

**The History of the First Presbyterian Church  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
175th Anniversary Edition, 1839 - 2014  
"An Ongoing Heritage"**



**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27**



## Introduction

"Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law." Proverbs 29:18

In the 2013 Annual Report, Dr. Forney stated, "This has been a joyful year of ministry together! We have been enriched by the many ways we as a church are living into our Vision Statement: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' (Luke 10:27) Truly, we are a congregation desiring to deepen our love for God and grow in our ability to love our neighbors as ourselves."

On the eve of this 175th anniversary, I have been wondering to myself about those, who, in 1839, established the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. Did they live their lives loving God with all their hearts and their neighbors as themselves? I think the answer is a resounding yes. As I have immersed myself in the history of this church over the last thirty years, it is clear, that the congregation of The First Presbyterian Church have been enriched in so many ways by loving God and loving neighbor. The history clearly confirms this fact in every generation. Have there been ups and downs, yes there have, but loving God and loving neighbors has been the vision that has driven each and every generation. As the anniversary committee has stated, "An Ongoing Heritage." You can expect this enrichment to continue under the capable and loving leadership of Dr. David Forney.

Like many organizations with a time-honored history, the church documents its past in the tangibility of faces, official papers, portraits, material objects and buildings. Expressed algebraically, history is the evidence of people added to places divided by time, a formula that is consciously present here.

A picture speaks a thousand words. The communicating power of an image is inexhaustible. The best that words can do is to describe what is not visible in the picture or to relate the picture to an historical pattern or to some other interesting association. This history uses many images that I hope you will find tells an interesting story of God's people who call themselves First Presbyterian Church. I relied heavily on the usual church records for this history. You will find that they extend back to 1819 when the Presbyterians in Charlottesville were part of a tri-jurisdictional congregation called South Plains Presbyterian Church. There have been many who have supported and encouraged me in this effort, and I am eternally grateful. I will forever be indebted to the officers and members of the First Presbyterian Church for the love and support that I received over these many, many years.

It has been a pleasure for me in preparing this history, and I was thrilled when I was asked by Dr. Forney, if I would be interested in updating the history for the 175th anniversary. I could hardly say yes fast enough, I didn't want him to have second thoughts. Pam and I are currently living in Waynesboro, Virginia, and are now members of Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church. We, like many of you have been enriched, beyond measure, by our association with the people of God at First Presbyterian Church. Thanks for sharing the love of God with us.

Robert E. Simpson  
August 2014

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## Chapter 1 In The Beginning

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

The Gospel According to John 1:1-5

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In 1738, the Synod of Philadelphia, the highest Presbyterian Court in America, made an appeal to the Virginia Colonial government, by the Rev. James Anderson of Donegal, Pennsylvania, who was commissioned for that purpose. He spent several weeks in Williamsburg before the Council and the House of Burgesses seeking for the Presbyterians of Virginia the right to have their own pastors instead of complying with the Established Church. When permission was granted he spent another three weeks touring the Presbyterian settlements in the Colony. It seems certain that he visited the settlements of Ivy Creek and Mountain Plains in the Albemarle County just west of Charlottesville, and perhaps preached a sermon there.

The Rev. John Craig established the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church and Tinkling Springs Presbyterian in Augusta County in 1740. The Augusta Stone Church is the oldest Presbyterian Church in continuous use in Virginia and is located at Fort Defiance, about five miles north of Staunton on Route 11. Tinkling Springs Church is located at Fishersville, Virginia.



Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, Fort Defiance, Virginia





Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church, Fishersville, Virginia

At the beginning of the following year, 1739, the Rev. John, Craig preached and administered the ordinances of the Presbyterian Church in Albemarle County. His record shows twenty-seven children baptized east of the Blue Ridge in the decade 1739 to 1749. In the Buck

Mountain area of northern Albemarle County, there were five Presbyterian families: Anderson, Caldwell, Dougherty, Francis, and Pickens. In the Bucks Elbow Mountain area of Albemarle County, there were the following Presbyterian families: Davis, Grier, Kinkead, McCord, McNeely, Owens, Stockton, Wallace, and Woods. In the Rockfish Valley, just to the south, now in Nelson County, there were the families: Dobbins, Miller, Reid, Robertson, and Small.



Mountain Plains Presbyterian Church (Currently a Baptist Church)

The Rev. Mr. Craig, belonging to the Old Side Synod of Philadelphia, arranged for the transfer of the Rev. Samuel Black to the Valley of Virginia. In 1747, the Rockfish Meeting

House, and the residents of the Ivy Creek, located near the Ivy Depot, called Mr. Black as their pastor. The groups formed by the early efforts of Mr. Craig met in the homes of Mr. William Wallace, Mr. John Caldwell, and Mr. Michael Woods developed into the congregation worshipping at the Mountain Plains Meeting House at Mechums River. It is interesting to note that Ivy Creek circles Charlottesville, which developed later into the center of population of Albemarle County, from the west to the north of the City at a distance of approximately five miles. Beyond Ivy Creek to the west, Davis Stockton gave his initials, "D. S" to the locality of the meetinghouse, which served the Mechums River and Stockton Fork area of Albemarle County. Mr. Black ministered to all these groups.

*"Some have interpreted D.S. as the initials of Davis Stockton; but since these same initials appear as the designation for meetinghouses throughout Virginia, they probably can be translated as 'Dissenter.'" John Hammond Moore, Albemarle, page 78*

In 1741, the Presbyterian Church in the Colonies divided into two entirely independent and even hostile bodies. The "New Side" Presbyterians, clustered around the Synod of New York, and were inclined toward revivals. Their ministers itinerated freely, without official invitations. This practice was contrary to the "Old Side" Presbyterians, which were organized in the Synod of Philadelphia. In 1747, the Rev. Samuel Davies introduced the "New Side" movement into Hanover County, Virginia. In 1755, rivalry between the "Old Side" and the "New Side" was reflected, when the "New Side" Hanover Presbytery was created in Virginia. The "Old Side" congregations in the Ivy Creek area, which were established by Rev. Black, made a request for supplies to Hanover Presbytery. The "New Side" supplies were sent to Buck Island and to the area between Secretary's Ford, near Carter's Bridge on the Hardware River, and the mountains. Mr. John Martin and Mr. Henry Patillo, after serving as licentiates, were upon ordination called to these fields, however both accepted other work. It appears that Mr. Davies was authorized by the presbytery to establish a preaching place in the North Garden area of Albemarle County. In deference to Mr. Black's "Old Side" constituency, however, Mr. Davies was cautioned,

*"That though the People have an undoubted right to fix upon a place of worship, according to their conveniences; yet the Presbytery recommend it to them, for the sake of peace, to appoint a place without the bounds of Mr. Slack's Congregation, and that it be as far down towards the Secretary's Ford, as will possibly suit with their conveniences."*

In 1758, when the Synods of New York and Philadelphia were reunited, Hanover Presbytery became the official Presbytery for Virginia and points on the frontier to the south and west of Richmond.

About the time of Mr. Black's death in 1770, there were major changes in the central Virginia area. The Rev. William Irvin was called to become the pastor of the Cove, Rockfish, and Mountain Plains congregations, and the Rev. Samuel Leake became pastor of "D.S." congregation. During this same time period, the Walkers Presbyterian Church (where) was

established. In 1773, Mr. William Woods, a Baptist minister, established the first Baptist Church in his home.

After 1800, changes in Albemarle County Presbyterianism came rapidly. The “D.S.” Church was dissolved in 1811. In 1824, the Lebanon Presbyterian Church was established in the Greenwood area of Albemarle County. The former members of the “D.S.” and Mountain Plains Church may have been the nucleolus of this new congregation. In 1828, West Hanover Presbytery met in the old dilapidated Mountain Plains Church for the last time, and five years later, in 1833, the Mt. Tabor, Church, three miles to the west, near Crozet, was established to replace the Mountain Plains Church. The Mt. Tabor membership, however, remained in the Lebanon Church for nearly a half century. In 1879, the Tabor Presbyterian Church, at Crozet, was formed with thirty-six charter members.



Lebanon Presbyterian Church,  
Greenwood, Virginia



Tabor Presbyterian Church,  
Crozet, Virginia



Cove Presbyterian Church,  
Coveseville, Virginia



Scottsville Church,  
Scottsville, Virginia



South Plains Church Keswick, Virginia

The South Plains Presbyterian Congregation, located on Route 20 North, was established in 1819. This was a widely scattered congregation with at least three communities represented: Charlottesville, Keswick, and Proffit. The congregation met in these three communities, and the session met at the homes of Mr. Drury Wood, Captain Wood, Mrs. Campbell, Mr. John Kelly, and Mr. Bowcock. The original South Plains Church building was constructed during the 1820's and is still in use today. This one room structure now has a small pipe organ built by the present Organist and Choir Director, James C. Carson. South Plains celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, October 16, 1994.



Kelly House, 1828

John Kelly was one of the first Presbyterians in Charlottesville. Previously, he had been a citizen of Lancaster County, Virginia, and was accompanied to Charlottesville by his first wife, Sarah Norris, the daughter of his uncle. She died a few years after, and in 1802, he married Mary, daughter of William Alcock. In 1795, and for many years later, he was a merchant with the firm of John Kelly & Co. In 1828, Mr. Kelly purchased property on the corner of Park and Maple Streets, where he built a large brick home, and resided there until his death in 1830. In 1828, he and his wife Mary established the first Presbyterian Sunday School in Charlottesville. The School was held in a small cabin located on the same lot as his residence. The early records of the School are quite meager, and don't mention a superintendent earlier than of Mr. Angus R.

Blakey, who came to Charlottesville from Madison, Virginia, in 1866. In 1872, Mr. George Perkins succeeded Mr. Blakey and who served as superintendent until 1892.



First Sunday school held in this cabin (1828)  
Corner of Park and Maple Streets

Mr. A. P. Bibb followed Mr. Perkins, who was followed by Mr. Robert H. Wood. Mr. Wood insistently required the faithful study of the Shorter Catechism, Bible verses, and hymns. Other superintendents include: Messrs. C. B. Stevens, W. H. Wood, E. F. Robey, Robert S. Burnet, Frederick L. Brown, Verbon E. Kemp, W. W. Rowen, L. A. Brunton, C. D. Lewis, J. L. Lancaster, William K. Arnold, Joseph F. Brown, Jr., Robert E. Ramsey, William R. Isaacs, and Mrs. Mary Jane Wood.

Regular religious worship and congregational activities were held at the South Plains Church, at Keswick, Bethel Church at Proffit and Charlottesville, for twenty years as a unified congregation. The Elders prior to 1836 were: Mr. John Kelly; Mr. John Rogers; Mr. Thornton Rogers; Mr. James O. Carr; Dr. Thomas W. Meriwether; Mr. Boucher Carr; and Mr. John Bowcock.

In September of 1839, when the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church was organized as a separate congregation, the Hanover Presbytery ordered the work at Keswick re-established with retention of the old name, South Plains Presbyterian Church. Bethel became a separate congregation in 1870, and survived until 1940, when it was dissolved. With the organization of the Charlottesville Church, South Plains was reduced to sixteen members, but two years later it reported forty.

The first Presbyterian minister to serve South Plains was the product of a religious revival at Princeton College, led by a graduate of Hampden Sidney College by the name of Daniel Baker. Almost fifty conversions resulted from this revival experience, and thirty of the new converts went into the ministry. One of these was William Jessup Armstrong, who made his profession of faith in the spring of 1815. After graduation, Armstrong returned to his father's home in New Jersey, became a candidate for the ministry, and studied theology under his father.

He was licensed to preach in the fall of 1818, but he returned for a year of study at Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1788, he received a commission from the Board of Missions of the General Assembly, to proceed to Albemarle County, Virginia and commence his work. He spent two years in central Virginia serving the South Plains congregation as a licentiate.

The Hanover Presbytery deemed the region in special need of the services of someone from the Board of Missions. Irreligion and infidelity were thought to be particularly prevalent in Albemarle County, Virginia. Dr. Conrad Speece, a noted divine of his day and a Presbyterian minister attempted to preach at the courthouse about the year 1818. He had very little success because of hecklers, and found the wickedness of Charlottesville so appalling, that he remarked to a friend, "When Satan promised all the kingdoms of the world to Christ, he laid his thumb on Charlottesville and whispered, except this place, which I reserve for my own special use."

The Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians all went to work. All these churches grew, and in 1848, thirty years after Dr. Speece's visit, the Christian religion had taken firm root and was exerting its benign influence on the residents of Charlottesville.

