

Trinity Presbyterian church excerpt from "Sure Foundation" 108

The Trinity Presbyterian Church on Swaggertown Road has its roots in the Italian Mission started by First Presbyterian Church in the earliest years of the twentieth century. In the fall of 1903 the Young People's Association (Christian Endeavour) asked Dr. Stevenson to suggest some practical and useful Christian work that they might undertake. They were advised that something could be done for the large number of Italian immigrants coming into the city. In February 1904 they presented their plan to the Session, which endorsed the work. An executive board of six men and four women was appointed to oversee the work, which came to be known as the Third Ward Settlement. They immediately rented a flat and part of the cellar at 228 Front Street, and held sewing, cooking, and physical education classes, evening education classes, Christian services on Thursday nights, Sunday School, and a preaching service on Sunday. Through the years many members of the First Presbyterian congregation assisted in the work of the Italian mission.

During the first 13 years, under various leaders, the mission had several locations—from Front Street to River Street, and then to Park Place. A second station was opened at the Villa Road Chapel on Broadway. Finally, the mission found a permanent home in 1920 when the old Congregational Church on Jay Street (opposite the Post Office block near Union Street) was purchased. By 1926, the work in the Mt.

Pleasant area had progressed so as to warrant permanent headquarters, a Chapel on Webster Street.

The first full-time leaders of the mission were a lay couple from the Franklin Avenue Church in Brooklyn, and in 1912 the mission secured its first minister, the Reverend Nichola Conti. Through the years two outstanding pastors, who served the Lord faithfully and well, were the Reverend Michele Frasca (1924-1946), husband of a long-time First Presbyterian Church member Ruth Frasca, and the Reverend Frank Cherubini (1946-1965). For several years after his retirement Rev. Cherubini assisted Dr. Mekeel in church visitation.

In 1956 the mission, now called the Trinity Presbyterian Church, organized as a self-governing body, and the congregation voted unanimously to be self-supporting. Plans were made to relocate the church, and land was purchased in 1957 on Swaggertown Road in Scotia. The church building was erected in 1960, and in 1964 a Christian Education building was dedicated. Since its humble beginning in 1904, hundreds of boys and girls, men and women have become Christians through this work.