

SCIENCE OF MIND IN SANTA ROSA

Celebrating 70 Years



FIRST MEETING PLACE ON CLARK STREET

IN THE BEGINNING

On December 16, 1954, The First Church of Religious Science, Santa Rosa, was established as an affiliate of the Church of Religious Science, Los Angeles. The certificate is signed by our movement's founder, Dr. Ernest Holmes (see page 4). Before this affiliation, a small group of approximately six interested individuals had been **studying Science of Mind in the home of Practitioner Clarence C. Philbrook** on Clark Street (left).

HOW WE GREW

Over the next 70 years under the leadership of dedicated ministers, we continuously expanded to larger and larger meeting places to accommodate those who were drawn to hear a message of love and the idea of Spirit within. Our first full-time minister was **Rev. John F. Cantrell** who in 1956 hosted a visit from Ernest Holmes, the founder of Religious Science. **Rev. Arnold Michael** then took the pulpit in 1958 followed by **Rev. Helen Borden** in 1959 through 1961. **Rev. Arnold Hansen** arrived from Florida and was installed on August 6, 1961. **Rev. Hansen's enthusiasm and love of the church inspired the purchase in 1962 of our first church building** at 515 Orchard Street (right).



CHURCH BUILDING ON ORCHARD STREET



CONGREGANTS HAVING FUN AT A HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE

Then came **Rev. Dr. Lornie Grinton** who took the pulpit from 1964 to 1978. **Rev. Richard Leo** served the church from 1978 through 1982 and **Rev. Frank Aps** then took the reins from 1982 through 1985. In 1985 the Santa Rosa Church of Religious Science issued a letter of call to a fresh-out-of-school new minister who was responsible for a new era of growth and stability in church life. **Rev. Mary Murray Shelton** was the next minister from 1985 to 1993. **During those years the church hosted a variety of special gatherings that made fun synonymous with Religious Science:** an annual holiday dinner dance (left), Halloween parties, Easter bonnet competitions, and theatrical performances. Throughout the festivities people always remained the most important part of the church along with **a healthy youth program**.

FUN FACT: What is one of the ways the small group of interested individuals studied Science of Mind in the home of Clarence C. Philbrook on Clark Street? They listened to tape recordings of talks by Rev. Dan Custer, a minister of Religious Science and author of *The Miracle of Mind Power* and *Patterns for Successful Living*.

1954 First Church of Religious Science, Santa Rosa becomes affiliated with Church of Religious Science, Los Angeles.

1956 Rev. John Cantrell is first full-time minister.

1956 Ernest Holmes visits the church in Santa Rosa.

1958-1961 Rev. Arnold Michael and Rev. Helen Borden serve as ministers.

1961 Rev. Arnold Hansen becomes minister.

1962 Purchased first church building at 515 Orchard Street.

1964 Rev. Lornie Grinton becomes minister.

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
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In 1994, the church issued a letter of call to another fresh-out-of-school new minister, **Edward Viljoen**, who led the community in 1996 to purchase the former **Star Skate World and Billiard Parlor** (right) to be our new home. Under the masterful leadership of builder **Louis McKenzie** (below), volunteers and subcontractors converted the structure into its current form. During the early months of this process, we held services at **Elsie Allen High School** gymnasium but joyfully moved into the building on Occidental Road while it was still a work in progress. We prayed, sang, and worked: plumbing, painting, installing flooring, furnishing, decorating, and landscaping. In addition to holding Sunday and Wednesday services, the building has served as a site for weddings and memorials, an education hub, and a shelter for fire evacuees.



STAR SKATE WORLD AND BILLIARD PARLOR

MAKING A NEW HOME: A LABOR OF LOVE



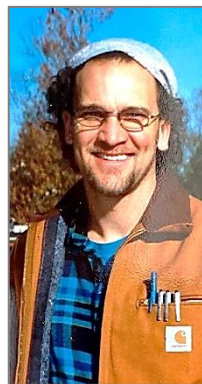
DEMOLITION AND CLEANUP BEGINS AT THE FORMER SKATING RINK



A SERVICE IN THE ELSIE ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM



VOLUNTEER PAINTING CREW



LOUIS MCKENZIE



A SERVICE IN THE YET-TO-BE-FINISHED NEW SANCTUARY

FUN FACT: In how many different locations have we met since 1954? At least seven! Clarence Philbrook's home, Harmony Hall (830 Fifth Street), Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse (10th and Healdsburg Avenue), 515 Orchard Street, Luther Burbank Center, Elsie Allen High School Gymnasium, and 2075 Occidental Road. Do you know of any more?