In the early years of the history of the South Plains Church, the Rev. James C. Wilson preached at times, but the Church was for the most part un-supplied after the departure of Mr. Armstrong. The Rev. Francis Bowman became the regular Pastor of the tri-area congregation. He began preaching at South Plains Presbyterian Church in 1824, preaching occasionally at the Court House in Charlottesville. Under his leadership the first Presbyterian Meeting House was built in Charlottesville in 1828, on the corner of Second and Market Streets.

## **Chapter 2**

### **The Bowman Years (Charlottesville Presbyterian Church 1824 - 1836**

*“Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. Any you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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The first house of worship in which the Presbyterians had any interest was built by them, in connection with the Episcopalians, on the site where the present Christ Episcopal Church stands; and this was sometime between 1820 and 1825, perhaps. But the Presbyterians lost their interest in that Church, and, in 1827, a lot at the southeast corner of Second and Market Streets was conveyed by Mr. James Dinsmore to John Kelly, James O. Carr, and Francis Bowman, and the first Presbyterian Church was built in Charlottesville. The contract for the building of that church was made on December 1, 1827. The contract was signed on behalf of the Church by John Kelly, Francis Bowman, and James O. Carr. John M. Perry, the architect, and George W. Spooner the builder also signed the contract. The contract stated that the Church should be built for \$2,080, and was to be finished during the summer of 1828. Mr. Opie Norris was selected as arbitrator of all differences, and the subscription paper on which some of the subscribers made their subscriptions stated that the Church should be called, "The First Presbyterian Meeting House of Charlottesville."

For some time prior to the erection of any Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville the Church at Bethel had been built, and the three Churches of Bethel, South Plains (at Keswick), and Charlottesville were in one pastorate, and constituted one field. The church at Bethel was probably built about 1825, prior to the erection of the first Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, but after the erection of the church by the Presbyterians and Episcopalians jointly.

It is believed that the Church at South Plains was built before there was any church in Charlottesville or at Profit (Bethel). The present South Plains Church is not the original building. There was a church there, however, as early as 1819, and it was organized by Hanover Presbytery before its division into East and West Hanover, with John Kelly, Thornton Rogers, and John Rogers as Elders. The three, congregations of South Plains, Bethel, and Charlottesville, were originally known as the South Plains Presbyterian Church.

The first Presbyterian ministers who preached with any regularity in Charlottesville was Dr. S. H. Rice, the Rev. James C. Wilson, and the Rev. W. J. Armstrong, who together served

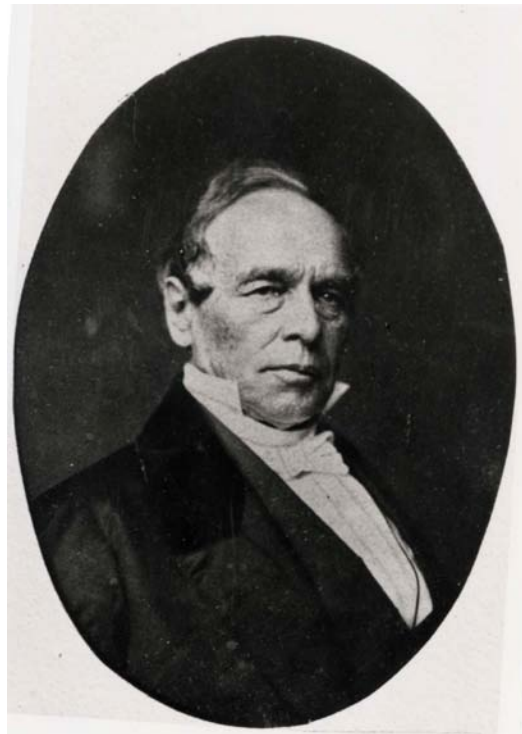


from sometime about 1819 to sometime in 1821. It was about that time, that the Rev. Francis Bowman became the pastor of the South Plains Church, and served until 1836. He was considered the first pastor, and was regularly installed in July of 1824. James O. Carr and Dr. Thomas Meriwether were ordained as additional Elders at the same time.

The Rev. Francis Bowman was born February 27, 1795, in Westford, Vermont. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1817, and attended Princeton Theological Seminary from 1821 until 1822. He was licensed to preach by Otsego Presbytery on July 17, 1824, and was ordained by Hanover Presbytery the same year.

He served the South Plains Presbyterian Church as Pastor from 1824-36. He was also employed as an agent for the American Bible Society from 1836-37. In 1837, he received a call to become the Pastor of the Mount Zion Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, Georgia. He stayed until 1856. From 1858-62, he was the Pastor of the Bryan Neck Presbyterian Church at Way's Station, Georgia. He was honored by Hampden Sydney College in 1852, receiving the Doctor of Divinity Degree. From 1863-65, he was the Stated Supply for the Farmville Presbyterian Church.

In 1824, he married the former Harriet Bryan Minor, the adopted daughter, of the founder of Union Theological Seminary, the Rev. John Holt Rice. They had two children, John Rice Bowman, who became a Presbyterian minister, and a daughter, Harriet. After the death of his wife in 1865, he went to live with his son in Memphis, Tennessee, until 1868, when he retired to Dublin, Virginia, where he died April 26, 1875.



The Rev. Francis Bowman  
1824 – 1836

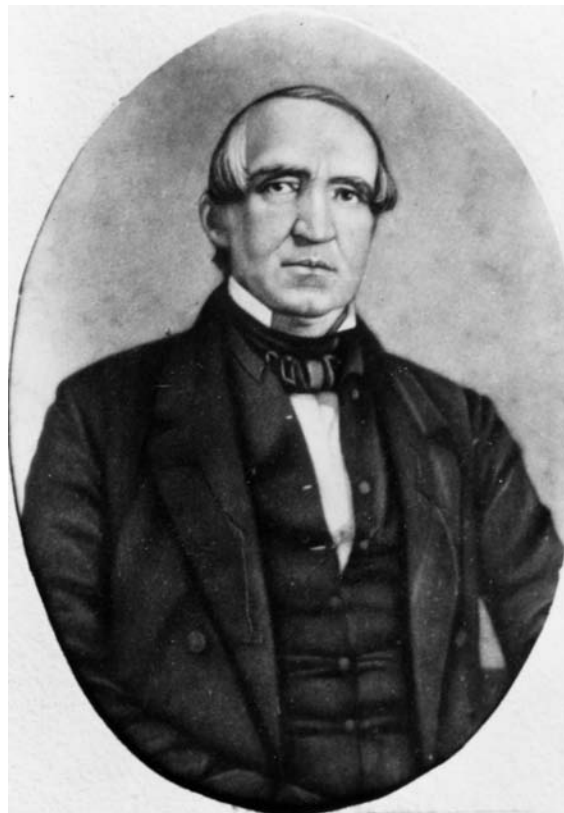
The Charlottesville Church began keeping separate minutes in 1836, after the addition of four new elders to the session, namely, Thomas W. Gilmer, Lilburn R. Railey, Samuel R. Campbell, and John Rogers, Jr. Mr. Bowman was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. William S. White. Three years later, in 1839, the unified congregations reported 74 members, but at that time, about three-fourths of that number withdrew to form the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church.

**Chapter 3**  
**The White Years**  
**1836 - 1848**

*“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me; when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them- they are more than the sand; I come to the end – I am still with you.”*

Psalm 139:13-18

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The Rev. William Spotswood White  
1836 – 1848

Dr. William S. White began his pastoral duties on May 17, 1836, and presided at a session meeting held in Charlottesville on July 16, 1836. On September 10, 1839, the session of the South Plains Church adopted a motion to form three separate Churches. On September 19, 1839, the West Hanover Presbytery, meeting at the Buffalo Church, received a petition from twenty-two members of the South Plains Church, asking to be organized into a separate church,

retaining the name of the South Plains Presbyterian Church. The request was granted and they called their first pastor, the Rev. Joseph F. Baxter, sometime in the early part of 1840. The remainder of the South Plains Church were, at their own request, were hereafter to be known as the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Dr. William Spotswood White was born July 30, 1800, in Hanover County, Virginia, the sort of William and Mildred Ellis White. He was married to the former Jane Isabelle Watt of Richmond, Virginia. He was educated at Hampden Sydney College from 1819-24, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He attended Union Theological Seminary from 1825-27, and was licensed to preach by East Hanover Presbytery on April 30, 1827, and ordained an evangelist by East Hanover Presbytery on November 16, 1828. Hampden Sydney College also honored him with a Doctor of Divinity Degree.

His first pastorate was at Nottoway Presbyterian Church, where he served from 1829-32. In 1832, he became the Pastor of Scottsville and Marrs Hill Presbyterian Churches. He served these congregations faithfully until 1834, when he became an Agent for the American Tract Society.

In 1836, he became the Pastor of the South Plains Presbyterian Church, and three years later he helped form the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. He was installed as the Pastor of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church in 1840, and served until 1848.

While he labored in Charlottesville, he established and conducted the Charlottesville Female Academy. Through his influence many of the young ladies made their commitment to Jesus Christ, and served the church. He moved to Lexington, Virginia, in 1848 to become the Pastor of the Lexington Presbyterian Church, and served until 1867. He was the author of "The African Preacher." He died at Lexington on November 29, 1873.

During Dr. White's pastorate, and when, for the second time, he was appointed Chaplain to the University, he engaged the services of the Rev. Daniel B. Ewing, who filled the pulpit for, a short time.

At the fall meeting of West Hanover, Presbytery in 1848, Dr. White's relationship was dissolved, and he went to Lexington, Virginia, after a pastorate at the Charlottesville Church of twelve years. For a full account of Dr. White's life, I would invite you to read his autobiography, "Rev. William S. White, D.D., and his times 1800-1873", Sprinkle Publications, 1983.

The Charlottesville Female Academy, founded by Dr. White, was located in a residence that was known as "The Manse", and it was located at 422 Second Street, NE. It is a particularly fine example of Late Federal architecture, and, as such, ranks as one of the most valuable structures in the City today. Construction of the house was completed in 1840, at which time the Charlottesville Female Academy purchased it from the estate of Opie Norris for one dollar. Dr. White conducted the school, which had an enrollment of seventy students.

On the dissolution of the Academy, the Trustees sold the property to Mr. William F. Early, who sold it to the Baptist Church. The Baptist's used it as a Manse. In 1863, the property was sold to Mr. William J. Parrott. The property was purchased by the Rev. Edgar Woods to serve as his residence while pastor of the Charlottesville Church. He later sold it to the

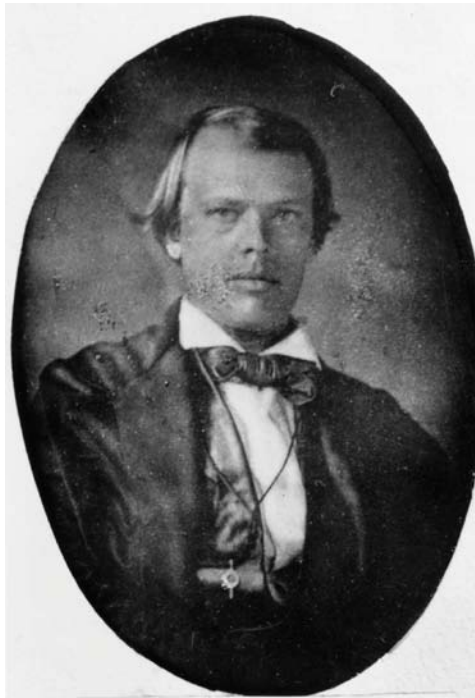
Charlottesville Presbyterian Church for \$5000, and it became known as "The Manse". It is recorded in the Albemarle County Court House, Deed Book No. 77, page 314.

Dr. White was succeeded by the Rev. Benjamin M. Wailes, who was called by the Charlottesville Church on August 3, 1849, and served as pastor until April 14, 1853.

**Chapter 4**  
**The Wailes Years**  
**1836 - 1848**

*“For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me; when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them- they are more than the sand; I come to the end – I am still with you.”*

Psalm 139:13-18



The Rev. Benjamin M. Wailes  
1849 – 1853

The Rev. Benjamin Morris Wailes was born January 7, 1822, at Snow Hill, Maryland, the son of Isaac Handy and Mary Winder Wilson Wailes. In 1824, his family moved to Washington, DC, where he was reared and educated. As a youth he delighted in attending the Congressional debates between such giants as Calhoun, Clay, and Webster. These men aroused young Wailes' ambition, and, through the influence of Senator Freeman Smith of Connecticut, he studied law at Litchfield College in 1843. He was a member of Widow's Sons' Masonic Lodge No. 60, Charlottesville, Virginia, and was Lodge Chaplain in 1850 and 1851.

