

HISTORY OF MADRY TEMPLE

The Second World War is over. The then U.S. Army Sergeant John R. Madry exchanges his army uniform for civilian clothes and settles in the north end of Hartford, CT., on Portland Street with his wife Edna. The year is 1945. During the early part of the 1940's, Edna Madry, a successful business person in her own right, established a beauty salon, Rod's Beauty Shop on Windsor Street. While waiting for her husband to return from the war, she joins The Victory Temple Church. In due time, her husband



John comes to faith and acknowledges Jesus Christ and in March of 1946 he too joins the church. He answers the call to enter into full-time ministry, attends Hillyer Seminary, and in 1957, he is ordained a minister in the Church of God in Christ. After three years of dedicated and faithful service, Reverend Madry is selected to go to New London, CT to start a two week revival.

Arriving in New London on September 12, 1957 to begin his ministry, the first order of business was to find the location of The Holy Temple Church. It is from this location the revival would go forth and the seeds of today's Madry Temple Church would be planted. His search ends on Howard Street at a place called, "The Boat House". The Boat House was never its official designation but more of a description of what the building was originally intended for. Contrary to its name, the Boat House was neither a place to store boats nor construct boats. It built watercycles, a unique combination of boat and bicycle. The Boat House as a business venture would not last.

The story of the Boat House from business enterprise to Pentecostal church begins with Reverend Joseph Bates who transformed the building into a store front church. It wasn't long before Reverend Bates and his new congregation began to face financial difficulties. In due time the church closed and the doors to The Holy Temple Church were padlocked shut. The State Prelate, Bishop C.H. Brewer, never lost hope in finding a suitable pastor to minister to this small but devoted congregation. Pastor after pastor

arrived and tested, all would be rejected. Reverend Madry's turn would soon come. With his wife and four small children by his side they waited anxiously in their parked car on Howard Street for Brother John Dell to come and remove the padlock to the Boat House church. With that simple gesture of unlocking the doors, Reverend John Madry was about to begin his New London ministry, a ministry that would last another four decades.

With his first order of business complete, his next project was to seek out participants for the revival. Each day, going door to door, Reverend Madry walked the streets of downtown New London inviting guests to participate in the revival. With the revival behind him Bishop Brewer had the opportunity to visit with Reverend Madry. The bishop also spoke with its small congregation. It was during that conversation with the bishop that membership stood up and said, "Bishop this is our man, we want him appointed now". Reverend John R. Madry is now the pastor of The Holy Temple Church. The date is September 1957.

TYPICAL SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday School 10:00

Worship Service 12:00 - 2:00

YPWW (Young People Willing Workers) 6:30 - 8:00

Sunday Night Service 8:00

During the week nightly services were held on Tuesday and Friday at 8:00PM

Members at that time included Olan J. Dew and his wife Julia, Ethel Fisher, Myra Holmes, John Dell, and Mrs. Daisy Bates, the Reverend Joseph Bates' wife. Other members included Idell Herman and Eleanor Brown plus an additional new families who discovered the church through the efforts of Reverend Madry and the revival. Negotiations soon started on ways to eliminate the debt of the previous administration and recover the good name of The Holy Temple Church. Reverend Madry personally visited each creditor and assured them they would be paid and paid in full. Over time church finances improved, creditors were being paid, the rent was on time and the church doors stayed open. The church explored an option to purchase the building. The option on the building was for \$100.00 to be paid per month for one year. At the end of the twelve months, the church would receive \$600.00 and that money could be used

toward the \$11,000.00 mortgage. In 1960 Reverend Madry, his wife Edna, and their four children; Nancy, Edna, Juan, and Jack, move from their family home in Hartford, CT. They also left behind a successful thriving beauty parlor business, plus family and friends to step out in faith, put their trust in God that He would provide, and settled in New London. Reverend Madry would eventually recognize that the church and the congregation's future would not be on Howard Street and so the search began for a new and better environment, a place worthy to be called a House of God. In 1978 the Madry Temple Church relocated from Jefferson Avenue to where we are today on Manwaring Street. Under the continual spiritual leadership of Reverend John R. Madry, the vision of building the first black church in Southeast Connecticut came to fruition. The ground breaking for the new church was in 1977 and the dedication was February 1978. In 1991 Pastor John R. Madry passed his ministry and his church over to his son Jack E. Madry. There were lean years, when membership and finances were few and when obstacles and divisions threatened to overwhelm the church. Though small in number, the faithful saints of the church that remained prayed. Through their acts of faith and commitment they kept the vision in focus. Finally, after months of reviewing and revising old plans and meetings with bankers and architects, the ground breaking for the new 4,000 square foot annex took place in April 2005. On that cold overcast Sunday afternoon, surrounded by friends, family, and members of the congregation, as well as the mayor of New London and other city officials, Pastor Jack E. Madry stood alongside his father Elder John R. Madry and the ministers of the church. He addressed his audience about the significance of the day, the history of the church and the glory that will be given to God through this addition.



What about the future? Pastor Jack E. Madry, his wife Faye and the ministers of the church will continue to lead their congregation in the ways of the Holy Spirit. Their passion and love for God and His Gospel message will repeatedly manifest itself through church and community outreach programs for teens, single mothers, senior citizens, the homeless, the hungry and the disenfranchised.

We as a church community have One body, One Spirit, One hope, One Lord, One faith, One baptism, One God and Father.

[Ephesians 4: 4-6](#)

LOCAL AIM

Reaching The Unreached and Bringing Them In.

"For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me. They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?" He will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

[Matthew 26: 42 - 45](#)

We offer a special word of thanks to our friends and partners at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme. Thank you for your prayers, support, confidence and encouragement in bringing our vision to reality.