

CITY OF COVINA
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



"100 YEARS OF PROGRESS"

COVINA'S MANY AND DIVERSE CHURCHES UNITE TODAY,

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, IN PRAYER AND PRAISE

WE HAVE A HERITAGE OF IMPACT IN COVINA:

Back at the turn of the century the "mile square and all there" Covina, to lure settlers from the east, boasted of the fine climate and the six churches which the city possessed.

Today the nearly 40 churches within Covina's boundary help to maintain that climate of welcome, peace, and hope for the future.

FIRST BAPTIST BEGINNINGS

The history of First Baptist began on March 15, 1896. The First Baptist Sunday School of Covina was organized by Reverend E. G. O. Groat, who was then pastor of the San Dimas Baptist Church. Classes were held in the public school building, with an attendance of 35, and W. Q. Custer was Sunday School superintendent. The First Baptist Church of Covina was organized November 17, 1896, with 24 charter members. At this time the Amon Hall was rented for Sunday worship services and mid-week prayer meetings were held in the homes of the members.

On April 19, 1897, it was voted to build a chapel, and in May 1897 the church received its charter and was incorporated under the name of the Regular Baptist Church of Covina. A lot was purchased and a church edifice dedicated in October 1897.

Under the leadership of Reverend S. W. Gage, the big grey stone Gothic structure on Second near College was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$7,100. The cement blocks were made by Brother Gage, and church members assisted with much of the construction. This building served for 51 years. As the church continued to grow, a new sanctuary was built in 1952 on the corner of Second and College with a seating capacity of 400. The old stone structure was then razed in 1958 to make way for a \$100,000 fellowship hall and education building in an architectural style similar to the sanctuary. In 1968 a \$350,000 educational building was built to continue the church's ministry in Christian Education.