South Pasadena Preservation Foundation

‘ARCHITECTURE OF FAITH’
Historic Church Tour 2019

Tour of Six Historic
South Pasadena Churches
Saturday May 4th, 2019
About us ... and you ... 

Although many on the Architecture of Faith tour may be very familiar with and have supported the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation or our events and programs, others may know little about our history or our role in protecting community character and nurturing its heritage. We invite you to participate in future events and perhaps become members. It’s fun, it’s educational, and it is personally rewarding. Your experience and skills can help...

Protect community character:

- The South Pasadena Preservation Foundation led the 50-year fight against a freeway through the city that would have taken hundreds of homes and devastated community character.

- And is now working to assure that South Pasadena properties saved from the wrecking ball but still owned by Caltrans are sold to owner-occupants who will reverse 4 to 5 decades of poor maintenance.

Nurture heritage awareness and enrich your sense of community:

- Volunteer to help with events and tours of historic homes, neighborhoods, churches, schools, and businesses in South Pasadena...

- Whether helping with newsletter articles and graphics, educational programs at the schools, or at the South Pasadena Historical Museum, your ideas and skills can make a BIG impact. And making a difference in the community and enjoying the ride are what South Pasadena Preservation is all about.
May 4, 2019

Dear Partners and Participants...

Thanks for joining us on this historic church tour. Although we confess to many years of focusing mostly on South Pasadena's fine legacy of historic homes and neighborhoods, preserving the cultural legacy our churches (and schools) is equally important.

Like almost every historic preservation effort or landmark program on the planet, attention is not limited to a building's physical appearance, i.e., the bricks and mortar, or its "architecture." Significance also derives from its place in mortal hearts and minds. We are thus not merely focusing on historic places and sacred spaces, but exploring the emotional architecture of these cultural legacies. Music, community service, educational programs, and spiritual nourishment are also important factors in the Architecture of Faith presented to you on this tour of local historic churches.

We are delighted to present docented tours of five historic South Pasadena churches along Fremont Avenue....

- Grace Brethren Church, 920 Fremont Avenue
- Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1050 Fremont Avenue
- St. James Episcopal Church, 1325 Monterey Road
- South Pasadena Christian Church, 1316 Lyndon Street
- Holy Family Catholic Church, 1527 Fremont Avenue

...are all easily walk-able within the noon to 4 pm time span, leaving 4 pm to 6 pm for the short hop by car to Oneonta Congregational Church at 1515 Garfield Avenue and Oak Street for the reception and tour of their campus.

Two of the above churches have been designated as South Pasadena Historic Landmarks. Several others also merit landmark designation. We hope bringing broad public attention to the rich contribution these churches have made to the cultural heritage of the City of South Pasadena will spark interest in that direction.

On behalf of the SPPF Board of Directors,

Steven Lawrence
President
Calvary Presbyterian Church
1050 Fremont Avenue at Oxley Street

The Calvary Presbyterian congregation began to coalesce in 1902, when members of Pasadena Presbyterian living in South Pasadena wanted a place to worship closer to home. Then in 1907, when forced to rebuild following a tower collapse, the Pasadena church gave the Calvary group a surviving chapel that was towed by wagon to Fremont and El Centro where it was given a remodeled exterior and served as their place of worship from 1907 to 1925, when they moved to their present location.

The 1923 brick and stone gothic style church we now know as Calvary Presbyterian was built by architect George M. Lindsey, who had earlier supervised construction of the Franklin and Lincoln High Schools for the Los Angeles Board of Education. Lindsey’s first independent architectural practice, however, was established in Detroit, Michigan, where he designed several important buildings including Westminster Presbyterian Church. Returning to California in the early 1920s, Lindsey was soon chosen for building Calvary Presbyterian.
The handsome Gothic church incorporates many beautiful stained glass windows designed by Judson Studios, and serendipitously, plans for two different tower heights, one for a tall tower and a shorter version. The congregation chose the taller version, but when that tower suffered damage in the 1971 earthquake, the congregation had “original” plans for a shorter replacement.

