

THE  
**FOUNDERS' CHAPEL**  
AT  
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HOUSTON, TEXAS ★ EST. 1969



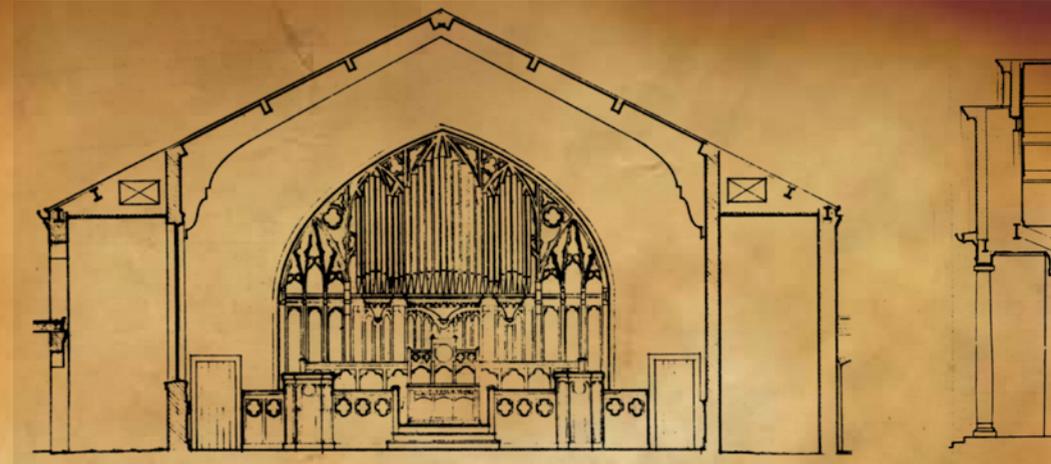
**T**he story of our chapel begins in 1876, with the inception of the Lamar Street Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Rev. Donald MacGregor, who donated the



land and building at the corner of Lamar and Crawford Streets near downtown Houston. What had begun in 1862 as a mission to the cotton factory workers on the bayou grew into a church of its own, making it through the difficulties of war, a yellow fever epidemic in 1867, and a hurricane bringing down the partially erected church in 1875.

In 1887 the name of the congregation was changed to Second Presbyterian. The church moved in 1904 to 2714 Main Street, a move made possible in large part by a generous bequest from Mrs. Charlotte Marie Baldwin Allen. She was married to Augustus Allen, one of Houston's founders, and is credited with naming our city after General Sam Houston.

Second Presbyterian showcased the largest pipe organ in the state, reportedly even the largest west of the Mississippi at that time.

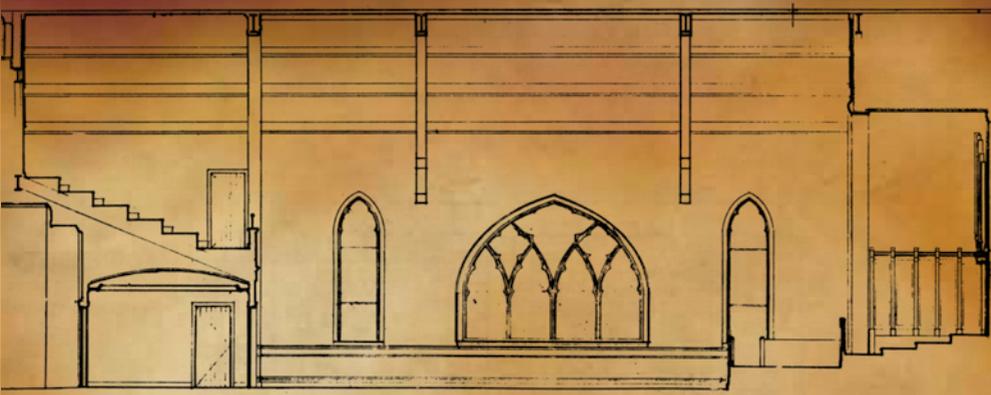


Houston's growth and expansion west, which mirrored that of the congregation, signaled a need for change. In 1969, Second Presbyterian's 883 members merged with St. Matthew Presbyterian's 134 to form Grace Presbyterian Church. St. Matthew had begun in 1965 with a large piece of land in West Houston and had appealed to Rev. Dan Baker for help, thereby paving the way for a merger. The combined congregation met at Walnut Bend Elementary School while the building committee did its work.

On the 100th anniversary of Second Presbyterian Church, in 1976, the congregation of Grace voted to build the Founders' Chapel and Richmond Administration Building. Peggy and Ray Bullock gave generously to honor her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Richmond. Molly and Ed Smith provided for the restoration of the stained glass windows, and Mrs. F. H. Ray donated in honor of her husband so that the lectern and pulpit could be installed and the choir loft could be built.

Much of the furniture and the stained glass windows, light fixtures and organ pieces had been carefully preserved from the Main Street location, in spite of disturbing thefts from the building during the move. The chapel was built, using them, as a replica of that sanctuary. This fulfilled a promise made by Rev. Baker to the members of Second Presbyterian upon their move from Main Street.





