



DEDICATION OF  
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

FOR

***FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH***

2216 AVENUE H  
BAY CITY, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 18, 1994

4:00 P.M.

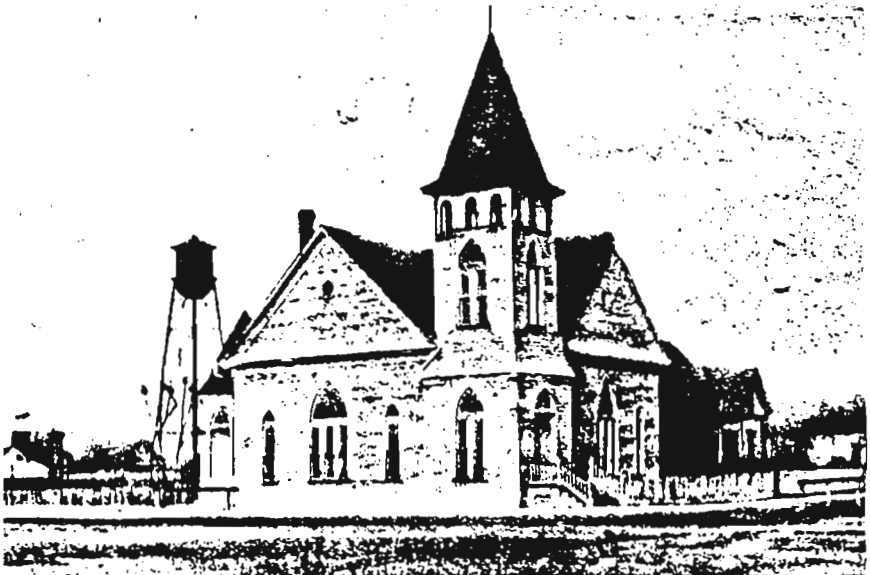
## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

*Francis Bellamy*

## PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

*"Honor the Texas Flag;  
I pledge allegiance to Thee. . .  
Texas, One and indivisible."*



Presbyterian Church, 1910

# PROGRAM

## Dedication and Unveiling Ceremony of *FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*

Presiding .....	Mike Pruett Matagorda County Commissioner Precinct #1
Invocation .....	Rev. Todd Collier Minister, First Presbyterian Church
Pledge to the United States Flag and Pledge to the Texas Flag .....	Boy Scout Troop #185
Welcome .....	Richard Knapik Chamber of Commerce Executive Director
Introduction of Special Guests .....	Elizabeth Young
Dedicatory Address .....	Donald R. Uher (Tom) Texas State Representative
Unveiling of Marker .....	B. F. Schultz and Hart Soli
Reading of Inscription .....	Bobbie Duffy Dykes
Benediction .....	Rev. Todd Collier Minister, First Presbyterian Church

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Matagorda County Historical Commission  
Matagorda County Commissioners  
Matagorda County Historical Society

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BAY CITY**

Within a year of becoming one of Bay City's original settlers in 1894, Alexander D. Hensley organized an Interdenominational Sabbath School with the help of Gilford M. Magill. Early religious services were held in the County Courthouse and in a Community Center. In 1898 Hensley, Magill, and others drafted and signed a Presbyterian Church Covenant to formally organize this congregation. First Presbyterian was enrolled as a member of the Brazos Presbytery later that year. Hensley is also credited with the organization of the Mexican-American Presbyterian Church in Bay City. Actively interested in that congregation, he taught Sunday School Classes in Spanish there for many years. Pastors assigned to First Presbyterian Church by the Brazos Presbytery held few services in Bay City, and in 1903 the relationship was dissolved. The congregation built it's first church building nearby in 1903 with the Rev. George Wallace Story serving as Pastor. The frame sanctuary served the congregation until 1936 when a new brick sanctuary was constructed at this site. Church facilities have expanded over the years to meet the demands of a growing congregation. First Presbyterian continues to provide religious guidance for members of the community.