While attending law school, he made his profession of faith, and in 1844 he enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary. He was licensed to preach by Baltimore Presbytery on April 23, 1846, was ordained by West Hanover Presbytery on November 11, 1849, and immediately took up his labors as Pastor of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church.

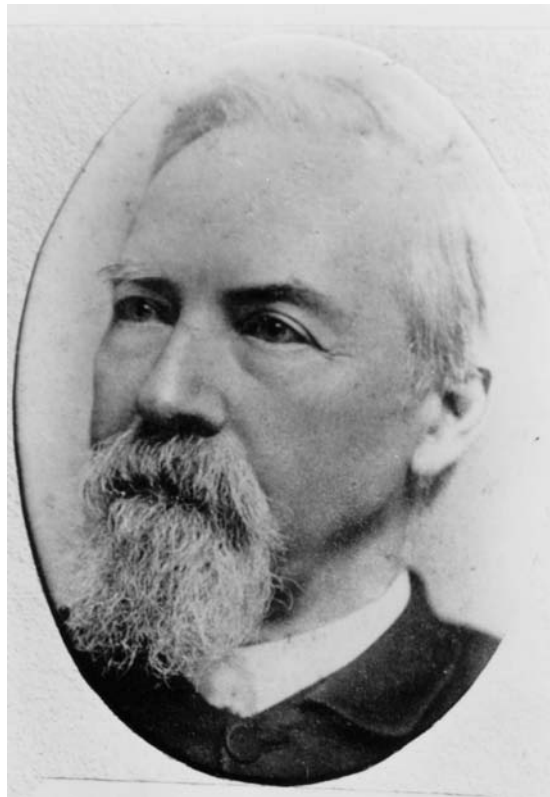
In 1853, he moved to the Rockfish Valley of Nelson County, Virginia, and started a thirty year pastorate at the Rockfish and Cove Presbyterian Churches. He also served as the Stated Supply of the Greenfield Presbyterian Church from 1860-67. In 1881, he became the principal of the Kleinburg Female School at Nelly's Ford, Virginia, operated by his daughters. With his health failing in 1883, he dedicated his remaining years to preaching at the Kleinburg School for Girls. He died at Rockfish Depot, Virginia on January 23, 1893.

**Chapter 5**  
**The Smith Years**  
**1854 - 1859**

*“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; To be understood, as to understand; To be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”*

St. Francis Assisi

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The Rev. J. Henry Smith  
1854 – 1859

On the first Sunday in September of 1854, the Rev. Dr. J. Henry Smith took charge of the Charlottesville Church as its pastor, and remained until March of 1859. The Rev. Dr. Jacob Henry Smith was born at Lexington, Virginia, August 13, 1820, the son of Samuel Runckel and Margaret Fuller Smith. In 1848, he married Catherine Malvina Miller of Powhatan County, Virginia, who died in 1854. In 1857, he married Mary Kelly Watson of Charlottesville, the



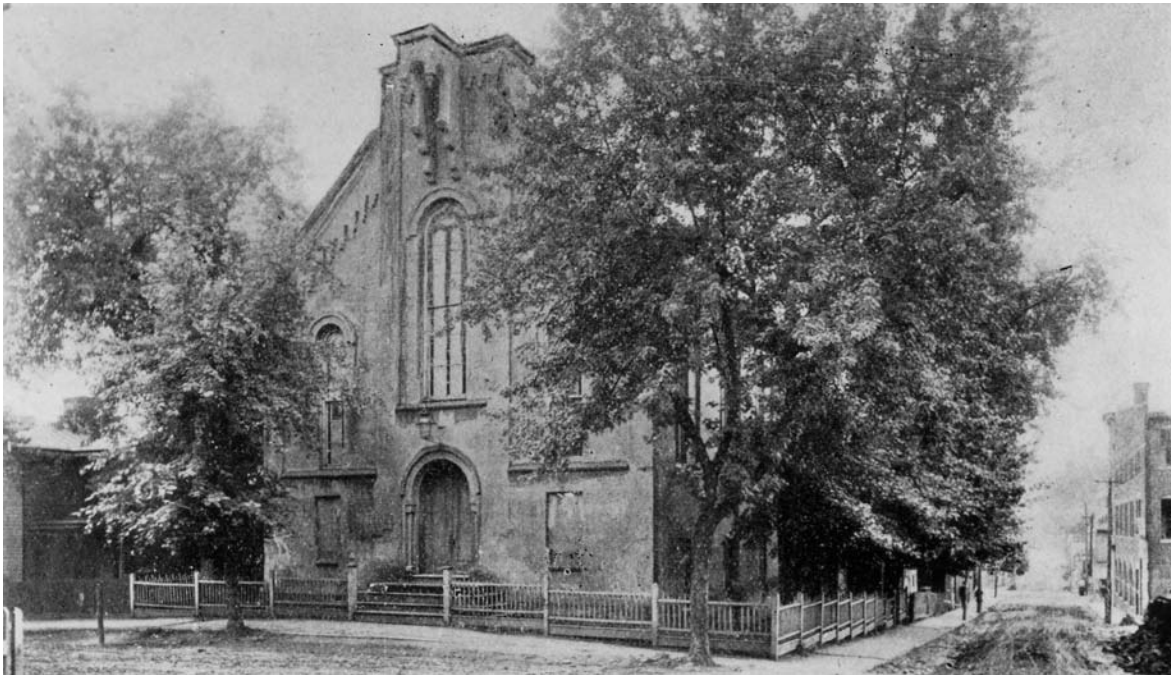
daughter of Judge E. R. Watson. She died in 1924. They had three sons who all became Presbyterian ministers.

He graduated from Washington College, now Washington & Lee University, at Lexington, Virginia, in 1843, and the same year entered Union Theological Seminary. In 1866, he was elected a Director of Union Theological Seminary, and served until 1883. The Doctor of Divinity Degree was conferred on him by Hampden Sydney College in 1872, and the University of North Carolina repeated the honor in 1877.

He was licensed to preach by Lexington Presbytery on August 24, 1846, and ordained by West Hanover- Presbytery on July 31, 1847. Immediately thereafter he became the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Pittsylvania Court House, Virginia, where he served until 1850. From 1851-54, he was the Principal and Professor of Greek at the Samuel Davies Institute in Halifax County, Virginia. He was an accomplished Classical and Belles Letters Scholar.

He became Pastor of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church in 1854, and served until 1859, when for the next thirty-eight years he served the Presbyterian Church at Greensboro, North Carolina. He died there on November 22, 1897.

The Presbyterian Meeting House was used by the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church until 1856, when the second building was erected. The cornerstone of this second church was laid on April 30, 1856. The Masons of Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60, AF&AM, conducted the ceremony; the addresses were made in the Baptist Church; there was a dinner in the Town Hall; and the occasion was a memorable one for the citizens of Charlottesville. There was a band from Richmond. Dr. Burroughs, of Richmond, delivered the Masonic address, and Dr. J. Henry Smith, then pastor, spoke on behalf of the Church.



Charlottesville Presbyterian Church 1856 - 1897

This second Church building, located at the southeast corner of Second and Market Streets, was of a simple style of architecture, consisting of one large audience room, surrounded by galleries on three sides. The gallery on the left side below was reserved for the choir. The right side was occupied by students from the University of Virginia and Pantops Academy. Also special seats were reserved in one gallery for the black members.



Sanctuary of Charlottesville Presbyterian Church 1856 - 1897

The pulpit was in the end of the building opposite the choir gallery. The Sunday school and Wednesday evening services were held in the basement. There were also two smaller rooms in which the Bible and Infant Classes were held.

The building had a steeple in which a sweet-toned bell was hung. When the church was demolished, the bell was sold to Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

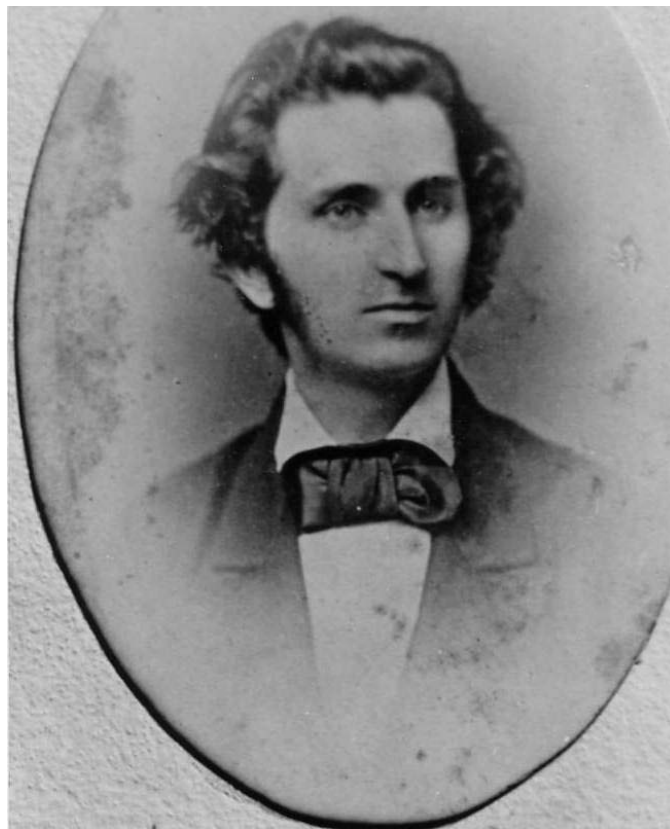
Throughout the history of the First Presbyterian Church, there have been many laypersons who have contributed much to the mission and service of our Lord, this Church, and the Charlottesville community. A complete list of the Elders and Deacons and the years of service are available in the Church office. The First Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and growing congregation because of the dedication and commitment of those whose names are not honored and unsung. It is so easy to exaggerate the importance of the important and to underestimate the importance of the unimportant. Such is the case with this historical sketch. Few laypersons are included with any detail of their contributions to the Church.

In 1848, the congregation for the first time elected deacons. Messrs. Ira Garrett, George M. McIntire, Elbert R. Watson, and Drury Wood were ordained March 4, 1848. One-hundred twenty-six years after its organization, in 1965, the first women were ordained as an elder and deacon. Louise N. Wells was ordained as the first elder and Laura S. Brunton was ordained as the first deacon. Since 1965, there have been numerous women ordained as elders and deacons. The current makeup of the two Boards is reflective of this change, where there are a number of women serving on each.

**Chapter 6**  
**The Civil War Years**  
**1859 - 1865**

*“And they came to Jericho; and as he (Jesus) was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great multitude, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ And Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’ And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart; rise, he is calling you.’ And throwing off his mantle he sprang up and came to Jesus. And Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ And the blind man said to him, ‘Master, let me receive my sight.’ And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.”*

Mark 10:46-52



The Rev. John E. Annan  
1859 – 1861

Dr. Smith was succeeded in October, 1859, by the Rev. John E. Annan. Very little is known about the Rev. John E. Annan. He came to the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church from

the Presbytery of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. He commenced his labors October 20, 1859, and remained a little over a year-, until 1861, when he felt it wise to return to the North on account of the strained relations caused by the Civil War.

At a meeting of West Hanover Presbytery held at the Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, Virginia, on August 21, 1861, the Pastoral relationship with Rev. Annan was dissolved. After leaving Charlottesville Mr. Annan was Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, from 1864-65, and the 40th Street Presbyterian Church in New York City from 1866-67. He died in New York City, June 26, 1870.

The Rev. Dr. William J. Hoge commenced his labors at the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church as the Stated Supply in September of 1861. The Rev. Dr. William James Hoge was born August 14, 1825, at Athens, Ohio, the son of the Rev. Samuel Davies and Elizabeth Rice Lacy Hoge. He was married twice. His first wife is unknown. In 1855, he married Virginia Randolph Harrison, daughter of the Rev. Peyton Harrison from Clifton, Virginia.

He received a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Ohio University, and was licensed to preach by Hocking Presbytery in 1850. The same year, he moved to Richmond, Virginia, and assisted his brother in the operation of a female academy. He was ordained by Baltimore Presbytery in 1852, and became Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland, serving until 1856.

