

# History of the First Apostolic Church of Steger

## "Through The Years"



Robert Hays and his wife Donna began a Home Missions work in a storefront on East 24<sup>th</sup> Street in Chicago Heights in the spring of 1955. November 18, 1955, 9 members purchased the building at 2313 Chicago Road from the Four Square Church. On February 20,

1956, our church, led by Rev. M. J. Wolfe, the Illinois District Superintendent of the United Pentecostal Church International, headquartered in St. Louis, MO, adapted its Articles of Faith and became part of the United Pentecostal Church. On October 16, 1957, Pastor Robert Hays resigned and Rev. Joe Webb became the new Pastor, with 11 members. On June 23, 1961, Pastor Joe Webb resigned, and on July 9, 1961, the church elected C. E. Cardwell as the new pastor, with

seven voting members. Then on December 10, 1963, the church purchased property at 22709 State Street, Steger, for the purpose of building a new church, on two acres of land. A new sanctuary (now our Fellowship Hall), one office, two bathrooms, six Sunday School rooms, were erected in 1964. 2313 Chicago Road was sold and 10-12 years ago was demolished due to deterioration. In 1968, an educational addition, consisting of six Sunday School classrooms, and two bathrooms were erected. The building was growing, as was the church body. On April 12, 1977, the church erected a new sanctuary, additional offices, nursery, and prayer rooms. Pastor Cardwell resigned November 1, 1992, due to health problems.



The church elected Pastor Rae Kidder, as its new pastor, with a voting body of 67 eligible voters present. Rev. Kidder served the First Apostolic Church faithfully for 10 years before his untimely death at age 41. The church then elected Associate Pastor Rev. T. Jason Cox and he currently leads our church

as we move towards our next 50 years. The First Apostolic Church of Steger has made giant strides forward (because of God's grace and blessings) from its small beginning in a storefront, 50 years ago. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!** Our characteristics would be best described as consistent, faithful, praying, and loving people. This local church is recognized

around the world as a church with a world vision for evangelism that has included Foreign Missions, Home Missions (support of new churches), Tupelo Children's Mansion (an orphanage), Lighthouse Ranch for Boys (home for troubled boys), New Beginnings (a home for unwed young mothers), and Spirit of Freedom Ministries (drug and alcohol rehabilitation). We are constantly strengthening our Home Base to become more effective in our local Community outreach to meet the needs of this community.

