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**Bishop Stevens Will Officiate at Episcopal Church Opening in Torrance Sunday Afternoon**

The Right Rev. W. Bertrand Stevens D. D. Bishop of Los Angeles, will open the new Christ Episcopal Church on Engracia avenue Sunday afternoon at 3:30. Clergy from the other Episcopal churches nearby and from the other churches of Torrance have been invited to attend this service. The music will be led by the vested choir from St. Peter's church, San Pedro. The people of Torrance are cordially invited to this service.

The building is of reinforced concrete, Romanesque in architecture and was constructed under the direction of the Rev. M. K. Crawford "engineering missionary" of the diocese of Los Angeles, by day labor on a non-profit plan at the low cost of about \$4800.00. The structure is a beautiful building and is in keeping with the other buildings in the neighborhood. Its simple dignity making it a very churchly building. The grounds are being planted with trees and shrubbery. The lots were given some years ago by Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow.

Many beautiful memorial windows have been given to the church. The tower is a gift of Mrs. Jared Sidney Torrance in memory of her husband, Jared Sidney Torrance for whom the city is named. Memorial windows have been given by Mrs. Lewis C. Torrance in memory of her mother, Mrs. Isabel T. Henderson in memory of her father, Dr. George P. Shidler in memory of his parents, James H. Milburn in memory of her father, Ripple family in memory of John Ripple, Altar book stand, Mrs. A. W. Hand in memory of "M. K." Altar cross, candlesticks and vases, Mrs. H. K. D. Peachy in memory of her father; Chancel furniture, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Torrance, in memory of Mr. Torrance's father. Other gifts that have been given are Litany desk, Mrs. Florence H. Welch; Altar, Diocesan Altar Guild; Tapestry Dossal, Diocesan Altar Guild; Windows, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Milburn and Miss Doris Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel N. Nourse and Robert Nourse, Mrs. Phoebe Sykes, Miss Ivy Hartley and William Sykes, George W. Neill, Christ Church School and Herbert Andrews; Pews and Choir Stalls, Christ Church Branch of the Women's Auxiliary Tower Cross, and Miss Eleanor Boice. In addition to a sanctuary window the Church school has given money for door hardware and other needs.

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The first service of the church, Holy Communion, was held on Sunday September 27, 1919, in Campbell Hall, now the Erwin hotel. The Rev. Robert Rensson was in charge of the service. Mr. Rensson had spent considerable time in Torrance since the early part of June getting in touch not only with the Episcopallians in Torrance but in Lomita. Fifteen were present at this service: Mr. and Mrs. William Brecken and three daughters of Gardena, Mrs. S. N. Nourse and son Robert, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Nourse's mother, Mrs. Phoebe Sykes, Will Sykes, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spencer, Mrs. J. O. Miller, Mrs. Stanger and Mrs. J. H. Milburn. Earlier in the week a Women's Guild was formed with Mrs. J. H. Milburn president, Mrs. S. N. Nourse treasurer and Mrs. William Brecken secretary. This meeting was held in the Public Library on Cabrillo avenue and although Mr. Rensson had asked a number of ladies to be present only these three responded.

It was decided to hold services every Sunday with Mr. George Peters, a lay reader, in charge but owing to the difficulty in obtaining a place to hold services

this plan was abandoned later. Arrangements were then made to hold a celebration of the Holy Communion once a month and the home of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Milburn was used for this service. Owing to the small attendance this arrangement was given up.

Another trial for services was made and the Rev. Duncan F. MacKenzie came every Sunday for a number of months, the services being held at the same place as the celebration of the Holy Communion. This being no better services were given up entirely then.

Rev. Thomas P. Swift of Wilmington came to Torrance and began services in the old Legion hall some time afterward. Changing to the Torrance Theatre Mr. Swift also changed the hour of service from 4 in the afternoon to 9 in the morning. These services were also abandoned and for a long time Torrance was without any service at all.

Some time later Mr. Swift opened the services again in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Klusman and continued in this place until January, 1925, when the Parish Hall was completed and services have been held there ever since. During this time Mr. Driscoll, a lay reader, was in charge, Mr. Swift coming the first of the month for the celebration of the Holy Communion. In December, 1925, the Rev. Frederick G. Buck of Waleston, Mass., who was in California on a vacation charge of the services and on February 28, 1926, presented a class of twelve to Bishop Stevens for confirmation. On Mr. Buck leaving for his home in March, the Rev. Dr. Hames, now at Redondo Beach, took charge of the services until he left for Europe in May. The Rev. Clayton M. Legge then took charge of the services for several months to be followed by the Rev. Mr. Bacus who remained until the Rev. Harold H. Kelley, chaplain and superintendent of the Seaman's Institute, was appointed to give charge of the service in February, 1927. None of the men were appointed by the bishop to give full time to the church but were asked to take charge of the Sunday services as most of them, like Mr. Kelley, have a full time position some where else.

As early as 1920 the late Right Rev. Bishop Joseph Johnson began planning to obtain a lot for a church in Torrance. After the consecration of Bishop Stevens, the matter was referred to him and in February, 1921, with the Rev. Robert Rensson he came to Torrance and Mr. George W. Neill drove them with Mr. and Mrs. Milburn all over Torrance looking at property. The Bishop's choice being the lot across from the present site where the hospital now stands because of its slightly location. It was thought at the time that the lot, belonged to another communion. Bishop Stevens worked on this matter until some time later Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow presented him with the lots where the church now stands. There has always been a flourishing Women's Guild connected with the church since the services were opened in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Klusman and it was through their efforts that the Parish hall where services have been held for the past four years was built.

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