

The Second Reformed Church

Hackensack, New Jersey

1855-2005



The Second Reformed Church of Hackensack is a member congregation of the Reformed Church in America, the oldest Protestant denomination in the United States with a continuous ministry. The Reformed Church in this country, founded on Manhattan Island by the Dutch in 1628, is still represented by the Marble Collegiate (Reformed) Church in New York City. As the population of the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam expanded, churches were formed in the various surrounding communities. In 1683 the First Reformed Church of Hackensack was organized and erected its first building in 1696. It has been rebuilt and enlarged several times, but still remains the “Church on the Green”.

On October 31, 1855, The Second Reformed Church was organized. The members held their first service on November 11 in the “Church on the Green.” Shortly thereafter, in 1856, our first church building was erected on land donated by Mrs. Maria Berry and her children. It was a wooden frame structure located on State Street at Berry Street. This building burned to the ground Easter Sunday night in 1907. For two years the congregation held services in the old Methodist Church, also located on State Street.

From the program of The Second Reformed Church Benefit Concert June 18, 1907, comes this information: “The Old Corner

Stone. The cornerstone of the old church, which was laid July 30, 1856, has been carefully removed from the ruins and will probably be used in the rebuilt structure. The box which had been placed in it, has been recovered intact, and is now at the parsonage.”

The cornerstone of our present church, located on Union Street between Anderson and Ward Streets was laid on June 21, 1908. The building is constructed of fieldstone, then readily available in the stone walls of nearby farms. The education and administration wing, built in 1964-1965, is also constructed of fieldstone. The beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows in the sanctuary have been much admired by all who have seen them. One, the large angel window on the west end of the building (shown here), was exhibited at the International Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. In 1978, a new 38 rank Austin pipe organ was installed and dedicated, supporting the tradition of fine music that our church has enjoyed over the years.

In 1991, The Second Reformed Church and the New Community Church of Teaneck consolidated and united into one body to become a true family of believers seeking to do God’s will.

As we assemble this directory, we are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of our founding, an energetic, thriving congregation.