

## Brief Notes on Pilgrim's Named Funds

Here are some casual notes on named funds benefiting Pilgrim Church. These notes are derived from readily available information and are not the product of extensive research. In particular, all of the original documents were not reviewed, nor was serious biographical research undertaken. The intent is to provide some information about the donors of the funds and to provide some sense of the nature of the original gift. I have not made an attempt to review fund balances and withdrawals from year to year. It should be noted that in terms of cumulative giving in today's dollars from a single source, the dimension of these gifts has likely been matched a number of times during the last 142 years by unnamed gifts from other donors.

### Edna M. and H. Anna Jenks Charitable Fund

The Jenks Charitable Fund which benefits Pilgrim Church was originally created on October 3, 1956 as two separate but linked trusts by Hester Anna Jenks (8/26/1894-2/29/1980) and Edna Messer Jenks (8/22/1898-1/2/1980).

The Jenks sisters, who never married, were the only children of Martin L. and Lindsay (Linnie) Edgar Jenks. Martin Jenks was born in Forrester Township, Sanilac County, Michigan on July 15, 1861. The youngest of five children, he made his own way in the world, moving to Kansas City and then Ohio, working from the age of 16 in a number of different businesses (including wholesale dry goods and an iron rolling mill) before moving to Duluth in 1900 to work in the grain business. He successfully bought and sold grain on the Duluth Grain Exchange and eventually served as president of the Duluth Board of Trade.<sup>1</sup> Jenks managed the affairs of the Itasca Elevator Company. Linnie Jenks joined Pilgrim Church in 1908. By 1914, the Jenks were living at 2401 East Fourth Street in the new neighborhood which was growing around 24th Avenue East. Martin Jenks died when he was 63 years old on March 5, 1925 in Daytona, Florida. He had been ill for several years suffering from the effects of a paralytic stroke. After Martin's death, Edna continued to live with her mother at 2401 East Fourth Street, but the two eventually moved into an attractive house at 211 North 33d Avenue East. Linnie Jenks died June 13, 1950, and Anna Jenks joined her sister on 33d Avenue East.

Anna and Edna Jenks set up individual trusts at the First and American National Bank in 1956. The terms of the trusts were identical, providing that the income or the trust would benefit the survivor if one of the sisters were to die and then benefit an aunt (Dot Edgar, Linnie Jenk's sister who lived with the Jenks) if she survived. The Jenks sisters

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<sup>1</sup> During Martin Jenks active business life in Duluth, a number of individuals associated with Pilgrim were or had been prominent in the grain trade, including Roger Munger, George Spencer, Ward Ames (Senior and Junior), Julius Barnes and others.

remained on the membership rolls of Pilgrim Church until their deaths in 1980. After the death of the family beneficiaries, "...the Trustee shall pay the entire net income from the Trust Estate in convenient installments, not less frequently than annually, to the following institutions in the following proportions: Pilgrim Congregational Church 20%; Duluth Community Chest 15%; Greater University Fund, University of Minnesota 10%; Duluth Girl Scouts 10%; Minnesota Arrowhead Chapter, American Red Cross 10%; E. W. Bohannon Scholarship Fund, University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch 5%; Duluth Public Library, Lester Park Branch 5%; A. M Chisholm Museum 5%; YWCA World Fellowship Fund 5%; St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth 5%; Duluth Lighthouse for the Blind 5%; Duluth Children's Home 5%...". Norwest Bank (successor to First and American National Bank) Trust Department petitioned, and on December 17, 1985 St. Louis County probate court approved the transfer of all assets in the Jenks Trust to the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. There are no restrictions to the use of the money.

## Second Century Fund

The Second Century Fund was created as an endowment fund under terms of a motion recommended by the Board of Trustees and unanimously approved by the congregation at a special meeting on March 21, 1971. The resolution was worded as follows:

*WHEREAS, Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth now owns and holds cash in the amount of \$24,300.00, comprised of certain uncommitted gifts and bequests, and the proceeds of the sale of the Waverly Avenue parsonage<sup>2</sup>;*

*WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth that said fund be held intact as an endowment fund, the income therefrom to be used from time to time in such manner and for such purposes as the Trustees of said church shall determine and to serve as a nucleus for gifts to said church during the second century of its existence;*

