

Dr. C C Weith Completing Twentieth Year Of Service As Pastor Of First Presbyterian Church; From A Membership Of 4 To 425

Dr. C. C. Weith, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Ardmore, is completing his twentieth year of continuous service as leader of the local organization. There is only one other minister in the state of Oklahoma who has served for a similar length of time and he is Dr. C. W. Kerr, of the First Presbyterian church at Tulsa. During his period of service, Dr. Weith has seen one hundred and two ministers of various denominations come and leave local churches.

Dr. Weith is loved by every member of his congregation, and is held in high esteem by all who know him. He is one of the most popular ministers in the state.

Events of twenty years ago, when Dr. Weith first came to this city are still fresh in his mind, and a talk with him on the subject is always replete with interesting facts.

The First Presbyterian church of Ardmore was organized on June 29th, 1890, with but four members. They were, Judge A. D. Matthews, Laura Matthews, Samuel Nowell and C. P. Vandenberg.

When Dr. Weith first arrived at Ardmore, the church stood on Second avenue, northwest, at the west end of what is now the high school lot. In 1903 the building was moved to the site of the present edifice. In 1907 the Cumberland church and the First church united, and an addition was built to the frame structure. In 1916, the old church was torn down, and the present handsome structure erected, for which beautiful and fitting dedicatory ceremonies were held last Sunday.

The organ in the present building was presented to the church by L. S. Dolman, one of the members.

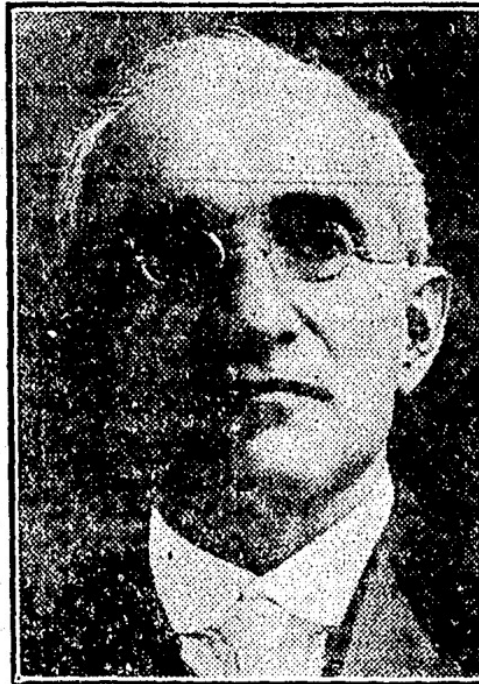
The idea of the chimes, which were installed a few days ago, and which are believed to be the only set in the state, was conceived by Perry D. Maxwell, as a city enterprise, rather than a specific part of the church. And they are a wonderful and pleasing asset to the city of Ardmore.

The membership of the church in 1900 was 51, and at that time it was a home mission church. The present membership of the congregation has reached 425, the increase of 364 having been made under the able leadership of Dr. Weith.

Dr. Weith is one of the pioneers of Oklahoma. He came to this state at the opening of the Cherokee strip in 1893.

He made the race on horse-back from western Kansas through the Panhandle of Texas.

In 1904, Dr. Weith was elected moderator of the synod. He served



Dr. C. C. Weith, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church

as moderator of the Presbytery a number of times, and as chairman of the committee in vacancy and supply, and also of the home mission. He is a self taught man, and worked hard to gain his education and to accomplish his aim he alternated work and study. A fact that is not generally known among his acquaintances, but one which is of great interest, is that Dr. Weith is a member of the Bar of Oklahoma and Kansas. However, he has never practiced law.

Dr. Weith was married to Miss Nellie Rogers in 1898 in western Kansas. Mrs. Weith died in 1913.