South of the sanctuary, the Sabbath school building was dedicated as “Livingston Hall” after the Minister who guided design and construction of the church complex.
Grace Brethren Church
920 Fremont Avenue at El Centro Street

In 1943, members of the Brethren Church living in the Pasadena area applied to the Brethren Council of California's District Mission Board for assistance in organizing the church and finding a location to meet. By September of 1944, they were able to purchase the church building Calvary Presbyterian had vacated 20 years before to build a new church a block away. However, back in 1907 the Calvary group had inherited the sanctuary, pews and many stained glass windows from the Pasadena Presbyterian church, built in 1887, that had to be demolished.

After moving their hand-me-down chapel to Fremont and El Centro, The Calvary group hired architect Norman Foote Marsh to transform the Victorian exterior into the California Mission Revival Style that was more contemporary for the time. Architect Marsh was responsible for designing many California schools and churches and dozens of local buildings, including the Methodist and Baptist churches, the public library, Women's Club, War Memorial Building, the High School, Middle School and several elementary schools, so the building did not stay empty very long.

Significant owners in the intervening years included the Full Gospel Foundation and the Bethany Church of Alhambra. Thus, just a year before the end of WWII, Grace Brethren took ownership of a building with substantial previous ecclesiastical credentials.

With this interesting 1887 and 1907 history, the Grace Brethren Church is the oldest church building in South Pasadena and one of only two South Pasadena churches to be designated as a local Cultural Heritage Landmark.
GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH
One Church with Three Congregations

Sunday worship times:

English  
9:30 AM

Mandarin  
11:00 AM

Spanish  
2:00 PM

Each week, we host fifteen Twelve Step Meetings

920 Fremont Avenue  sopasgbc.org  626-799-6081
St. James Episcopal Church
1325 Monterey Road at Fremont Avenue

After meeting in various South Pasadena locations as the St. Andrews Mission, the local Episcopalians began planning for a permanent house of worship. Just before the new church was built in 1907 the parish voted to adopt the name of St. James to avoid confusion with the St. Andrews Catholic Church in Pasadena.

The new St. James Episcopal Church was built by the Boston firm of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, with Bertram Goodhue as chief architect. St. James being his first church in California, Goodhue brought architect Carlton Winslow to supervise construction. It was built from native granite, quarried from the Arroyo Seco, with Pasadena architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey also consulting on construction. St. James design owes a great deal to Romanesque Revivals of the Mediterranean region of Southern France and Northern Italy, with the use of brick inals in the clerestory.
Two significant features are the Rose window facing Fremont Avenue (a gift from Mrs. Sherman Hoyt, aka Minerva Hamilton Hoyt) and the bell tower added in 1924 (a gift from Mrs. Caroline Dobbins, who had earlier donated the property for the church).

Other noteworthy Goodhue projects in California include the Los Angeles Main Library, the California Institute of Technology’s Master Plan, and the site plan and Spanish Colonial Revival buildings for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition in San Diego’s Balboa Park.

St. James’ Parish House was designed by Carlton Winslow in 1958.
South Pasadena Christian Church
1316 Lyndon Street at Fremont Avenue

In 1906, the South Pasadena Christian Church congregation met in two second floor rooms of Alexander Graham's newly completed Alexander Building on Mission Street and Meridian Avenue. Mr. Graham was a founding member of the church who also donated a future building site at the corner of Fairview and Oxley. However, when the city bought that parcel for Library Park, the church was able to purchase the property at Lyndon Street and Fremont Avenue. This is where they built a little brown bungalow church in 1909 that served the congregation for over 50 years.

In 1963, a contemporary sanctuary was built on the property that serves South Pasadena Christian Church today. A wooden cross from the old bungalow church still graces the wall alongside its Lyndon Street entrance. The architect was John Galbraith. Stained glass windows, pews and light fixtures are all original.

The church provides its services in English, Mandarin and Spanish, all through the use of translators situated in pew areas. Musical instruments (drums, piano, etc.) are in the front of the church and are used for both contemporary and hymnal performances. There is no organ, although the church is looking for one. The South Pasadena Christian Church organizes its community service program into two teams, one providing assistance to homeless at Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles, and another providing service at the York Healthcare & Wellness Center in Highland Park.
SOUTH PASADENA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1316 Lyndon St. South Pasadena spchristian.org (626) 799-0718

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-11:30am.
After-Service-Lunch (All are welcome—free) 11:30am-12:30pm.
Spanish Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7pm-8:30 pm, (Refreshments).
English Bible Study, Thursdays, 7pm-8:30pm, (Refreshments).
Chinese Bible Study, Fridays, 6:30pm-8:30pm (Dinner)

Special Thanks to Pete Morris
Our “Architecture of Faith” Artist of Faith

Contact Pete: (323) 497-2300
PeteMorrisArt@yahoo.com
At Holy Family Church
All are Welcome!

