

CHURCH CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY
Dr. Potterton's Congregation Will Begin Special Services This Morning.

The Church of Our Father, Grand avenue, near Fulton street, which begins the celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary this morning, and of which the Rev. Dr. Thomas Edward Potterton is the pastor, is the legitimate successor of the first Universalist church established in Brooklyn. The earliest organization was known as the Church of the Restoration and its first pastor was the Rev. Abel C. Thomas, who officiated from its inception in 1842 to 1844, when he was succeeded by the Rev. T. B. Thayer. The society built a church at the corner of Fulton and Pineapple streets, but lost it in the great fire of 1848, and built anew at the corner of Monroe place and Clark street. During the next few years some of the younger members of the society formed a new organization, known as the Church of the Redeemer farther uptown, and in 1868 the consolidation of the younger with the older church was attended with the changing of the name to that which the first church now bears. The present church was erected in 1883. The Rev. Dr. A. J. Canfield was then the pastor and he was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. C. Elwood Nash, who became president of Lombard College. Dr. Nash was succeeded by Mr. Pease. Dr. Canfield again became pastor, coming from Chicago. He was succeeded by Dr. Potterton.

An elaborate program has been arranged for services besides the opening one. On Monday, May 7, it will be "Ladies Night" of the Men's Club, with President John G. Murray presiding. [On] Wednesday evening, May 9, there will be a reception and dinner, in which the members and friends of the church will take part. Addresses will be made by Borough President Lewis H. Pounds, District Attorney Harry E. Lewis, Don C. Seitz, the Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Boynton, pastor of the Clinton Avenue Congregational Church; the pastor of the church, Dr. Potterton, and others.

Neighborhood night will be observed on Friday, May 11, when Dr. Potterton will preside. A devotional service will be led by the Rev. Charles H. Vail of the Church of Good Tidings [Fourth Universalist, Brooklyn], followed by addresses by Rabbi Nathan Krass of Temple Israel, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Dunn Burrell of Classon Avenue Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Alyn K. Foster of the Washington Avenue Baptist Church, and the Rev. Dr. S. Parkes Cadman of the Central Congregational church. Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m. will be children's time, with games and refreshments. On Sunday, May 13, in the morning, the sermon will be preached by the Rev. Edwin C. Sweetser of Philadelphia.

The seventy-fifth anniversary committee is composed of Henry L. Brant, chairman; John G. Murray, Mrs. John I. Brooks, J. Grant Beatty, Edwin L. Faris, Miss Blanche M. Lozier and the Rev. Dr. Potterton, ex-officio.

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