

## Presbyterian Church ~ Troy Hill, Pittsburgh PA

At the top of the hill, in the small community of "Cesky Vrsek" or Bohemian Hill, Czechs, with the support of the Presbyterian Western Theological Seminary, established a Protestant church.

At the westernmost point of Troy Hill, on an abandoned stone quarry, a small group of Czechs, who followed the teachings of Jan Hus in 15th century Prague and the beliefs of the Bohemian and Moravian Brethrens, built a small church. It was called Bethlehem Chapel and was dedicated on November 17, 1901 by Rev. William Brichita.

Rev. Bohdan "B.A." Filipi served at Bethlehem Chapel from 1904-06. as missionary pastor. He held the first services in the Czech language. In 1908, the church was expanded and reorganized as the First Bohemian Presbyterian Church. By the 1920s, English was incorporated into the services and the name was changed to the Troy Hill Presbyterian Church in 1923. The Troy Hill Presbyterian Church, now conducting services in English, continued doing so until October 24, 1999, when it too closed its doors.

A collection of materials concerning the Troy Hill Presbyterian Church can be found at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania in the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. This collection includes financial records, membership records, receipt books, ledgers, and other sundry items.

More information about this collection can be found on line at <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/f/findaid/findaid-idx?type=simple;c=hswpead;view=text;subview=outline;didno=US-QQS-MSS336>