Whoever you are, whatever you've done, for whatever reason you're drawn to connect with us, we are here for you! Come to one of our masses and meet our priests & pastoral staff!

Sunday Mass Schedule:
6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.,
9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m.,
12:45 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Weekdays:
6:20 a.m. & 8:15 a.m.

Saturdays:
8:15 a.m. & Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Confessions:
Saturdays 3:30 p.m.

Holy Family Catholic Church
1527 Fremont Avenue at Rollin Street

The church was first established in a Craftsman bungalow at Fremont Avenue and El Centro Street in 1910. Although the bungalow was moved to Fremont & Rollin in 1923, it soon gave way to a handsome Spanish Baroque sanctuary that was built in 1928.

The design was by Los Angeles architect Emmett G. Martin, who was recognized for designing Los Angeles area Catholic churches, commercial properties and residences, and was the younger brother of renowned architect Albert C. Martin.

Emmett's design for Holy Family is recognized as one of the finest examples Spanish Baroque in Southern California.
The reinforced concrete structure is adorned with pre-cast stone, with a 92-foot bell tower rising over a roofline crowned with a Moorish tiled dome. Carved stone ornamentation is present throughout, including in the entry portals and above the north and south transept windows.

Bronze figures of the Holy Family adorn the façade, as do two bas-relief stone medallions depicting the boyhood of Jesus. The interior of the church adheres to the precepts of Baroque architecture.

Holy Family School, grades 1 through 8, opened in 1937 with 92 students. In 1997, the Holy Family Vision Project celebrated the beginning of a new pastoral center, parish hall, and education center.

Holy Family now offers an extensive community outreach program through their St. Joseph Center located just across Fremont Avenue.

From a simple Craftsman bungalow beginning, parish membership has grown exponentially. Today, Holy Family has far and away the largest congregation of all South Pasadena churches.
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www.oneonta.org

Loving God, Loving Others, + Serving Humanity
Oneonta Congregational Church
1515 Garfield Avenue and Oak Street

The Oneonta Congregational Church first organized in 1910. Their first church building was designed and built at Fletcher Avenue and Huntington Drive in 1922 by architect Norman Foote Marsh.
When the congregation outgrew that building in 1950, they built the current church on the four-acre Boothe Estate at Oak Street and Garfield Avenue. Herbert J. Powell, of Marsh, Smith & Powell led the architectural team.

Double doors leading to the sanctuary feature wood sculptural panels by artist Merrell Gage that depict St. Peter and St. Paul. Inside, the nave is resplendent with stained glass windows portraying the life and teachings of Christ. The most distinctive feature of the church design, however, is the east chancel wall. This focal point of the sanctuary consists of sixty-four cast stone quatrefoil elements embedded with stained glass windows that tell the story of Christian heritage. This composite work by Herbert Powell and church members was innovative in church architecture and was cited by the National Association of Church Architects as the “Most Outstanding Church Chancel of the Year” (in 1950).

The Oneonta campus, including Gray Hall, the Education Building, the Redwood Chapel, and Tower Room accommodate a variety of the congregation’s programs, along with those of six other churches. Other community groups and services also use the facilities. The South Pasadena Rotary Club meets in the Tower Room, and a “Kid’s Club” pre-school program operated by a separate organization now thrives in a building west of Gray Hall.
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St. Joseph's Church
Photo: Rich Stapleton

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Huge THANK YOU to the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation, for all that you do!

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“Many thanks to the volunteers of the South Pasadena Preservation Foundation for coordinating this tour of local churches with unique and amazing historic architecture.”

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M - South Pasadena Historical Museum

1. GRACE BRETHREN
2. CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN
3. ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL
4. SOUTH PASADENA CHRISTIAN
5. HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC
6. ONEONTA CONGREGATIONAL