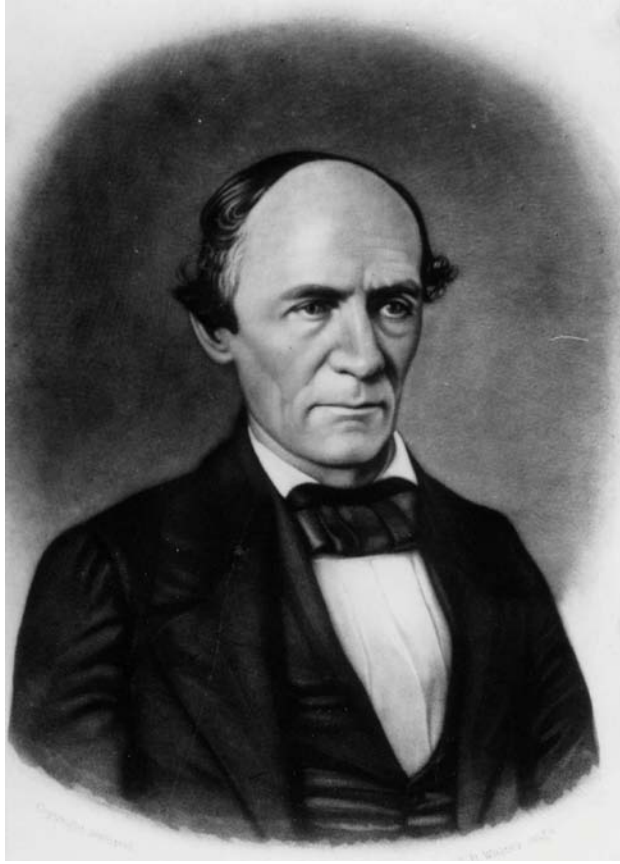
He was Professor of Biblical Introduction at Union Theological Seminary from 1856--59, when he became Co-Pastor of the Brick Church in New York City. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, he was unable to stifle his convictions and sympathies. His heart was with the struggling people of the Old Dominion. He longed to share in their trials and aid in their suffering.

He resigned his pastoral charge, and on the day of the first battle of Manassas, in 1861, he delivered his farewell discourse, and made his way with his family to Virginia.

He served as Stated Supply of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church from September 1861 until October 1, 1863, when he commenced his labors as Pastor of the Tabb Street Presbyterian Church, Petersburg, Virginia.

He was not a chaplain, but on various occasions he visited the Confederate Army camps. His labors in the church, the camps, and the hospitals began to tell on his vigorous frame, and when the first military action was taken against Petersburg; he encountered so touch fatigue and exposure that it brought on an attack of dysentery. For his own safety, he was moved from Petersburg when his disease assumed a typhoid type, which ended his life on July 5, 1864, at the age of thirty-nine. He was buried at Hollywood Cemetery next to his young son, who had died from exposure and fatigue on the long journey from New York to Virginia in 1861.

He was the author of, "The Blind Bartimaeus". The book was the story of a sightless sinner and his great physician.



The Rev. William H. McGuffey  
1863 – 1865




The Rev. Dr. William H. McGuffey served as Stated Supply of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church from 1863 to 1865. Dr. McGuffey was born near Clayville, Washington County, Pennsylvania, on September 23, 1800, the son of Alexander and Anna Holmes McGuffey. He married his first wife, Harriet Spinning, from Dayton, Ohio, in 1827. She died in 1853. His second wife was Laura Howard, from Charlottesville, Virginia. They were married in 1857.

He graduated from Washington College, Pennsylvania, now Washington & Jefferson College, in 1826. He was Professor of languages at Miami University from 1826-32, and from 1832-36 he was head of the department of philosophy and philology. He was President of Cincinnati College from 1836--39, and aided in the, organization of the College of Teachers. He was partly responsible for the passage of a law under which the common schools of Ohio were first organized. He was the first President of Ohio University at Athens, Ohio, and served in that capacity from 1839-43. From 1843-45, he was a Professor at Woodward College in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1845 until his death, in 1873, he was Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Virginia, at Charlottesville. He was the author of the famous McGuffey's Readers. His "Readers" made America literate and spun together Protestant virtues and national ideals which shaped the mind of the nation.

He studied theology privately and was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1829. In addition to serving as Stated Supply of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church, he also served the Walker Presbyterian Church in 1861, as Stated Supply. He died in Charlottesville on May .41 1873.

The earliest record of a choir at the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church occurred at the close of the Civil War, when a reed organ was purchased. The choir was formed largely of children, and Miss Hay Watson became the organist. The early members of the choir were: *Sopranos*: Mrs. Patty Gilmer, Miss Annie E. Woods, Mrs. Nannie Bibb, Miss Lucy Waddell, and Miss Blanche Dull. *Altos*: Miss Lilly Morgan, Mrs. John Watson, and Miss Lizzie Waddell. *Basses*: Mr. Sam Woods, Mr. George Perkins, and Mr. Lentz. *Tenors*: Mr. Henry Woods, and Mr. Lewis Leitch. The most recent choir directors were: Mr. James S. Constantine 1931 – 1940; Mr. Randolph Pillow 1940 – 1943; Mr. Frank W. Finger 1943 – 1945; Mr. Gordon Page 1946 – 1949; Mr. Homer F. Edwards 1949 – 1950; Mr. Warren W. Sprouse 1951 – 1958; Mrs. Virginia Mullinnix 1959 – 1963; Mr. James S. Constantine 1963 – 1964; Mrs. Joyce Pritchett 1964 – 1966; Mr. James C. Carson 1967 – 1989; Mr. Edmund Najera, 1990 – 1999; Mr. Jeff LeDuc, 1999 – 2008; Mrs. Elizabeth Norfrey 2009 - .

The Church Organists were: Miss Hay Watson 1870 – 1891; Mrs. A. B. Montz 1891, 1897; Miss Bessie Young; Miss Minnie Young; Miss Nell Irvine; Miss Laura Poore Wood; Mr. Kirk Payne 1919 – 1930; Mr. A. D. Sale 1931; Mr. James S. Constantine 1931 – 1940; Mr. Randolph Pillow 1940 – 1943; Mr. Frank W. Finger 1943 – 1945; Mr. Lorin A. Thompson 1945 – 1965; Miss Katharine Scott Jones 1965 – 1966; Mr. Robert Hunter 1966; Mr. James C. Carson 1967 – 1989; Mr. James E. Sivley, 1990 – 1999; Mr. Jeff LeDuc, 1999 – 2008; Mr. Roger Authers, 2009 - .

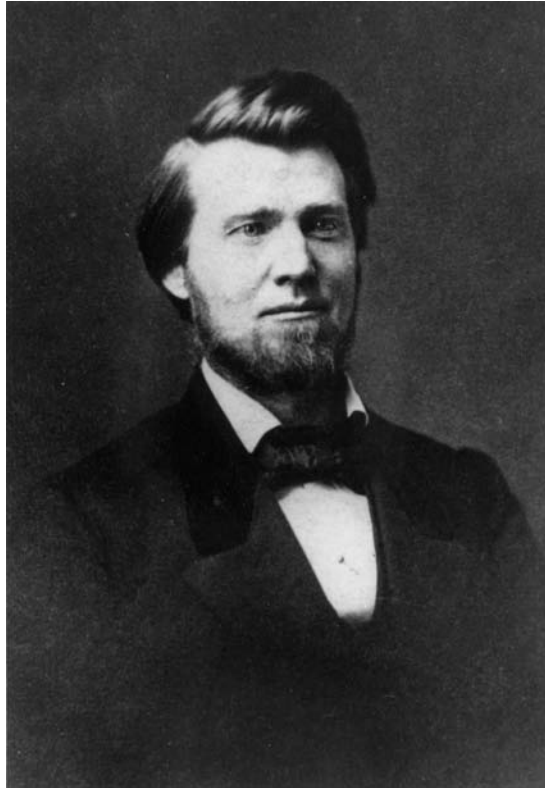
		
Edmund Najera Director of Music	James Sivley Organist	Kaye Lauffenburger Director of Youth Choirs

**Chapter 7**  
**The Woods Years**  
**1866 - 1877**

*“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”*

Psalm 40

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The Rev. Edgar Woods  
1866 - 1877

This brings the Church history to May 26, 1866, when the Rev. Edgar Woods came to the Charlottesville Church as pastor-elect. With great zeal and acceptability he continued his work here until his health prevented further service, and he resigned in 1877, after a pastorate of eleven years.

The Rev. Edgar Woods was December 12, 1827, in Wheeling, West Virginia, where his grandfather, Col. Archibald Woods, moved at the close of the Revolutionary War. Rev. Woods was of Scottish ancestry and the son of Thomas and Mary Bryson Woods. He was married for fifty-five years to the Marie Copper Baker, who died February 10, 1908. They had five children and twenty-nine grandchildren.



He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Washington College, Washington, Pennsylvania, in 1843. He studied law at New York University from 1843 -1848, and practiced from 1848 - 1850. He entered Princeton Theological Seminary in 1850, and was licensed to preach on June 16, 1852. He was ordained by Washington Presbytery on October 5, 1853.

He served the Presbyterian Church at Wheeling, West Virginia, as Pastor from 1853 - 1857, and then accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church at Columbus, Ohio. There is no record of his service from 1863 – 1865.

On May 16, 1866, he was called by the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church, and he began his labors as Pastor-elect May 26, 1866. He was installed September 1, 1866. During his pastorate the first woman's organization was formed. His staunch support of the foreign mission field influenced three of his sons to become Presbyterian missionaries to China.

From 1871--78, he served as the Stated Clerk of West Hanover Presbytery, and, during the period of 1877-86, he served as Stated Supply for the South Plains, Mount Harmony, and the Slate Ridge Presbyterian Churches.

In 1877, he founded and became Principal of the Pantops Academy for Boys. In 1884, he turned over the leadership of the Academy to his son-in-law Professor J. R. Sampson.

He was the author of "Golden Apples", which was a collection of sermons for children. He spent his declining years in research for his book, "The History of Albemarle County." He died after a long illness at the home of his daughter at Pantops on April 19, 1910.

During the pastorate of Mr. Woods, the cause of Foreign Mission was strongly and prominently placed before the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. His great zeal and interest were rewarded by having three of his sons, their wives, and many descendants become missionaries in China.

For a short time during Mr. Woods' pastorate, and when his health would not permit him to preach, the Rev. John H Bryson occupied the pulpit of the Church. Rev. Bryson was a postgraduate student at the University of Virginia.

In the interval succeeding the resignation of Mr. Woods the Charlottesville Church was fortunate in having the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Dabney fill the pulpit. He was a Professor at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. During the Civil War, Dr. Dabney served as the personal secretary to Sen. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Church was organized about 1870, during the pastorate of the Rev. Edgar Woods. The charter members of this organization were: Mrs. Edgar Woods, Miss Eliza Howard, Miss Anna Howard, Miss Sarah Leitch, Mrs. Egbert Watson, Miss Hay Watson, Mrs. Edgar Garth, Miss Juliet Gilmer, Mrs. Charles Venable, and Mrs. John Lipop. In the beginning, the meetings of the Ladies' Aid Society were held at the Farish House, a hotel located on Court Square. During Mrs. Edgar Woods' term as president, they met at the Manse. The meetings continued to be held at the Manse during the early years of Dr. Petrie's pastorate, then in the Ladies Parlor at the Church.

In the early years, the Society met every Tuesday afternoon for an hour. The dues were five cents a week. The ladies also made money by making aprons, which were sold from door to

door by a dependable black woman, Eliza Carter. They also held a Bazaar at Christmas. Their objective was to help in any way with the work of the Church.

When the Church needed a good cleaning, the Session always called on the ladies who could be counted on to do a good job. The Society contributed toward the debt on the Manse, and made the last payment on the Church organ, in the amount of \$205. The Society raised \$230 toward the erection of a house for the Rev. Henry M. Woods, a Missionary to China.

In 1887, the Session adopted the following resolution, "The Ladies' Society having given \$607 to the Chapel Fund, the Session resolved that on this, as on many other occasions, this organization has been a most valuable ally in the work of the Church, and the Session heartily commands the Society for its zeal, fidelity, praiseworthy effort." The Ladies' Aid Society continued as a separate organization until 1921. At that time, the Earnest Workers and the Ladies' Aid Society yielded to the inevitable, and became the Woman's Auxiliary.

