Aug. 11. 1946

RUTH ALTA ROGERS 15 SOUTH 20TH AVENUE, EAST DULUTH 5, MINNESOTA

Dear Mr. Dreier -

Mr. Blu, Chairman of our Board of Trustees, asked me to get in touch with you: he rather hoped you would come up again before they take a vote on the matter of organ enlargement etc: since he was not present at the meeting when you put the plans before the members of the Board, he wants to ask a question or two, which I am not

able to answer. He said he would gladly pay your expenses up & back, if you can spare the time.

This is what he wants to know: he thinks they can raise the $10,000.; but, in case they had to stop at about $8000, could something be left out which we could really spare? I don't know enough about the figures to answer that. As more time goes by, I am more & more convinced that we need the new console, and I certainly think we need much of the

RUTH ALTA ROGERS 15 SOUTH 20TH AVENUE, EAST DULUTH 5, MINNESOTA

other things which you are planning.

If you do contemplate coming to Duluth within a couple of weeks, I think you should let him know in advance — in order to be sure of finding him here.

I presume they will want to lay the whole matter before the church early in September.

I expect to be in Mpls. August 22-24 if my plans carry thru, so if you

could send me some kind of
an answer about the organ this
week, it would be fine.

Cordially
Ruth Rogers

April 8 - 1964

Mrs. Kenneth Duncan
Chairman of The Music Committee
Pilgrim Congregational Church
Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Duncan

It was very hard for me to say that
leaving both organist and choir director in
Pilgrim Choir since 1919, it seems right now
to decide that I would like to "retire".

September 1st would be my choice for a
definite date, though as far as I know now, that
could be a little flexible, if needed to suit the
convenience of the Music Committee.

In parting, I may say that in choosing a
church in which to work for 45 years, I have
not heard of one finer than Pilgrim. I hope
someone else can enjoy it as much.

Yours Faithfully,
Ruth Zeta Rogers

Pilgrim Congregational Church
2310 EAST FOURTH STREET
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55812

WILLIAM L. HALFAKER
MINISTER

MRS. STEPHEN M. PRONKO
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

May 19, 1964

To the Members of
Pilgrim Congregational Church:

On April 15 Miss Rogers informed the Music Committee of her desire to retire as organist and choir director September 1, 1964 after having served the church in this capacity since 1919. The committee acceded to her request and accepted her resignation with regret.

A musical program and reception in honor of Miss Rogers is planned for Monday evening, June 1, at 8:00. Miss Janice Larson, a promising young pianist who is completing her first year of study under a scholarship at the Eastman School of Music and who received her basic training under Miss Rogers, has been invited to play for this occasion. She will play in the sanctuary.

Following this brief musical program we will go to the Fellowship Hall for a reception which is being arranged by the Women's Fellowship in honor of Miss Rogers. The plans for the evening will be kept simple, but we hope they will represent a dignified expression of our deep appreciation for the contribution she has made to the church and to the community during the years that she has served as our organist and choir director.

It was the feeling of the committee that the members of the church would want to present to Miss Rogers some material expression of their appreciation. The committee felt that it would be better to present this to her in the form of a purse which she might use in whatever way seemed best to her rather than the presentation of a gift which would be purchased by the committee. This gift will be presented to her sometime during the evening. We have also extended an invitation to former choir members whose addresses we are able to obtain to write letters of appreciation and good wishes to be presented to Miss Rogers that evening. An invitation has also been extended to the members of the Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and to the members of the Cecilian Society to join us in this reception in honor of Miss Rogers.

Miss Rogers is aware of our plans to have the reception, but she, of course, is not aware of the plans for the gift. We would like to keep this a secret until that evening. An envelope is enclosed which you may use as you leave your gift at the church office or mail it to the church.

Will you also please indicate on the enclosed card your plan to attend this reception. This information will be very helpful to the women in making preparations. A prompt reply to this letter will also be very helpful to us as we make our plans.

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Halfaker

Palisade Baptist Church

Star Route Box 14 • Silver Bay, Minnesota 55614
Phone 226-3039

June 7, 1977

Dr. Royal Shepherd,
Pilgrim Congregational Church,
Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Shepherd:

I read of the passing of Ruth Alta Rogers. It closed another era in my life, which began with my own musical experiences in Duluth.

As a senior at Duluth Central High School in 1930-1931, I was one of eight engaged by Pilgrim Church toprovide the music at the worship services. But I was the lone teen-ager among some of Duluth's best and most mature musicians. I had had previous experience as soloist in a quartet at Glen Avon Presbyterian Church in 1929-1930. Prior to that I sang in the choir at St.Paul's Episcopal Church.

Perhaps I am biased, or it is just nostalgia (as I am retiring this summer), but it seems to me now the golden era of church music in Duluth, and elsewhere, as well. I have served in many states.

A year or so ago my wife and I visited Miss Rogers at the nursing home. But she could not remember me, of course. The thing that bothered her was why I was not a Congregationalist. Was I really happy being a Baptist. She couldn't understand it.

These last three years have really been sem-retirement, judging the sphere of my activities here. Retirement will be busier, as I shall be engaged in interim-pastorate work across the nation. Music is still an integral part of my ministry.

Miss Rogers will be remembered by many for her many, many years of service to our Lord in a musical ministeries. Her standards were high, and she was often demanding, admirable traits in such a ministry.

Sincerely,

Glenn E. Dewey