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<sup>2</sup> The parsonage at 1920 Waverly Avenue had been purchased by the church in 1967 for Pilgrim's Assistant Minister Robert W. Anderson. Reverend and Mrs. Anderson had four young children. Before the church purchased the Waverly Avenue house for them to use, the Anderson's lived for a short time in a house Pilgrim Church had purchased for Rev. John T. Bertsch who had been Pilgrim's Associate Minister, which was located at 5415 Tioga Street (purchased 1959, sold 1967). Robert Anderson left Pilgrim in November 1969. The congregation voted to sell the Waverly avenue house to Thomas and Maran Hustad for \$29,500.00 on May 3, 1970. During Rev. William Halfaker's tenure (1952-1971) the manse for the Senior Minister was located at 2125 East Third Street (which replaced previous manses at 2426 East Fourth Street (1926-1952), 1131 East First Street (1909-1926) and a variety of locations prior to 1909).

*WHEREAS, A form of proposed Fiscal Agency Agreement between Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth and an undesignated national banking association at Duluth, Minnesota, duly authorized to exercise trust powers, has been drafted to provide for the establishment of such a fund, for its management and the disposition of the income derived therefrom, and any other money or property, real, personal or mixed, hereafter received by said church from any source whatsoever, whether therefrom and deposited thereunder, has been submitted to the members of said Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth for their consideration and approval; and*

*WHEREAS, After due consideration of the matter, the members of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth have concluded it would be in the best interests of said church that Northern City National Bank of Duluth, a national banking association at Duluth, Minnesota, duly authorized to exercise trust powers be designated the fiscal agent to receive and manage the property comprised in said Pilgrim Church Second Century Fund;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, On motion duly made, seconded and carried, be it*

*RESOLVED, That the sum of \$24,000.00, comprised of certain uncommitted gifts and bequests, and the proceeds of the sale of the Waverly Avenue parsonage, be and the same hereby is designated the "Pilgrim Church Second Century Fund";*

*RESOLVED, That the Chairman and Secretary of the Trustees of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth be and they hereby are authorized, empowered and directed to forthwith enter into a Fiscal Agency Agreement by and between said Church, as first party, and Depositor thereunder, and Northern City National Bank of Duluth, as second party, and Fiscal Agent thereunder, in form submitted to, examined and approved by the members of said church, and concurrently therewith to deliver to said bank the sum of \$24,300.00, the property of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth, to be held subject to the terms of said Fiscal Agency Agreement;*

*Resolved, that all gifts bequests and devises of any money or other income producing property hereafter received by Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth for general or specific endowment purposes may be deposited by the Trustees of said church with said Northern City National Bank of Duluth as Fiscal Agent under said Fiscal Agency Agreement, subject, however, at all times to the fulfillment of any specific endowment purposes or conditions which may be designated by the donor, legator or devisor thereof;*

*RESOLVED, That no withdrawals shall be made from the principal of said Pilgrim Church Second Century Fund except upon resolution duly adopted by the members of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth.*

At the time it was created, it was anticipated that the Second Century Fund would be a repository for future significant gifts to Pilgrim. Additional substantial donations were

made shortly after creation of The Second Century Fund (including separate gifts of stock from Caroline and Julia Marshall) so that by November of 1974 the fund had a market value of \$136,470. Gifts continued to be made to the fund. The value of the Second Century Fund on March 31, 1992 was \$321,533. It is noteworthy that growth of the fund occurred at the same time Pilgrim raised substantial amounts of money for other major projects, including the Jaeckel Organ. The Second Century Fund had grown to \$597,017 by December 31, 1997.

Walter Matzke and William P. Van Evera determined determined in 1973 that income from the Second Century Fund could be used for any purpose, including funding current expenses. From its beginning the Second Century Fund was thought of as source of operating income. Royal Shepard, in his annual report to the congregation on January 15, 1975, reported that "...Additional contributions to the Second Century Fund have enlarged our endowment. That fund is now a major source of income, exceeding any regular pledge...".

## Whiteside Trust

The Muriel Whiteside Charitable Trust which benefits Pilgrim Church was created by the will of Muriel Kathleen Whiteside (1916-1990). Muriel Whiteside was the daughter of Walter Robert (originally, Robert Walter) Whiteside (1894-1950) and Aagot K. Whiteside (1896(Norway)-1959). Muriel was the granddaughter of Robert Beatty (1856-1931) and Sophia Kindberg (1866-1950) Whiteside. The strongest connection between the Whiteside family and Pilgrim Church appears to have been Sophia, who joined Pilgrim

with her daughter Marion (or Marian) Calaveras<sup>3</sup> Whiteside (1900-1962) in 1913.<sup>4</sup> Robert, although a donor and somewhat involved with the affairs of Pilgrim, does not appear to have been a member. Sophia, on the other hand, remained a member until her death in 1950 and was active in the Ladies Union and Women's Assembly.