1978 Rev. Richard Leo becomes senior minister.

1982 Rev. Frank Aps becomes senior minister.

1985 Rev. Mary Murray Shelton becomes senior minister.

1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
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WE SEE A WORLD THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

To celebrate the joy of living a spiritual life and to acquaint others with our ministries, we have participated in neighborhood events such as the **Rose Parade** (shown here).



DANCING SOUP CANS ON PARADE

We have screened movies, held art shows, booked musical concerts, and hosted author appearances. Eventually, we became one of the jewels of our global movement and served as a campus for the **Holmes Institute** which trained over 80 ministers between 2005 and 2020. Our **Education Ministry** has licensed more than 150 prayer practitioners during the past seven decades! Our current senior minister, Dr. Edward Viljoen, was selected as **Spiritual Leader** of our worldwide organization and served from 2020 to 2023. During the pandemic he held 365 morning devotionals online. Dr. Edward consistently promotes **bilingual access** to classes and materials and represents the principles of Science of Mind at national and international forums.

As a community that values and fosters connection, we expanded from in-person services to include a **telephone prayer ministry**, **recorded Sunday messages**, a **weekly radio broadcast**, an **online website**, a **YouTube channel**, and **hybrid in-person/digital classes**. Our **Heart in Hand Ministry** reaches out to those needing visits in homes or hospitals and our **Jail Ministry** provides Science of Mind lessons to inmates. We facilitate grief support groups, a **Cancer Thrivers Group**, book studies, spiritual discussion groups, meditation classes, and individual prayer with Practitioners via phone, email, and in person.

Each year we choose 12 non-profit partners to support by donating a percentage of our income to them monthly for one year. Our **AIDS/LifeCycle Team** raises money for support and research benefiting those with HIV/AIDS. Our senior minister, Edward Viljoen, was one of the first people to be trained as a **Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chaplain** supporting first responders and family members after tragedy and loss. We have also supported children in our county with a **shoe drive** and an annual collection of **backpacks and school supplies**.

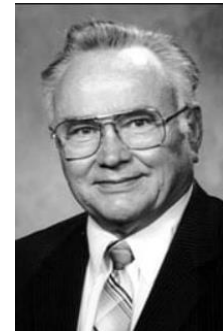
SENIOR MINISTERS



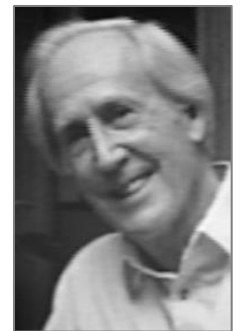
JOHN CANTRELL



ARNOLD HANSEN



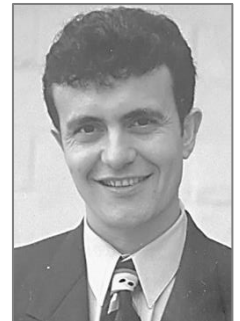
RICHARD LEO



FRANK APS



MARY MURRAY-SHELTON



EDWARD VILJOEN

Not pictured: Arnold Michael, Helen Borden, and Lornie Grinton,

FUN FACT: Why did we change our name? In the beginning, our movement was known as the Church of Religious Science. In later years, to adopt a more inclusive name, most congregations changed their names to Centers for Spiritual Living and adopted the starburst logo proposed for use worldwide.

1994 Rev. Edward Viljoen becomes senior minister.

1996 Star Skate World purchased to become our new home.

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
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Church of Religious Science

Los Angeles, California

Be it known that
The Board of Trustees, by virtue of the authority in it vested
and pursuant to application therefor,
hereby establishes Affiliate Relationship with
**First Church of Religious Science
Santa Rosa, California**
as prescribed in the By-Laws of the Church of Religious Science
and grants this Charter in recognition of such affiliation.
Given at Los Angeles, California
this 16 day of December in the year of our Lord 1954.



Alfred N. Johanson
SECRETARY

H. P. Van Valkenburg
PRESIDENT
Barclay Johnson
GENERAL SECRETARY
Ernest Holmes
DEAN AND FOUNDER

*We have within us, a power that is greater than
anything we shall ever contact..., a power that can
overcome every obstacle in our life and set us safe,
satisfied and at peace, healed and prosperous,
in a new light, and in a new life.*

—Ernest Holmes

FUN FACT: Who helped create this souvenir 70th anniversary newsletter? Allan Yeager, Jennifer Mann, Sherrie Corbett, and Susan Fountain.

2008 United Centers for Spiritual Living and International Centers for Spiritual Living adopt starburst logo.

2011 UCSL and ICSL merge to become one organization, Centers for Spiritual Living.

2020 Dr. Edward Viljoen begins three-year term as Spiritual Leader for our worldwide movement, Centers for Spiritual Living.

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
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