Dedicated in 1978, our chapel features stained and painted leaded glass windows dedicated to founders Rev. Donald MacGregor, Mrs. Charlotte Allen, and others as well as beautiful woodwork highlighting symbols of the Presbyterian Church and the original baptistry font from Second Church.



*Mrs. Charlotte Allen*

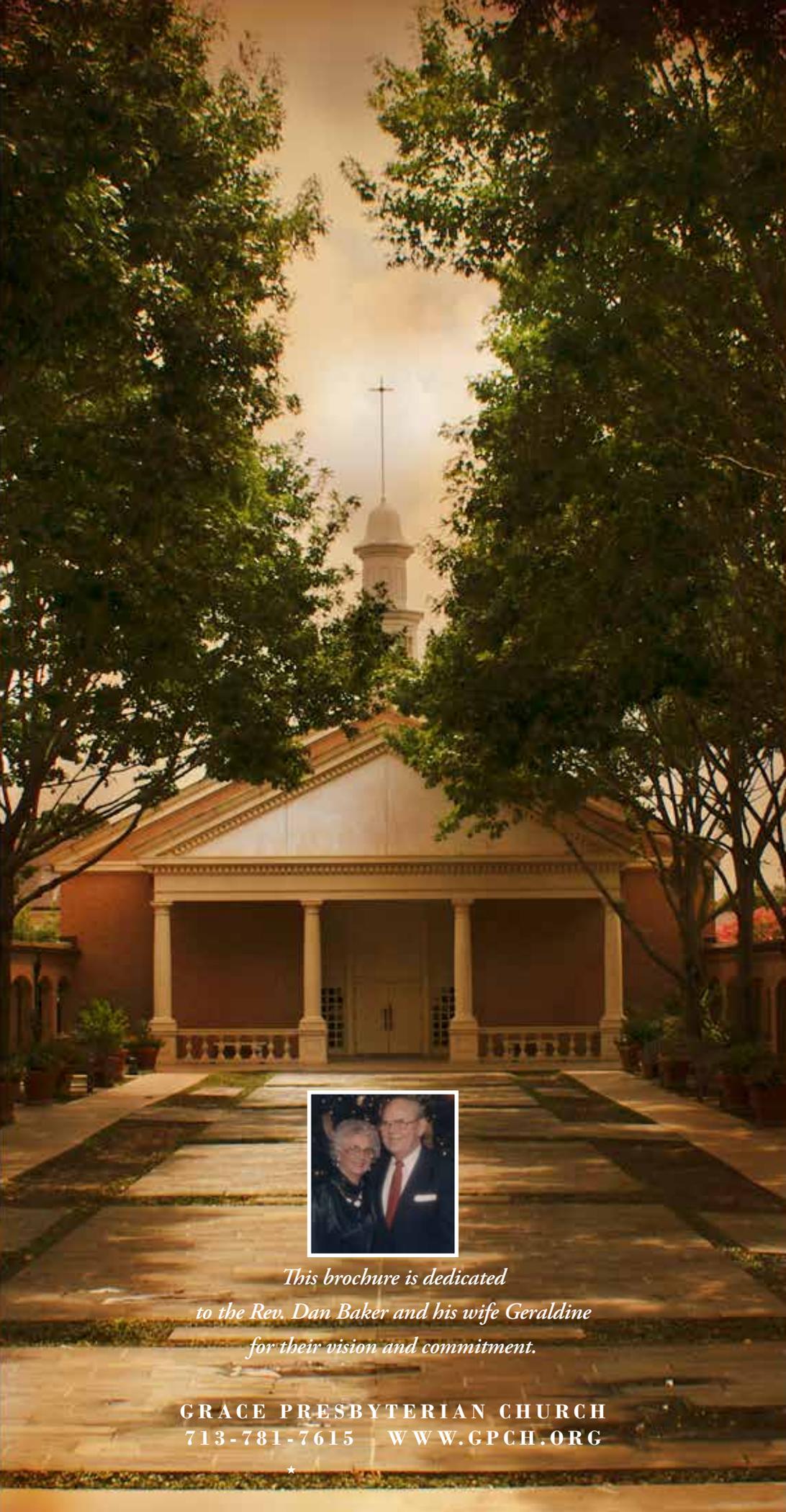
This Chapel is a living memorial to those men and women whose faith, courage, prayer and determination led them to build a church in which to worship God. Wars, hurricanes, financial panics, thefts and fires could not deter them. We should remember them, and, inspired by their example, honor God first and complete our mission for Him above all else. We embrace our heritage as we move forward with Grace.



*Rev. Donald MacGregor*

*This Chapel brochure and tours are made possible by  
Grace Presbyterian Women.*





*This brochure is dedicated  
to the Rev. Dan Baker and his wife Geraldine  
for their vision and commitment.*

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**713-781-7615    WWW.GPCH.ORG**

★