

This Date in FELC History

1922-29: Celebrating the Present, Looking Toward the Future

From the very beginning, the congregation's women filled an important role in contributing to the success of the young church. The FELC Ladies' Aid Society, which celebrated its 10th year in 1925, held semi-monthly meetings with topics alternating between business matters that focused on financial aid to the church and missionary studies that provided money for mission work. In September 1922, the Society decided to separate the two elements and formalized the missionary segment as the Ladies' Missionary Society.

According to their records, between 1920 and 1925 these two groups contributed \$1,000 annually to the church treasury. The Missionary and Ladies' Aid Societies merged again around 1941.

Note of interest: One of the oldest books in the FELC historic collection is *The Household Digest and Directory* which was compiled and published in 1925 by our Ladies' Aid Society. It contains the Society's constitution, a list of officers and members, recipes, menu suggestions, and foods for the sick.

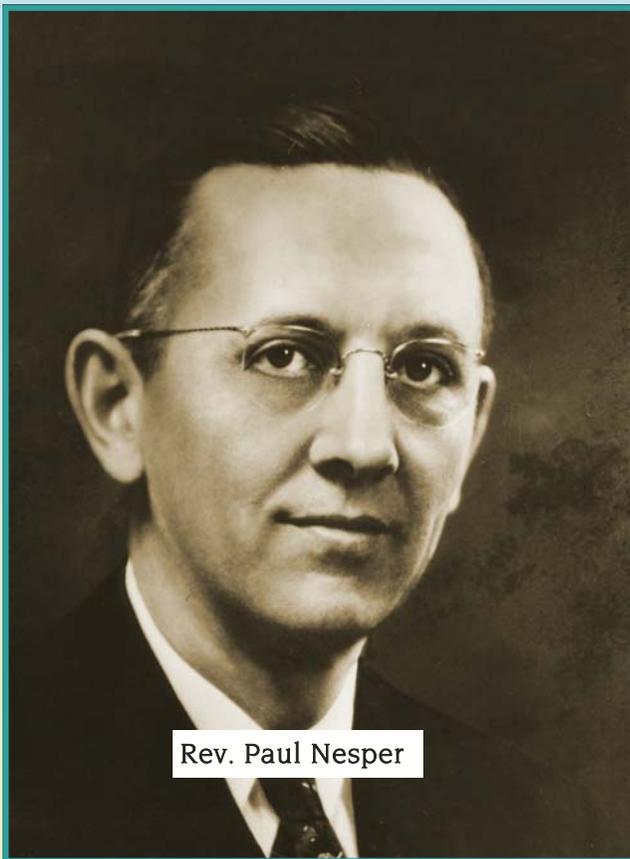
On Jan. 1, 1924 First English became a self-sustaining congregation and celebrated the milestone with a ser-



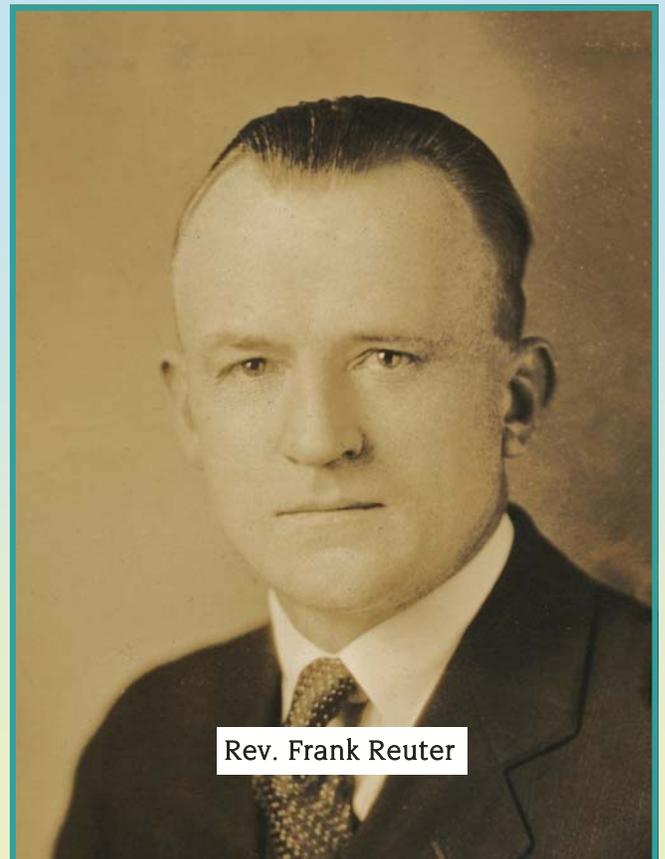
vice of thanksgiving dubbed our "Declaration of Independence." Festival speakers included Pastors L.F. Gast of Green Bay and G.E. Kuhlman of Oshkosh who were present when the mission church was "born" and conducted services until a permanent pastor arrived. The following year, the congregation reported that it was free from all indebtedness and thoughts turned toward a new and larger church.

In February 1928 we celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Chapel's dedication. At that time, it was decided to start a new church building fund, but with no definite timeframe for when the church should be erected. A Building Fund Campaign was formalized using coupon books as a way for members to help finance the construction. One coupon book remains today and is stored in the historic collection.

By 1929 it became evident that both the church and school were overcrowded. It was noted that people were not attending due to the uncomfortable conditions. As the decade ended, a building committee was appointed and informational meetings were being held to gather the needs and wishes of the congregation.



Rev. Paul Nesper



Rev. Frank Reuter

Pastor Nesper was the first Pastor at First English, serving from 1915-1920, at which time leadership was turned over to Pastor Rueter from 1921-61.