The first officers of the Ladies' Aid Society were: Mrs. Edgar, Woods, President; Mrs. Charles S. Venable, Treasurer; Miss Anna Howard, Shopper; and Miss Sarah Leitch, Cutter. In 1893, the officers and their titles were changed to president, secretary, and treasurer. The office of vice-president and assistant treasurer were added in 1895.

Under the urging of Mrs. Lyttleton Waddell, a devoted Christian woman, the Society called Earnest Workers was organized in 1872, also during the pastorate of the Rev. Edgar Woods. The Society was composed of the young women of the Church, whose primary goal was to promote interest in Foreign Missions and other Church work. Among its charter members were: Miss Ellen Emerson, who later became a missionary to China; Miss Mary Minor; Miss Annie Eliza Woods; Miss Lizzie Valentine; Miss Lucy Waddell; Miss Lizzie Waddell; Miss Belle Hancock; Miss Fanny Hancock; Miss Helen Hancock; and Miss Mary McIntire. Its first president was Miss Mary Minor.

They met every month, and socials were held often to which the young men of the Church, and students at the University of Virginia were invited. These socials were very successful, and promoted deeper interest in the work of the Church, as well as providing fellowship for the young people.

The Society well deserved its name of "Earnest Workers", as it contributed so much to the life of the Church. The group expanded the range of its concerns from Foreign to Home Missions, and, as the number of those who participated increased; many objects of benevolence received their support. Large contributions were made toward the purchase of carpet for the Church on Market Street, and upholstering the pulpit furniture. In fact, there were no activities at the Church, no special appeal that did not meet with a generous response from these dedicated young ladies. Among the presidents of the Society were: Miss Mary Minor, Miss Lucy Wood, Miss Bessie Smith, Mrs. J. E. Irvine, Miss Haidee Perkins, Miss Nannie Perkins, Miss Eva Harris, Miss Birdie Hodges, Mrs. N. H. Allen, Mrs. Frank Huyett, Mrs. Alphonso Smith, and Mrs. Frank E. Ogilvie.

In 1921, it was proposed that a Woman's Auxiliary be established, and the Earnest Workers be abolished. A storm of objections greeted this proposition, but the proposal prevailed, resulting in the organization of the Woman's Auxiliary.

With many protests and dire predictions of failure, the Woman's Auxiliary was founded in 1921, with Mrs. Glassell Fitz-Hugh as president. The Ladies' Aid Society and the Earnest Workers were combined into the new organization. It experienced steady growth, and involved many of the women who previously had had no involvement in the Church. Many of these new women became ardent supporters of all the Church's activities. Christian fellowship and friendship was fostered among all the women. All needs within the Church received their special attention and financial aid. The Auxiliary promoted the woman's work in every facet of Church life, broadening her interest, and reaching the indifferent, providing responsibilities for each woman. Three ladies from the Auxiliary served as president of the West Hanover Presbytery: Mrs. Edgar Woods Jr., Miss Virginia Moran, and Mrs. F. E. Ogilvie.

The following quotation from the Presbytery minutes will describe the results of the work of this organization of dedicated Christian women. "Some of their results are visible, but not all. One cannot reckon in earthly values loving consideration, mutual forbearance, self-sacrifice, loyal devotion, unselfish service; these are alabaster boxes broken at the feet, filling the house with the odor of the ointment."

The first year of its organization, there were three hundred sixty-seven members who enrolled in fourteen circles, with about twenty-six members in each circle. The honor of being first president fell to Mrs. Glassell Fitz-Hugh, and she accomplished this difficult task with great dedication. The other ladies who served that organizational year were: Mrs. C. B. Somerville, Vice-president; Mrs. Fred Page, Recording Secretary; Mrs. C. P. Harris, Corresponding Secretary; and Mrs. John Moomaw, Treasurer. The other Presidents/Moderators were: Mrs. C. B. Somerville 1923 – 1924; Mrs. Frank E. Ogilvie 1925 – 1926; Mrs. Frank M. Huyett 1927 – 1928; Miss E. S. Hedges 1929 – 1930; Mrs. Lillian Shepherd 1931 – 1932; Mrs. Thomas H. Daniel 1933 – 1934; Mrs. P. C. Larus 1935 – 1936; Mrs. J. H. Whiteman 1937; Mrs. William H. Wood 1938; Mrs. Archie Hahn 1939 – 1940; Mrs. C. D. Lewis 1941 – 1944; Mrs. Daniel D. Colcock 1945 – 1947; Laura Bailey 1948 – 1949; Mrs. Daniel D. Colcock 1950 – 1951; Mrs. Nelson Richards 1951 – 1953; Mrs. Fontaine A. Wells 1954; Mrs. R. J. Staples 1955 – 1956; Mrs. Chester R. Babcock 1957 – 1958; Laura Brunton 1959 – 1960; Thomasia Spencer 1960 – 1962; Lucile Leitch 1963 – 1964; Alice Lee Coakley 1964 – 1966; Margaret Wood 1966 – 1967; Thomas M. Batchelor 1968 – 1969; George T. Starnes 1969 – 1971; Betty Barrick 1972 – 1974; Janice Cadwallader 1975 – 1976; Robert P. Carter 1977 – 1979; Carleton M. Luck 1980 – 1981; Kathy Croll 1982 – 1983; Roberta Hunt 1983 – 1984; Salley Rex 1984 – 1986; Pamela Simpson 1986 – 1988; Julie Burkhard 1988 – 1990; Martha Grattan 1990 – 1991; Shirley Bolton 1991 – 1992; Debbie Ripley 1992 – 1993; Ann Roberts 1993 – 1994; Karen Powell 1994 – 1996; Sue Brown 1996 – 1997; Mary Spencer 1997 – 1999; Liz Meiburg 1999 – 2000; Boo Greene 2000 – 2001; Jane Adair 2001 – 2002; Dana Henderson 2002 – 2003; Betty Hubbard 2003 – 2004;

Susan Howard-Smith 2004-2005; Katie Paterson 2005-2007; Phyllis McMinimy, 2007-2009; Sara Ray, 2009-2010.

In 2010, there are four circles. **Evening Circle** meets the third Wednesday of each month during Kirk Night. **Ella Payne Circle** meets the first Monday of every month and the women participate in the Presbyterian Women Bible Study. The members, who are all senior citizens bring a bag lunch and participate in the PW Bible Study. **Elizabeth Circle** meets the first Tuesday of each month. Their projects include: purchasing books and Christmas gifts for scholarship pre-schoolers, providing backpacks and school supplies for scholarship kindergarteners, being on call for birthday cakes for pre-school, giving a monetary contribution to support Forman Christian College, sharing in the Least Coin Offering and postage stamp ministry. This is an inclusive, caring group where the sharing of joys and concerns complement the opportunity for spiritual growth. **Circle 6** meets the second Tuesday of each month. Their mission activities include Least Coin Offering, the Salvation Army Day Care and helping in small ways where they can.

The Least Coin Offering is a symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation worldwide. It was started by Shanit Solomon in India in 1965. The Least Coin offering is collected at each individual circle meeting.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is an opportunity for individuals who enjoy knitting and/or crocheting to create lovely prayer shawls for those facing a health or life challenge. **Ruth Circle Support Group** is a group of widows that come together to gain insight and support from one another. **Quilt Sowers** is a group of ladies who enjoy Christian fellowship while creating and sewing lap quilts and baby quilts for Madeline's House, a shelter for abused women and children in southern Virginia. **Mission Sewing** is a group of women who join other PW throughout the Presbytery of the James in providing baby layettes, baby blankets and gowns for Presbyterian hospitals in the Congo and Malawi.

In 2008, the Presbyterian Woman celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the joining of Woman of the Church and United Presbyterian Women. Separated since the Civil War, the two churches united in 1983 and became Presbyterian Church USA. As with many organizations within the two churches, the women's organizations combined. In 1988, Presbyterian Women became the name of the new organization.



**Chapter 8**  
**The Petrie Years**  
**1878 - 1928**

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.”*

Psalms 133



The Rev. George L. Petrie  
1878 - 1928

In 1878, and for the next fifty years, Dr. George L. Petrie ministered to the people at the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. There is not sufficient space here to document the many accomplishments of this gentle Christian man. His influence for fifty years in the life of the Charlottesville congregation would alone fill a document such as this. The membership of the church nearly quadrupled during his pastorate, growing from one hundred seventy-one to six hundred fifty-seven.

In the year 1840, Andrew Jackson was the leading political figure in this country, then a Republic of twenty-six states, and seventeen million people. It was also the year in which the Rev. Dr. George Laurens Petrie was born at Cheraw, South Carolina, on February 25th, the son of The Rev. George Holinshead Whitfield Petrie.

Dr. Petrie attended a classical school in Charleston, South Carolina, and matriculated at Georgia Military Institute in 1855, and a year later entered Davidson College. He graduated from Oglethorpe University in 1859, and received an honorary Doctor of Laws in 1923; and from Columbia Theological Seminary in 1862. He was licensed to preach in 1861 and ordained in 1863 by East Alabama Presbytery.

Upon ordination, Dr. Petrie became a Chaplain in the Confederate Army, Twenty-Second Regiment of the Alabama Volunteers, a position he held until the close of the War Between the States. He served under General Joseph E. Johnston, then under General J. B. Hood, and again under General Johnston. He was in the battles of Resaca, New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Bentonville, and Kingston. He also participated in the campaign that culminated in the battle of Sumter, South Carolina, a battle fought after the surrender.

After the war, Dr. Petrie taught at a classical school in Montgomery, Alabama, for two years, and later was Professor of Latin at Oakland College, Mississippi, for two years. He then began his labors as a Presbyterian pastor. From 1870-72, he served the Church at Greenville, Alabama. He next accepted a call to Petersburg, Virginia, where he labored at the Second Presbyterian Church for six years.

In 1878, and for the next fifty years, Dr. Petrie served the congregation of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. He declined numerous calls to other fields, among them to become Professor of Old and New Testament Literature at his alma mater, the Columbia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Petrie's fifty years of service as Pastor of the Charlottesville Church was celebrated on March 4, 1928, when addresses of appreciation were made by Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, President of the University of Virginia, Dr. Henry C. Pfeiffer, then Pastor of the First Methodist Church in Charlottesville, Dr. W. T. Thompson, of Union Theological Seminary, and Dr. William M. Thornton, of the University of Virginia.



Dr. Petrie in front of manse

The Manse was the home of Dr. George L. Petrie during his long residence in Charlottesville as pastor and pastor emeritus. After his death in 1931, the building was

renovated, and became the residence of the Rev. Dr. Dwight M. Chalmers, and the Rev. John H. Grey during their pastorate, in Charlottesville. The property was sold by the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church in 1950.



The Manse, 422 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

After his retirement in 1928, and his election to be Pastor Emeritus, he continued to live in the manse, blessing the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church with his presence, visiting the people when physically able, and occasionally delighting the congregation with one of his rare sermons.

Dr. Petrie wrote two religious books, "Jacob's Sons", and "Israel's Prophets". His articles, entitled "Paul's Churches", were first published together, but were produced weekly in the Presbyterian Standard.

He was married to the former Mary Jane Cooper of Sumter, South Carolina, and they had one son. Dr. Petrie was a member of "Widow's Sons" Lodge No. 60, AF&AM, and served the Lodge as Chaplain from 1920 until his death on March 27, 1931. He is buried at Maplewood Cemetery.

The Penny Gleaners, later known as the Penny Band, was organized by Mrs. Lyttleton Waddell during the pastorate of Dr. Petrie, and was composed mainly of the children of the Church. Its object was to interest the young people in the work of the Church. It numbered at

first about thirty children, who voluntarily contributed one penny each week. During the years of 1880-85, its activities were varied, but included contributions to provide carpet for the Church, furnishing the Infant Class Room, and support of Foreign Missions and evangelistic work.

Mrs. W. O. Fry was an interested and active promoter of this group of young people. Others involved included Mrs. William H. Wood, Miss Ida Valentine, Miss Blessing Bailey, and Miss Hattie Bibb. Later, Miss Charlotte Petrie and Miss Mary Harris took charge of the group, re-organized it, and changed its name to the "Penny Band." It was composed of the very youngest children of the Church, and at its peak had ninety members on its roll. Also involved in leadership capacities were Mrs. F. C. McCue, Mrs. W. Dyer Wheeler, and Mrs. Thurston Fitch. In 1929, with the re-organization of the work of the young people of the Church, the Penny Band was disbanded.

