

Historic Background

A paragraph or two if possible. Please not longer than one 8 1/2 x 11 single-spaced. Try to highlight two or three high points in the history of your congregation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

History is always written by the victors, or successors, or those who are presently in the driver's seat. So the historical perspective issued forth herewith is from the perspective of the present pastor, George A. Ault, who has the dubious honor of having served this congregation longer than any other pastor. His service began in June, 1985.

The historical background can be summarized under a handful of headings. The first is the foundation of the congregation. Founded in 1960, The Church of the Red Rocks was brought into being by a spinoff from The Wayside Chapel. The presenting rationale for the new church start was that the "pioneer" members wanted to be affiliated with a denomination. The Wayside Chapel is an independent congregation. However, there is strong reason to believe that the new congregation may have been the result of a typical church fight. The Rev. Robert Jackson was the founding pastor.

The building pastor was the Rev. Paul Babbitt. The initial church sanctuary was begun in 1963 and completed in 1964. The concrete slab was poured on November 22, 1963, the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Instability was the word through the first decade. The Rev. Dr. Perry Avery was the fifth minister to end that first decade. He brought financial stability to the emerging congregation. Dr. Avery was the Congregational judicatory representative from Southern California when the fledgling congregation voted to become a Congregational Church. He was also in the wings when the land site was purchased. His hand was felt in this congregation for several decades as his brother, R. Stanton Avery, dedicated the 1987 Fellowship Hall in his honor.

Congregational expansion was experienced under the pastorate of the Rev. Alice Snow. Her ten-year ministry, from 1973 to 1984, marked a dramatic increase in the membership roles, doubling the membership to 500 members. Alice was a loving and caring pastor who spent much of her time with the members. An office-meeting room section was added to the sanctuary in 1978.

The addition of the Avery Hall, connecting tower and offices were built in 1987, under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. George A. Ault. Movement into the computer age along with an expanded staff to accommodate the community-wide and church programming have been assets during the present pastorate. Two pastors and two office staff persons have doubled the number of full-time workers at The church of the Red Rocks during the last thirteen years. Plans are under way for further building expansion and program growth as the congregation looks eagerly toward the next millennium.

George A. Ault
March 12, 1998

CHURCH INFORMATION SHEET

Church Name THE CHURCH OF THE RED ROCKS

Church Address 54 Bowstring Drive 520/282-7963
Sedona, AZ 86336 FAX 520/282-4143
Internet <http://www.sedona.net/crr>

Year Organized Charter - 1960

Ministers	1960 - 1961	Rev. Robert Jackson	Assistant Pastors
	1961 - 1965	Rev. Paul Babbitt	1987 - 1989 Jolie Hughes
	1966	Rev. Richard Kline	1997 - -- Matthew W. Baugh
	1967 - 1970	Rev. William Kenney	
	1970 - 1973	Dr. Perry Avery	Associate Pastor
	1973 - 1984	Rev. Alice B. Snow	1990 - Parttime Donald E. Arey
	1985 - --	Dr. George A. Ault	1991 - 1996 Fulltime - Dr. Donald E. Arey

Ministers Raised Up from this Congregation: None

Missionaries and Christian Educators and Other Full Time Church Workers: None