

been meeting in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church (then on George Street) since July 21, 1904. This older and well established church began a lengthy period of generous sponsorship of the Hungarian church that lasted for many years, although it later was to be sorely tried by a lack of understanding of the legal implications of property rights. The first property that was purchased was a former school building on Hale Street (between Jersey Avenue and French Street)

On October 15, 1905 the first Hungarian church of the city opened its doors. Newspaper accounts of the time describe a colorful day of celebration and worship. A procession formed at the George Street Presbyterian chapel. Two marshals on whitehorses led, followed by a band playing sacred music. Marching behind were the members of the Magyar Reformed Beneficial Association and the St. Imre Herczeg Society of New Brunswick. The men were described as in Austro-Hungarian military garb and the women in "white, with buds, ribands and tri-color sashes". The father of Rev. Hamborszky, Rev Julius Hamborszky of Scranton, Pa. and Dr. W.W. Knox of the First Presbyterian Church officiated. The service began with the singing of the first verse of the 84th Psalm and the key to the new church was formally handed to its minister. So many people attended that only one quarter of them fit into the building; the rest remained outside in the yard. Another service was held at 2:00 and the church again was filled to overflowing. Dr. Knox presided and the hymns "Nearer My God to Thee" and "Onward Christian Soldiers" were sung. The deeds to the church were exhibited and an appeal for funds was made to free the new church from debt. Acknowledgment was made of the generous gift of a pipe organ by the Sunday School of the First Presbyterian Church. (Although the newspaper stated "pipe" organ, this is unlikely. It may well be the treadle organ that is still in good condition in the new parsonage.)

Evidently within a year or two the size of the congregation exceeded the seating of the Hale Street Church and outside help was needed again. Sometime, probably in 1906, Rev. Hamborszky and the elders wrote a letter to the mother church asking for assistance. (An excerpt from the letter has been printed under the picture of Rev. Hamborszky at the beginning of this booklet—) Fortunately other property owned by the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. was available, since the Second Presbyterian Church on the corner of Hamilton Street and Easton Avenue had just merged in 1907 with the First Presbyterian. This vacant church, built in 1880, was then sold to the Hungarian congregation for \$ 15,000. One mortgage for \$ 8,000, another for \$ 5,000; \$ 2,000 to be paid in cash with the Hale Street property reverting to the trustees of the First Presbyterian church. There was some unhappiness over this part of the arrangement as the legality of it was not understood by the congregation, but there had been a restriction on the original grant stating that it must be used only as a church property. The First Church had given permission for the Hale Street building to be used for social events until it was sold.