In 1888, two elders of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church, Col. S. S. Venable and Mr. R. P. Valentine, gave a city lot located on University Avenue near the Southern Railroad Station to the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church for the purpose of erecting a Chapel. This lot was strategically located in the community for Home Mission work. On March 28, 1888, the Church accepted this generous gift, and appointed a committee composed of the following to make arrangements for the erection of a building at a cost not to exceed \$1200: Messrs. R. P. Valentine, George Perkins, and F. P. Dunnington. The deed to the Chapel lot is recorded in the Albemarle County Clerk's Office in Deed Book No. 90, page 317. The building was completed and furnished at a cost of \$1400. The Ladies' Aid Society met the challenge by contributing \$604 of the total cost. Services were held every Sunday and Wednesday evening, conducted by the men of the Church under the general direction of the Session. Sunday School Classes were held each Sunday at 3:30 p.m. The officers were Mr. R. P. Valentine, Superintendent, and Mr. S. F. Compton, Assistant Superintendent. The Worship Services were well attended by twenty-five to forty persons. The Sunday school with eight leaders normally drew about fifty students. During the summer of 1890, Dr. Theron Rice, a member of the faculty at Union Theological Seminary, was engaged to conduct the Wednesday and Sunday night services. Dr. Rice was a prominent pastor in Richmond, Virginia, before his appointment as a Professor of Theology at the seminary, believed that the whole Presbyterian Church was a missionary society with the responsibility to aid in the conversion of the world. Because of changes in the neighborhood, the Session decided to sell the Chapel to the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, which moved it to the north side of West Main Street.





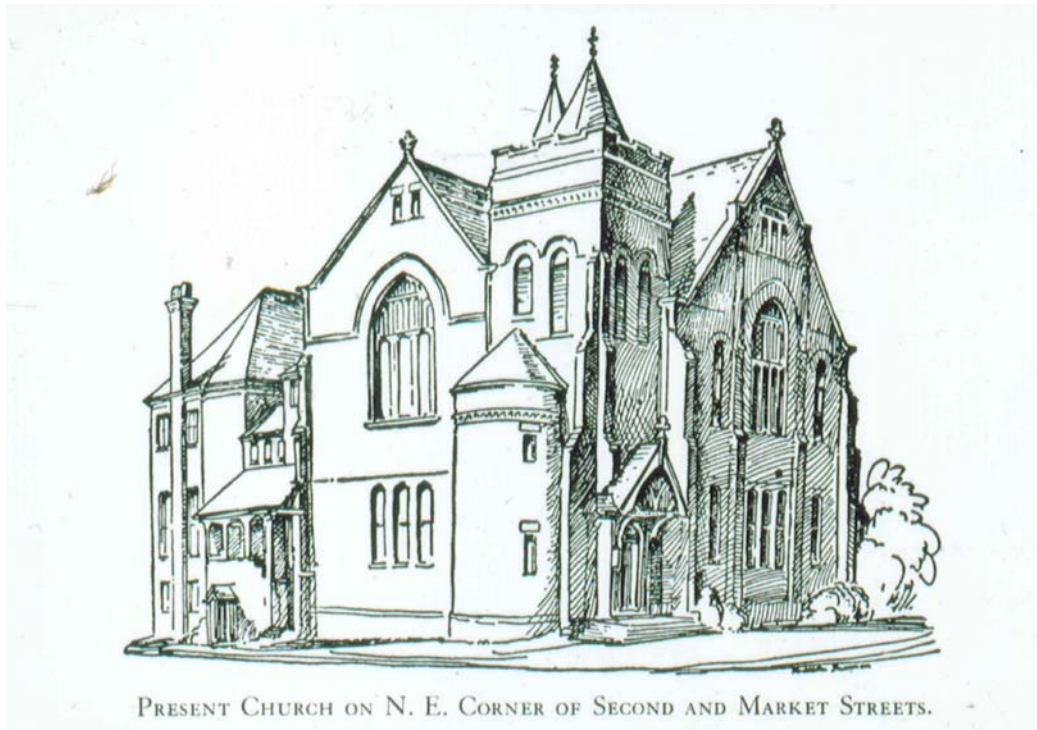
Charlottesville Presbyterian Church  
Dedicated May 15, 1898

The third church building was erected in 1898, on the southwest corner of Second and Market Streets. The cost was about \$30,000. It was designed by Mr. Charles W. Read, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia, on a lot measuring 100 by 110 feet.

The cornerstone was laid on June 24, 1897, by the Masons of Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60, AF&AM. The Rev. H. W. Tribble, pastor of the Baptist Church, delivered the Masonic address, and Mr. George Perkins spoke on behalf of the church.

The building was of ordinary red brick trimmed with brown sandstone and molded brick. It was in a Romanesque style with a modest tower over the main vestibule. It was covered by a slate roof. The auditorium was 60 by 60 feet, and was in natural wood, sand finish and plaster. It had about 500 seats on the floor and 150 in the galleries. When the occasion arose, the Sunday school rooms were thrown open to afford seating for a total audience of about 900. The ceiling was varnished Virginia pine. The galleries on each side were supported with iron pillars. These pillars supported the arches and aided the support of the roof. The pulpit was at the middle of the western side. The choir and organ were in a somewhat lower gallery behind the pulpit. The stairways were roomy, and the four exits furnished ample egress.

The acoustics were excellent. The lighting was diffused and abundant through the spacious windows on three sides, glazed in subdued tints of cathedral glass. At night the beautiful central chandelier afforded a flood of light from its fifty incandescent lamps. In addition there were many more electric and gas lights around the walls.



Rendering by Charles H. Read, Jr., Architect (1846-1904)

The heating and ventilation systems were well arranged after the Peck, Snead System, providing for the continual removal of the vitiated air through the floor, while two furnaces in the basement provided a generous supply of heated fresh air to the space above.



Market Street Church  
 “You do not choose me, but I choose you”

The church was erected on a part of the lot that was owned and occupied for many years by the Scott’s. The Scott’s were known throughout the area as the "Musicians." The property was purchased by Mrs. B. W. Rosser, who later sold it to the Church. On September 19, 1894, a deed was executed by General Thomas L. Rosser, and his wife, conveying the property to Messrs. R. P. Valentine, S. B. Woods, W. E. Norris, and R. W. Duke, Trustees of the Church. This deed is

recorded on page 166, of Deed Book 5, in the office of the Clerk of the Corporation Court of Charlottesville.

When this Church was built on the southwest corner of Market and Second Streets in 1898, it was thought that there would be ample room for the Sunday School Department. As the years passed, it became apparent that more space and equipment was essential to the progress and development of that program. On October 9, 1922, at a joint meeting of the Session and the Board of Deacons, General Rosser moved that the Church buy the Payne property at the corner of Market and First Streets. The motion was adopted. A committee was appointed and the property was purchased at a cost of \$27,500.



Market Street Church Interior

The building was remodeled and made more adaptable for Sunday school uses through the generosity of Mr. Paul S. McIntire, the donor of parks, grounds, and statues around the City of Charlottesville, and a great benefactor of the University of Virginia. The Church was also indebted to him for the decoration of the building, and the numerous beautiful pictures which adorned the walls.



Market Street Church spring and winter 1950's



Chancel of Charlottesville Presbyterian Church  
1898 – 1956

The first pipe organ used in the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church was purchased sometime during 1885, for \$1000. The organ was purchased through the interest of Mrs. C. H. Hedges, who happened to know of a church which wished to dispose of one because it was too small. It was built at the Roosevelt Organ Factory. The second pipe organ was built by Mr. Adam Stein of Baltimore, and, when purchased in 1902, Mr. Stein agreed to take the old organ as part payment on the new one. The total cost of the new organ was \$3000. Of this amount, Mrs. Mary S. Venable donated \$2000, and the Church paid \$500 plus the old organ. Before the old organ could be removed, Mr. George Perkins purchased it from Mr. Stein for \$540, and donated it to the Church. It was installed in the Lecture Room. Some years later, a piano was purchased, and the original organ was sold to the Delevan Black Church. When the Church on Park Street was built in 1955, the organ purchased in 1902 was removed, rebuilt, and reinstalled in the new sanctuary at a cost of \$7500.

In 1893, the young people of the Church were organized for Christian work under the direction of the Session and their organization was called the Westminster League. Church Socials were often held in the Lecture Room of the Church.

A Boys Band under the direction of Mrs. J. S. Wood and Miss Mary Harmon was organized in May of 1901, with a membership of seventeen. Its object was to aid Foreign

Missions, and to contribute to the organ fund. In 1903, a Covenanter Band, with a membership of twenty-four, was organized to work for the Church, and for Home and Foreign Missions.

The Men of the Church was organized about 1909. The organization has had different names over the years; The Brotherhood, The Layman's League, Men of the Church, The Men's Club, and the Men's Luncheon. The aim was always to promote closer bonds between the men, to help the social and religious life of the Church, to increase the knowledge of the Church's activities, to secure a deeper interest in the Church's enterprises, and to render the men of the church more dedicated in their Christian service.

The early leaders were: Messrs. Charles G. Maphis, William H. Wood, J. H. Lindsay, John Hopkins, Lyttleton Waddell, and J. N. Waddell. Professor Alphonso Smith taught a Bible study which developed into one of the highlights of the Men's Club.

The Men of the Church was disbanded in 1966, and the Men's Luncheon was established. The men met each Wednesday at noon at the Ken Johnson's Cafeteria. When Ken Johnson's Cafeteria closed, the Men's Luncheon started meeting once a month and they are currently meeting at the Ponderosa Steak House.

When our country made a call to its young people during World War I, fifty-seven men and women from the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church family responded to the appeal, and five of the men made the supreme sacrifice.

As a remembrance of all those who served, and through the beautiful handiwork of Miss Mary Dinwiddie, a very large flag was made and it hung over the Church organ during the entire war. It was made of white satin, with fifty-seven stars embroidered in blue representing those who served. Also on the flag were five golden stars, representing the five young men who died in defense of their beloved country and the cause of liberty. Those who died are: John C. Culin, J. Wayne France, Richard F. Johnson, Robert H. Wood, Jr., and Frank W. Woods. Each Sunday, at the close of the worship service, and with bowed heads, the following prayer was reverently sung by the entire congregation:

God save our glorious men  
Bring them safely home again,  
Keep them victorious, patient and chivalrous,  
They are so dear to us,  
God, save our men.

As a tribute to those fifty-seven men and women, the following was delivered at a special worship service: "There was presented yesterday morning at the Presbyterian Church a handsome cabinet, containing the names of all the members of the congregation who have enlisted in the various branches of military service in response to our country's call. The cabinet is to be accompanied with a service flag, on which will appear the number representing the list. There are fifty-seven names. The names are placed in movable letters, on white enameled background. The cabinet is encased in a dark oak frame, with a fine glass front. The lettering is large and clear. The cabinet is unique, and presents an attractive appearance. At the close of

the service, the many who were personally interested went forward and examined more closely the Roll of those soldier boys, and expressed themselves as much pleased with this method of showing our appreciation for what our noble and patriotic boys are doing." Fifty-three of the fifty-seven names have been identified and are as follows: George H. Barringer, Paul P. Barringer, Victor C. Barringer, Charles C. Blue, Roderic Bowman, John C. Culin, R. T. Walker Duke, Wm. Eskridge Duke, Douglas C. France, James Wayne France, Daniel Harmon, Harry M. Harmon, Fred M. Harmon, Alfred S. Harris, William A. Holladay, Frank S. Irvine, William A. Holladay, Richard F. Johnson, Carrington W. Jones, Charles H. Jones, Clarke E. Lindsay, John L. Lipop, Harry A. Martin, Fred E. Martin, Sylvester Mayo, Lawrence P. Moomaw, William M. Moss, Jr., Harry M. McCue, William R. McElroy, Robert O. McElroy, George P. McNeill, Jr., John S. Nicholas, Earl B. Patterson, Sidney E. Powers, John S. Rixey, James Barbour Rixey, Hudson Rogers, Theodore A. Russow, John A. B. Sinclair, R. Emerson Smith, Robert B. Smith, Katherine S. Snow, Kyle B. Steele, Charles Elmo Stevens, Hugh A. Sutherland, W. H. Taliaferro, William W. Waddell, Jr., Robert H. Wood, Jr., Dudley L. S. Woods, Edgar Lyons Woods, Robert W. Woods, Archie P. Woods, and Frank W. Woods.

