



REV. J. LEIGHTON READ

Rev. Read came to Central with a sub rosa reputation for diplomacy, and within a month he had a chance to prove it. At that time a Rev. S. M. Ericson met with the Session and eloquently urged that body to increase its \$600 yearly support of a foreign missionary to \$1,000.

The Session was all for "finding a way" to raise the extra \$400 until Rev. Read matched his eloquence with Mr. Ericson's and had the matter deferred until the next church year. By that time the missionary situation had changed and Central continued its \$600 quota.

During Rev. Read's pastorate Mrs. H. N. Street was especially active in spiritual work. She was a woman of vision, with a fervent desire to see women take a greater part in the important affairs of the church. Rev. Read had the same idea and gave fullest encouragement to Mrs. Street's inspiring plan, out of which came the Women's Auxiliary. Central was the first church in Arkansas Presbytery to adopt it.

Rev. Read decided on a missionary career, and left Central early in 1917 to enter the Home Mission field in Oklahoma. His address is 304 South Boulevard, Norman, Oklahoma.

help any who deliberately ran counter to the precepts of their elders! Adults were subject to discipline, too. In the minutes of January 11, 1898, the Moderator was appointed to admonish a certain couple for failure to attend church, and for other mild misdeeds considered incompatible with the Christian religion.

Dr. Morrison is popularly credited with being the first pastor of Central Presbyterian Church. But the calendar of events, as recorded in the earliest minutes of the session, does not mention his name. However, he did preach at the mission, forerunner of Central, from May, 1894, to the fall of that year. Before Central was organized, Dr. Morrison had returned to Louisville Seminary to complete his preparation for Missionary work in Africa.

Central's pulpit was occupied by "guest preachers" when obtainable, and by laymen who sometimes served as Moderators, until May 8, 1895, when "Mr. J. I. Norris was engaged, by permission of Presbytery, as Stated Supply to labor with us until September 30, 1895, at a salary of \$720 per year," according to the minutes of that date. Rev. Norris found Central a challenge of his spirituality, and he received permission to serve the church well beyond the specified time—until January, 1897. He preached the first sermon in the new church (December 27, 1896) and had the honor of inscribing a resolution in the minutes to Elder William Peyton Campbell, a leading figure in religious work who had unexpectedly passed away.

Rev. Norris' plea for dismissal because he felt he was needed elsewhere disturbed the serenity of the pulpit-supply committee, which was enjoying time out from their harassing task. One of the first candi-