitment of Reverend Sheldon and Mrs. Manfred Rausher, Chairman of the Religious Education Committee.
Mr. David H. Bremer, who had served as Youth Director, was appointed interim pastor. In 1947 the Reverend Milton F. Shadegg was called as pastor.

On Whitsunday 1948 the first class of young people received the ritual of confirmation.

On August 21, 1959 a beautiful organ was purchased from St. Mark's School and stored until a decision was made about a new church. This instrument has given much joy to all of the people of Park Avenue Congregational Church.

The years following the war were years of struggle and planning and in 1959 under the leadership of the Reverend Wilbur D. Canaday, Jr., steps were definitely taken to build a new church.

On June 4, 1960 a dinner was served in the Parish Hall as a time of remembrance and sociability.

On June 5, 1960 a single service was held in the old church culminating with the formal moving of the Christian Symbols and Tokens to the Parish Hall where Sunday services were held until the completion of the new church.

On April 2, 1961, the Easter services were held in our present edifice and on May 14, 1961, the service of dedication was held.

On June 10, 1971, at the Annual Roast Beef Dinner, the mortgage on our present edifice was burned—just 10 years and one month after its dedication. It is nice to note that this mortgage was paid entirely through special contributions of our members.

1971 and 1972 was a trial period of the Arlington United Parish. In January of 1973 it was decided to withdraw from the United Parish and secure the services of an assistant minister. We look forward to continued growth with love and fellowship abiding under the leadership of the Reverend Harold C. Criswell, Jr., senior minister, and the Reverend Kelly S. Barge, assistant minister.

Our church stands on the corner of Park Avenue and Paul Revere Road. Paul Revere was the man who so long ago went forward, spreading the word of war that gave our nation freedom, so may we go forward spreading the word of God and peace.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
for our
75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

* General Chairman – RALPH W. SEXTON

November 2nd   DIAMOND CRYSTAL JUBILEE BALL
Mr. and Mrs. E. Albert Woodin

November 3rd   75th ANNIVERSARY CHURCH SERVICE
Robert Davis
Isabelle O'Brien

November 6th   75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
Mrs. John Kennedy
Mrs. Frank Lincoln
MEETING AFTER DINNER
Kermit C. Streng

November 9th   ANNIVERSARY FAIR
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest G. Noring, Jr.

DIAMOND CRYSTAL JUBILEE BALL
Saturday, November 2nd, 1974

The theme and decor of the evening will reflect
the music, songs and dances that were popular
during the decades of the life of Park Avenue
Congregational Church.

- ARRIVE BY HORSE AND WAGON
- MUSIC AND DANCING
- SELECTED SONGS AND DANCE ROUTINES
  FROM THE PAST
- REFRESHMENTS
- ANNIVERSARY CAKE – TOAST
- LEAVE BY ANTIQUE CAR

CO-CHAIRMEN – Mr. and Mrs. E. Albert Woodin

75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
of the
PARK AVENUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday, November 3rd, 1974

* The order of this service is the same as the one conducted on the
afternoon and evening of March 22, 1895, when the Church was
recognized.

ORGAN PRELUDE
DOXOLOGY
INVOCATION
HYMN “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” 195

SCRIPTURE READING
HYMN “Onward, Christian Soldiers” 382

PRAYER

ANTHEM “Alleluia, Alleluia” Boyce

SERMON Rev. Harold C. Criswell, Jr.

ANTHEM “O Blessed and Ever Gracious Lord” Tschaikowsky

ANTHEM “Psalm 150” Lewandowsky

HYMN “Stand Up! Stand Up! for Jesus!” 385

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Dinner starts at 6:30 P.M.

Dinner preparations and arrangements by the Women's Guild and the Friday Night Social Club.

Co-Chairmen: Mrs. John Kennedy
Mrs. Frank L. Lincoln

AFTER DINNER MEETING IN THE SANCTUARY

- Program arranged by Kermit C. Streng -

PRELUDE     Prayer          Franck
GREETING by the MODERATOR - Mrs. Creelman McKenzie
ORIGIN of the CHURCH - Dorothea Nicoll
CHOIR      "Lord of the Worlds Above"       Young
MILESTONES in the Life of the Church - Frank L. Lincoln
CHOIR      "Grant Us Peace"     Ehret
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION - Ernest G. Noring, Jr.
CHOIR      "Glory to God in the Highest"     Pergolesi
PARK AVENUE PEOPLE - Rev. Kelly S. Barge
CHOIR      "Alleluia"              Thompson
THE FUTURE - Rev. Harold C. Criswell, Jr.
CHOIR      "Hallelujah Chorus"     Handel
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE    "Trumpet Voluntary"     Purcell

FAIR ACTIVITIES

GIFTS — Friday Social Club
STITCHERY — Women's Guild
FOOD TABLE
COUNTRY STORE
WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE
JEWELRY TABLE
RUMMAGE TABLE
CHOWDER BAR
OTHER SPECIAL TABLES
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MR. and MRS. HAROLD C. WELLS
MR. and MRS. ALBERT WOODIN

CHAIRMEN and COMMITTEES

RALPH W. SEXTON – General Chairman
EDITH BURGE
HELEN CENTER – Diamond Crystal Jubilee Ball Committee, November 2, 1974
CAROLYN CROSBY – Historian
CONNIE DUGAN – Music
SUE GOODHUE
ALVA KENNEDY – Co-Chairman of the Dinner, November 6, 1974
FRANCES LINCOLN – Co-Chairman of the Dinner, November 6, 1974
JOHN W. MACDONALD – Program Design and Publisher
RON McCall
PEG McCall
DOT MCKENZIE
RON MORELL – Music
DOT NICOLL – Resource Person
ERNIE NORING – Co-Chairman of the Fair
JANE NORING – Co-Chairman of the Fair
ISABELLE O’BRIEN – Worship Committee Representative, Sunday Service, November 3, 1974
KERMIT STRENG – Chairman of Wednesday Night Meeting, November 6, 1974
CLAIRE GIBBONS
JOHN WALKINSHAW – Publicity and Invitations
HAROLD C. WELLS – Program Editor
AL WOODIN – Co-Chairman of Diamond Crystal Jubilee Ball, Saturday, November 2, 1974
JEAN WOODIN Co-Chairman of Diamond Crystal Jubilee Ball, Saturday, November 2, 1974
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