Practically every group in Charlottesville, civic or business, had its service flag or plaque. The Charlottesville Presbyterian Church had an unusual flag that was used for both world wars. Miss Mary Louise Dinwiddie prepared a silk flag during World War I, eleven by seven feet. When World War II began, Miss Dinwiddie got out the old flag. In 1942, the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church offered the facilities of the Annex building at the corner of First and Market Streets as recreation space for those called up in the draft. It was staffed by volunteer hostesses, and became a miniature U.S.O. There were seven thousand men who received magazines, newspapers, postal cards, soft drinks, cigarettes, and candy at this facility.

Due to the age of Dr. Petrie and the growth of the Church, the Rev. Robert Singleton Woodson was called to serve as the Assistant Pastor. He commenced his service in 1923, and served until 1926. For many years the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church played a conspicuous role in the religious life of the University of Virginia through the brilliant preaching of Dr. Petrie. His influence was attested to by the students who constantly gave testimony to this gentle man. In 1922, and at the request of interested students, The Layman's Brotherhood of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church was organized at the University of Virginia. In 1923, the session felt that the number of Presbyterian students at the University justified a full time worker. A committee was appointed composed of the following: Messrs. Charles G. Maphis, Paul G. McIntire, Percy Brown, J. H. Lindsay, and Thomas L. Rosser. This committee, after prayerful deliberation, presented to the Synod of Virginia a recommendation which resulted in an appropriation from that body, which supplemented by funds raised by the Men's Club of the Church, and further augmented by help from the General Assembly's Challenge Fund, made it possible for the Committee to call the Rev. William Kyle Smith to become the Pastor for the Presbyterian students. The Rev. Smith commenced his labors in 1924, and much was accomplished during his pastorate among the students. He resigned in 1930, and was succeeded

by the Rev. Ronald S. Wilson, who served from June 1931 to November 1932, when he resigned to become the Assistant Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina.



Elders and Deacons, Charlottesville Presbyterian Church, March 4, 1928

Front row: J. E. Irving, Charles G. Maphis, R. P. Valentine, Dr. George L. Petrie, Frank P. Dunnington, R. C. Nicholas, and E. E. Dinwiddie. Second row: C. P. Harris, John P. Sneed, J. B. Wood, H. A. Dinwiddie, W. T. Walp, W. W. Waddell, Dr. H. S. Hedges, Nat Burnley, and George W. Vest. Third row: Dr. Thomas H. Daniel, Roy T. Gillum, E. F. Robey, S. B. Woods, Dr. V. Archer, and Dr. Edgar Woods.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Others who served the Presbyterian students at the University were: the Rev. Donald H. Stewart 1933-34, the Rev. George T. Preer 1935-37, the Rev. Walter D. Langtry 1937-38, and the Rev. Sander V. Kovacs 1938-39.

In 1926, a building site was purchased on Rugby Road adjacent to the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad tracks to build a meeting place for the Presbyterian students closer to the University. But nothing materialized until ten years later, when Mrs. Mary Royster White revitalized the idea of a congregation on Rugby Road, by offering to erect a sanctuary as a memorial to her father, Frank Sheppard Royster. A Petition was presented to West Hanover Presbytery for a church near the University, and it was organized as the Westminster Presbyterian Church on January 15, 1939, with eighty-one charter members, fifty-nine transferred from the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. The first minister was the Rev. John H. Fischback, who served until 1953.



**Chapter 9**  
**The Chalmers Years**  
**1929 - 1944**

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.”*

Romans 1:16-17

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The Rev. Dwight M. Chalmers  
1929 – 1944

In 1929, the Rev. Dr. Dwight M. Chalmers commenced his ministry at the Charlottesville Church. His service and leadership during the depression and war years were invaluable. The Church continued to grow and serve an expanding community.

The Rev. Dwight Moody Chalmers was born December, 27, 1899, in Charlotte, North Carolina, the son of John Thomas and Marion Rebecca Mitchell Chalmers. He was married to the former Helen Chandley of Greensboro, North Carolina, and they had two daughters.

He attended Davidson College receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1920, and his Master's Degree in 1922. He served as the Secretary of the YMCA from 1921-22, and entered Union Theological Seminary in 1923, receiving a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1925, a Master of Theology in 1926, and a Doctor of Theology in 1939.

He was ordained June 6, 1926, and became the Pastor of the Church-By-The-Side-of-The-Road in Greensboro, North Carolina. In 1929, he accepted a call to become Pastor of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church, and served until 1944. His first sermon was preached Easter morning of 1929, and he was installed May 12, 1929. He quickly won the affection and regard of the people during his ministry. He provided inspiring leadership and he had a fine executive ability. During his pastorate, the Church hosted the 70th General Assembly in May of 1930, the Sunday school was reorganized, and the Men's Club was revived. The Mayo Chapel, which had languished and had almost becoming extinct, was revived under the active administration of Dr. Chalmers.

From 1944-48, Dr. Chalmers served as Pastor of the Trinity Avenue Church in Durham, North Carolina, and from 1948-55, he served as the Pastor of the Westminster Church in Greenville, South Carolina. From 1955-67, he was the Editor of Religious Books for the John Knox Press in Richmond, Virginia. He was honorably retired January 17, 1967. He died in Richmond, Virginia after a long illness in June of 1974.

During the pastorate of Dr. Chalmers, the Men's organization was strongly developed, its work well defined and organized. A general revival of interest was accomplished. Each Month a meeting was held by the Club, at which time a well planned program was carried out, consisting of supper, business, and an address by an outstanding speaker. Definite service projects were undertaken each year, such as supporting a patient at the Blue Ridge Sanatorium, providing lunches for undernourished school children, and home mission work at the Mayo Chapel. Every man in the church was considered a member.



Beginners and Primary

In 1930, a new plan for the young people was recommended by the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church. This new plan called for organizing each age group from twelve to twenty-four years within the Church School. Each group or department had a four-fold

goal to meet the spiritual, physical, mental, and social needs of each individual. A Council, composed of an Executive Committee, had oversight of the following activities: Spiritual Life and Evangelism, Foreign Missions, Religious Education, Stewardship, and Christian Social Service. There was a Superintendent for each department, and the Pastor and the teachers were ex-officio members of the Council.



Juniors

During the 1940's, Dr. Chalmers helped to form the Charlottesville Inter-Racial Commission of some thirty citizens equally divided between white and black. The Rev. Benjamin F. Bunn, pastor of the First Black Baptist Church, as chairman. They met at the Presbyterian Church or in the county office building and their main concerns were nursery schools, better housing and working conditions for local blacks. In 1949, this organization became the local chapter of the Virginia Council on Human Relations.

Situated about three south of Charlottesville, on the Scottsville Road, is a small building that was called the Mayo Chapel. It was here, that for years Home Mission was carried on without a definite plan. When interest dropped in the Mission work at the Mayo Chapel area, the Laymen's League of the Church, through Mr. J. H. Lindsay, aroused renewed interest and made improvements to the building. Through the influence of Dr. Chalmers, this small building became the center of active church work in that locality. Sunday school was conducted each Sunday afternoon by the following dedicated members of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church: Mrs. J. E. Irvine, Mrs. T. H. Daniel, Mrs. C. A. Graves, Miss Josephine Bridgeman, and Mr. Charles Barrell, a graduate student at the University of Virginia.

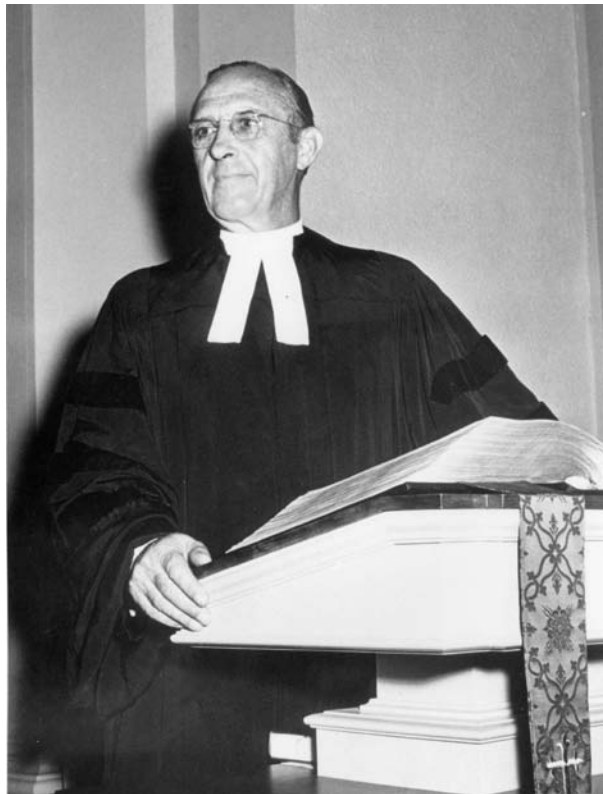
During the summer of 1923, a seminary student, Mr. Fred V. Poag, was employed to pursue the Christian Mission work in the Mayo Chapel neighborhood. His efforts gave great impetus to the Sunday school and attendance at all services.

After twenty-five years, the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church gave up its interest in the mission work at Mayo Chapel, and the Charlottesville Christian and Missionary Alliance Church assumed the responsibility for weekly services.

**Chapter 10**  
**The Grey Years**  
**1944 - 1949**

*“O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ...Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Psalm 139: 1-6, 23-24



The Rev. John H. Grey, II  
1944 - 1949

The Rev. Dr. John H. Grey, II commenced his ministry at the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church on May 25, 1944. The Rev. Dr. John Hugh Grey, II was born July 19, 1902, at Lexington, North Carolina, the son of Rev. John Hunter and Isabelle Muldrow Grey. He was married to the former Margaret Fourqurean of Richmond, Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Davidson College in 1923. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in

1927, and was licensed and ordained on June 2, 1927, by Abingdon Presbytery. From 1927-29, he served as the Pastor of the Royal Oaks Church at Marion, Virginia. He also served as the Stated Supply of the First Church at Concord, North Carolina.

While studying for his Master of Arts Degree at Washington & Lee University, he served as College Pastor from 1930-35. Dr. Grey also studied at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland from 1929-30, and received his PhD in 1938. From 1935-44, he served as Pastor of the Church at West Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1944, he accepted a call to the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church, and served in that capacity until 1949, when he accepted a call to become Pastor of the Church at Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Grey resigned on May 3, 1949, and his relationship was dissolved by the Presbytery effective September 1, 1949. He died at Williamsburg on May 12, 1957.

On World Wide Communion Sunday, October 6, 1946, the congregation gathered to worship through the scripture, prayer, and sacrament of the Lord's Supper. They also prayed for those who had endured the battles of World War II, and those who lost their lives. Those members of the congregation who died in the service of our country during World War II are: Bernard Coulter Harlow, Richard Waugh Hartman, Nancy Holden Hedges, Harry Gold Linton, Jr., and Wallace Gene Marshall.

During the latter part of the 1940's, the construction of a new church became a matter of discussion at the Session meetings, but the decision was made to refurbish the existing facilities, which never materialized. Dr. Grey had resigned, and as the search committee was proceeding to find a new pastor, it became apparent that, because of the condition of the church facilities and the low starting salary being offered, finding a new pastor was going to be difficult. Faced with this challenge, the search committee was authorized to increase the offered salary from \$4500 to \$6000 a year.

At a Session meeting, held on July 18, 1950, the Board went on record as recommending the purchase of the Howard (Kelly) property at the corner of Park and Maple Streets, and the adjoining Wood property. At a called meeting of the congregation, the Trustees were authorized to purchase the properties at a cost of \$25,000.



Howard (Kelly) Property, corner of Park and Maple Streets



Wood Property, Park Street

**Chapter 11**  
**The Burr Years**  
**1951 - 1958**

*“O Lord, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O Lord, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; in wrath may you remember mercy.”*

Habakkuk 3:2-3



The Rev. David H. Burr  
1951 - 1958

By December of 1950, the search committee was prepared to recommend extending a call to the Rev. David H. Burr, which was confirmed by the congregation on December 3, 1950.

The Rev. David Horace White Burr was born April 21, 1921, at Media, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, the son of Harvey Ray and Olive A. White. He married to the former Martha Gillum of Charlottesville, and they have two children, Deborah (Mrs. Robert May) and Richard (U. S. Senator from North Carolina). Dr. Burr announced his marriage to Miss Gillum at the June 18th, 1952, Family Night Picnic. Martha died on December 27, 2004.