Robert Whiteside was a remarkably talented entrepreneur with wide-ranging interests. He was born in Simcoe County, north of Toronto, and started working at logging camps on the Muskoka River as a boy. He soon was running his own logging business, independently buying the right to cut timber and selling it. He moved to Duluth in 1881 (when he was 25) and began working for established logging companies and for himself in both Wisconsin and northern Minnesota. In 1883, Whiteside walked from Duluth to undertake a timber cruising expedition in an area which is now the Vermillion Range.<sup>5</sup> He covered the area extensively and filed many claims for timber lands.

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<sup>3</sup> Namesake of the 13,000 acres of timberland her father purchased in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California the year before her birth.

<sup>4</sup> Marion would marry Henry Charles Meining (1877-1953). The Meining family had links to Pilgrim Church. Three of Henry Meining's older sisters (Clara, Louisa, and Emma) joined Pilgrim in 1885. His mother Johanna is listed in some Pilgrim directories but does not appear to have ever joined the church. Henry's parents, Louis W. (1830-1897) and Johanna (1833-1922) were both born in Prussia. After his father's death in 1897, Henry continued to live in his parent's spacious red brick townhouse (still standing at 217 Second Avenue East) and work as a bookkeeper. On February 1, 1901, Henry married Lula Bowen (1879-1917) in Minneapolis. Their daughter Helen Louise was born in Minneapolis on October 3, 1902. In 1910, Henry, Lula and Helen lived in Little Falls, Minnesota, where Henry managed the Northwestern Mill. They moved to Chicago where Lula died November 11, 1917. Helen returned to Duluth where she attended Central High School, graduating in 1920. In 1925, Henry Meining married Marion Whiteside (who was two years older than his daughter Helen). The following note appeared in the February 22, 1925 Pilgrim Sunday bulletin: *Miss Marion Whiteside and Mr. Henry Meining were married in Chicago February 5. They plan to make their home in Miami Beach, Florida.* Henry's sister Clara also moved to Miami after the marriage. Pilgrim directories from the late 1920's list Marion and Clara as out of town members living in Miami. Helen Louise married A. C. Gulliver in 1928 in Miami. The 1929 Miami city directory identifies Henry, Marion, Clara and Helen Louise Gulliver as officers of Helen-Louise, Inc., which was apparently a real estate company. The 1940 census shows Henry and Marion living in Chicago (where Henry had worked before) with Henry describing his occupation as "wholesale flour salesman". Henry died in 1953 in Miami, age 76. Marion moved back to the Whiteside family home at 325 East Second Street (where she had grown up), but in the mid 1950's she moved with her brother Roger to 3500 East Superior Street (a large house with expansive grounds which had been built for Adam G. and Clara Thomson in 1924). When she returned to Duluth, Marion resumed her membership in Pilgrim Church. She died in 1962. In her will, Marion established the Marion W. Meining Trust which funds the Robert and Sophia Whiteside Scholarship Fund administered by the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. The foundation website states that it awarded \$682,000 in scholarships in 2012.

<sup>5</sup> The following year Charlemagne Tower of Philadelphia began operation of the Soudan Mine south of Lake Vermillion and shipped the first ore from Minnesota.

Some of those claims would turn out to be the site of large ore deposits. Whiteside would earn relatively little from some of those early claims on ore bearing land, but he continued to explore and drill core samples, eventually becoming a substantial fee holder in a number of very productive mines. Whiteside continued to actively develop logging operations in northern Minnesota throughout the 1890's. In 1899 Whiteside purchased a 13,000 acre tract of timberland in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada mountains containing one of the largest stands of giant sequoias in existence. There was serious concern that he would begin logging these ancient trees which stimulated a movement to make his property a national park. Whiteside resisted these efforts during his lifetime, but he never harvested timber in Calaveras County. After Robert Whiteside's death, the Whiteside property became Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Whiteside had great success in the last part of his life as an investor in oil property in California and Texas, eventually owning a portion of what became the largest oil field in Texas.

