

Grace Presbyterian Church

Est. 1862

From its humble beginnings meeting in a railroad car to a 60-acre, multi-million dollar church in North Peoria, Grace Presbyterian Church has a long, continuous history in the Peoria area that started in 1862. In that year, 19 children met in a railroad car at Grace Mission School and, by 1873, the school had grown into a church – Grace Mission Church -- and a new church building at Wayne and Madison Streets. The new building was destroyed by fire in 1890, and church members rebuilt at the same location. During the Great Depression, church leadership considered shutting the doors, as membership declined; however, perseverance and faith in the future enabled the church to continue.

In the post WWII years, the church relocated to Forrest Hill and Knoxville and, under the guidance of Dr. Bruce Dunn, pastor of the church, a radio ministry was established that expanded the church's outreach. A television ministry was added in 1972, which continues to this day.

Looking toward the future, the church purchased 60 acres of land on Route 91 for a new home in 2004. A ground breaking ceremony was held in 2008 with a grand opening expected in September, 2010. A dedication services is planned for November 7th, 2010, where members will be reminded of this verse from Jeremiah, *"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

We congratulate Grace Presbyterian Church on becoming a Peoria Historical Society Centenarian organization.