The meager information about Muriel in the Pilgrim archives does not say much about her life or interests. There is some evidence that Walter and Aagot Whiteside lived at Deer Path Ranch<sup>6</sup> for at least part of the 1930's and 1940's. It is unclear where Muriel was during this time. A casual review of Pilgrim directories suggests that she was last listed in a Pilgrim membership directory in 1949. At that time Muriel and her parents were living in the McKay Hotel, 430 West First Street (now demolished). She was married briefly (September 1969 to March 1971) to Gordon Hagglin. She lived for a while on Berwick Court and Paine Farm Road. She liked animals and provided for her dogs in her will. When she died in 1990, Muriel Whiteside's will established a charitable trust with proceeds from the trust benefitting a number of local institutions. Public documents give the market value of the trust in 2011 as \$13,948,529.

## Mitchell Gifts

Oscar Mitchell (1863-1937) enjoyed great success as an attorney<sup>7</sup> and was active in many community organizations, but Pilgrim Church must have been the main beneficiary of his voluntary activities. Oscar and Mary Eva Wildey Mitchell (1868-1962) joined Pilgrim in 1895. Oscar was elected a trustee in 1900. He became Chair of the Board of Trustees and remained in that position until his death in 1937. He held an extremely close rein on the business affairs of Pilgrim, which is remarkable given the scope of his activities. His business successes allowed him to build a large home with spacious grounds near Pilgrim Church (2416 East Fifth Street) in 1924.

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<sup>6</sup> Deer Path Ranch was located adjacent to Silver Creek Farm which Robert Whiteside developed on the Old Vermillion Trail in Gnesen Township after the family stopped using Clough (Whiteside) Island on the St. Louis River for family excursions.

<sup>7</sup> In addition to serving as counsel for some of the largest corporations in northern Minnesota, Mitchell, like his initial partners Jed L. Washburn and W. D. Bailey, successfully pursued business interests outside their law firm.

The Mitchell's oldest son Wildey Hubbell Mitchell (1897-1987) attended Culver Military Academy (Culver, Indiana), Hotchkiss School (Lakeville, Connecticut) and the Sorbonne. He received an undergraduate degree from Yale University and a law degree from the Harvard Law School. Before the United States entered World War I, Wildey Mitchell went to France as a volunteer with the Yale Ambulance Corps of the American Field Service. He subsequently volunteered for and flew with the LaFayette Escadrille, joining the First Aero Squadron after America entered the war. He also learned to speak French. Wildey Mitchell and Sigrid Mikalson (1896-1977) were married September 27, 1924 in Methuen, Massachusetts. The Mitchells settled in Duluth where Wildey practiced law and Sigrid embraced a broad spectrum of volunteer work (for which she was much respected). Wildey returned (1942-1946) to the Army Air Corps during World War II, serving as base commander at a number of different locations in the United States. He subsequently served in the Air Force Reserve as a colonel. The Mitchells did not have children. Wildey and Sigrid Mitchell were members of Pilgrim Church their entire married lives. Pilgrim receives a small annual distribution from the Wildey H. Mitchell Family Foundation. Public documents list the market value of this foundation as \$6,235,971 in 2011.

Margaret Elizabeth Mitchell (1904-1990) was the third child born to Oscar and Mary Mitchell. She attended Rosemary Hall, Greenwich, Connecticut.<sup>8</sup> Margaret graduated from Smith College, North Hampton, Massachusetts, and later studied music at the Sorbonne. She worked in the fashion department of women's stores in New York City and Chicago for a short time. Margaret credited her piano teacher, Ruth Alta Rogers<sup>9</sup>, for encouraging her to start doing civic work after her return to Duluth. She became active in Matinee Musicale, the Symphony, the Women's Institute, the Junior League and the Republican Party. She worked as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society at both local and state levels for 33 years. In her will she instructed that 15% of the residual of her estate be given to Pilgrim Congregational Church. Her only restriction was that at least part of her gift be allocated to the organ fund. On October 30, 1991, Pilgrim received \$583,346.03 from her estate. It was decided to use Margaret Mitchell's gift to create the Pilgrim Fund.

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<sup>8</sup> Since 1971, Choate Rosemary Hall after its merger with the Choate boy's school in Wallingford, Connecticut.

<sup>9</sup> Ruth Alta Rogers served as Pilgrim's organist from 1919 to 1964. She replaced her sister Faith as organist after Faith died on shipboard traveling to France to serve as a volunteer during World War I. Ruth first played the organ during a service at Pilgrim ~1905.