He was educated in the public schools of Madison, Wisconsin, and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1947. From 1942-45, he served in the U. S. Navy Amphibious Forces. In 1950, he received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Princeton



Theological Seminary, where he served on the Chaplain Staff for two years. He was ordained April 20, 1950, and became the minister to students at the University of Virginia, serving until 1951, when he accepted a call to become the Pastor of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. During his ministry in Charlottesville, a new house of worship was constructed on Park Street, the membership had grown to almost one-thousand, and the church name was changed to the First Presbyterian Church.

In 1958, he accepted a call to become the Pastor of the Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church at Norfolk, Virginia, where he remained until 1963. From 1963, until his retirement in 1986, he served the First Presbyterian Church at Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In 1973, he received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Davidson College. In 1975, he served the Synod of North Carolina as Moderator, and in 1994, he served as the Moderator of Concord Presbytery. He was President of the Winston-Salem Rotary Club in 1981-82, and the Winston-Salem Torch Club in 1983. He also served on the Board of Trustees of Davidson College and St. Andrews Presbyterian College, and as President of the Forsyth Prison Chaplaincy, Commissioner of the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Presbyterian Home of North Carolina, and the Advisory Board of radio station WFDD-FM.

Dr. Burr died at his home on July 10, 2011, at the age of 90.



Men's Bible Class ca 1954

Class led by Francis Pickins Miller. First Row L-R: Unknown, Woody Bolick, Unknown. Second Row L-R: Unknown, Wright, Marshall King, J. Samuel Fitch, Stauffer, and Claude Easton. Third Row L-R: Leake Griggs, E. L. Knight, Jack Fewell, Pugh the Sexton, and R. T.

Gillum. Back L-R: Unknown, Pat Acree, Unknown, Bernard Irving, Bill Smith, A. H. Hayden, and Unknown.

On November 22, 1954, the congregation of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church gave its approval, with no dissenting votes, to construct a new church at a cost of \$403,236.50. The new church was constructed on property the Church had acquired in 1950, on the northeast corner of Park and Maple Streets. The Trustees were authorized to sign a contract with the Harry B. Graham Construction Co. The Church had \$350,000 on hand, and borrowed \$100,000 to help pay the construction costs and the cost of equipment for the church and educational wing. The new church was designed with a seating capacity of 620 in the sanctuary and 140 seats in the balcony. The old church located on Market Street was sold to the National Bank & Trust Company in 1953, for \$182,500. The Bank took possession of the property on June 17, 1956.

Some three hundred members of the Church braved cold and threatening weather to attend the ground breaking ceremony on November 28, 1954. The two oldest active members of the Church, Miss Mary Louise Dinwiddie and Mrs. Thomas H. Daniel, turned the first shovels of earth. There were approximately twelve members present at the ground-breaking who were also present in 1897, when the cornerstone of the church on Market Street was laid. Others participating in the ground-breaking services were: Mrs. F. A. Wells, president of the Women of the Church; Mr. W. W. Shields, president of the Men of the Church; Mr. Robert L. Blaeser, president of the Mariner Sunday school class; Mr. William K. Arnold, Church school superintendent; Miss Charlotte King, president of the Senior High Fellowship; and Mr. Kurtis Hess, president of the Pioneer Fellowship.



Ground breaking at Park Street Church



Miss Mary Dinwiddie



Cornerstone laying 1955

The cornerstone of the new church was laid on May 23, 1955, and more than fifty items of interest were deposited in the stone. The new cornerstone contained, among other things, a picture of the first Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, a paper listing the contents of the cornerstone laid in 1856, a copy of the speech delivered at the cornerstone laid in 1897, and a fifty dollar Continental note dated January 14, 1779, and a contract for construction of the first Presbyterian Meeting House, dated December 1, 1826. New items included a brochure on the new church from the building fund drive, a list of former pastors and church history, and a number of newspapers, books, pictures and copies of minutes and other records. Because of rain, the actual sealing of the box did not take place until the next day, May 24th. Mrs. R. J. Staples, president of the Women of the Church, sealed the stone in place assisted by Dr. David H. Burr, Pastor; Mr. J. S. Fitch, building superintendent; Mr. W. W. Shields, president of the Men of the Church; Mr. C. C. Cain, president of the Mariners Sunday school class; Mr. W. K. Arnold, Jr., president of the Senior Highs; Betty Ann Rex, president of the Pioneers; and the following members of the cornerstone committee: Mr. James H. Burnet, Mrs. T. H. Daniel, and Mrs. G. L. Rex. Mr. Francis Pickens Miller, an elder, delivered the address.



Cornerstone Ceremony 1955

The first service in the new church was held on June 17, 1956, at which time the name was changed to First Presbyterian Church. Dr. Burr's sermon topic that morning was, "The Church, the Bride of Christ." Special music was presented by the Director of Music, Mr. Warren Sprouse.



Cornerstone Laying, May 23, 1955

The Rev. David H. Burr, Pastor, and Mrs. Ruth Staples, President of the Woman of the Church



Cornerstone Laying David Burr, Bea Elliott



The Session ca 1956

First Row L-R: J. P. Donnelly, A. M. Jarman, C. B. Bailey, J. L. Lancaster, F. L. Watson, Sr., C. C. Gibson, and L. W. Laing. Second Row L-R: R. M. Davis, W. I. Nichols, L. D. Griggs, R. E. Hall, Jr., G. S. Fitzhugh, J. M. Coldwell, and W. K. Arnold. Third Row L-R: Gale Lammay, Assistant Minister, J. W. Garth, C. N. Gaylord, R. G. Burnet, and David Burr, Minister



The Board of Deacons ca. 1956

First Row, L-R: Unknown, Unknown, J. S. Gentry, Jr., N. W. Blanton, C. E. Lindsay, Unknown, Unknown. Second Row, L-R: W. W. Bolick, R. L. Blaeser, G. W. Smith, Jr., G. D. Spence, G. L. Rex, Jr., D. S. Marshall. Third Row, L-R: C. T. Mizell, H. S. Dabney, Unknown



Rendering of Park Street Church



Park Street Church under construction 1956

**Chapter 12**  
**The Taylor Years**  
**1958 - 1965**

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 5:3-10



The Rev. Alfred Graham Taylor  
1958 – 1965

At a congregational meeting, held June 22, 1958, a call was extended to the Rev. Alfred Graham Taylor. Dr. Taylor was born March 11, 1922, at Ching Chang Pu, China, the son of the Rev. Hugh Kerr and Frances Bland Graham Taylor. He was married to the former Grace Jean Lyons of Kingsport, Tennessee, and they had four, children (Hugh Kerr, III; Deborah Jean, Mrs.



John Allen; Portia Ann, Mrs. Jess A. Robbins; and Elizabeth Mae, (Mrs. Robin (Green)). He was also married to Carolyn Winburn O'Callaghan of Atlanta, Georgia.

He was educated at the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia; Davidson College, A.B., 1947; Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, B.D., 1950; Yale University; Union Theological Seminary in New York, 1958; Columbia University, M.A., 1959; University of Virginia; Institute of Religion, Houston, 1968-73; and McCormick Theological Seminary, D.M., 1975.

During World War II, he served in the United States Army, Military Intelligence, in China. He was ordained July 30, 1950, and accepted a call to become the Associate Pastor and Minister to Students at the University of Florida at Gainesville. From 1953-58, he was Pastor of the Fourth Church at Greenville, South Carolina. In 1958, he accepted a call as Pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Charlottesville, Virginia, and served until 1965. From 1966-73, he was Pastor of Bellaire Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas. In 1973, he left the 1600 member Houston church to accept a call to become Pastor of the St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Greenville, South Carolina. He served the St. Giles Church until his retirement in 1987. During his pastorate at St. Giles, the church progressed from a sixteen acre plot of naked farmland to having four buildings, including a Family Life Center with a full-sized gymnasium. The St. Giles grew to almost one-thousand members during his pastorate. Dr. Taylor was honorably retired in May of 1987, and was elected Pastor Emeritus of the St. Giles Church. He also served our Lord as Interim Pastor of the Abbeville Presbyterian church in Abbeville, South Carolina. Dr. Taylor's Doctoral dissertation was entitled, "The 'Vitalization of a Congregation and Building the Trust Level of a Church". He was the author of the following pamphlets: The Church's Ministry for Today, Presbyterian Youth Devotions, and ten articles for "Behold a New Thing", a magazine for new church development pastors in ten denominations. He served as Moderator of Suwannee, Lexington, Brazos, and Piedmont Presbyteries. He was a member of the Greenville Rotary Club, and served on the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association. He served as a Trustee of the South Carolina Home for the Aged, and numerous committees of several Presbyteries.

The year 1958 found turmoil in the public education systems in Virginia with forced integration and school closings in abundance. After first refusing the use of the Church property for emergency classroom use, the Session agreed on September 22, 1958, to allow such use. The Lexington Presbytery, believing that the Session had yielded to great pressure from the community, and feeling that the Session might not be upholding the constitution of the Church, and the judicial decisions of the Church's higher courts, sent a committee to Charlottesville to consult with the Session.

The Session replied that it was tremendously concerned that the school age youth of our community were caught in a situation for which they were not responsible, but we as voting citizens did have some responsibility.

From those discussions, the Session adopted the following guidelines:

1. Take no action in defiance of civil court decisions.

2. Not to close the Church to any person of any race.
3. As a Court of the Church, not to disregard the judicial opinion of the General Assembly.
4. Not to deny to the children of our community any relief that we could properly give.

As a result, and with the ultimate concurrence and understanding of the Lexington Presbytery, use of Church property was permitted on the condition that regulations did not contravene the ruling of the General Assembly, and that no one be excluded by reason of race.



Meadows Presbyterian Church

During the 1950's the Lexington Presbytery saw a need for another Presbyterian Church in the rapidly developing area of Charlottesville. Three acres of land were purchased at 2200 Angus Road in the Meadows Subdivision. With the assistance of the Presbytery and the First and Westminster Presbyterian Churches, the Meadows Presbyterian Church was organized on November, 4, 1962, with eighty-eight charter members, including thirty members from the First Presbyterian Church. The Rev. James A. Payne, Jr., was called as the first minister.

The charter members were: Elizabeth Abbott, Robert Abbott, Cary Branch, Jr., Celia Branch, Cary Jean Breeden, Jacqueline Buchanan, John Buchanan, Inez Crispens, Warren Crispens, Rowland Cronemeyer, Ruth Cronemeyer, Esther DeGraff, Galen DeGraff, Geoffry DeGraff, Henry DeGraff, Carolyn Dunn, Elizabeth Dunn, Robert Dunn, William Dunn, Jr., William Dunn III, John Fahnestock, Jr., Marion Fahnestock, Evelynne Flora, JoAnne Gordon, Rufus H. Gordon, Elizabeth Hall, Ivan Hall, William Hall, Betty Hermansdorfer, James Hermansdorfer, Carolyn Herring, Quinter J. Herring, Jr., Edith Hill, David Jones, David E. Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Robert E. Jones, Pat Aschenbach Kohl, Elizabeth Lang, Hunter Lang, David L. Mahanes, Marjorie Mahanes, Nancy Maine, Reuben E. Maine, Elaine Marler, Raymond L. Marler, Edward V. Mochel, Elizabeth Mochel, Caleb Morris, Mae Morris, Harold Morris, Shirley Morris, Barbara MacKay, Donald MacKay, Elizabeth MacKay, Judith MacKay, Ruth MacKay, Betty Lou McCann, Virginia McCann, William McCann, William McCann, Jr.,

Anne McCormick, Fred McCormick, Mary Payne, Joan Carson Randel, John Richardson, Pauline Richardson, Barbara Ruscher, Thomas E. Ruscher, Jonnie Schroeder,, William J. Schroeder, Carl Seifert, Sara Seifert, Elizabeth Smith, Robert E. Smith, Elizabeth Staples, Deborah Tanner, Eleanor Tanner, Jeffery Tanner, Roger C. Tanner, Margaret Updike, Clarence Wenger, Elizabeth Wenger, Windom Wenger, Jr., Anne Whitcomb, Peck Whitcomb, Dallas G. Wilfong, Jr., Elizabeth Wilfong.

On November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2012, Meadows Presbyterian Church celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with a time of praise, celebration and remembering. The organizing Minister, the Rev. James A. Payne (1962-1968), the Rev. Jack W. Heintzleman (1975-1983); the Rev. David H. Smith (1985-1996), and the current Minister, the Rev. Thomas A. Goodrich (2003-) were present and participated in the celebration.



The Rev. James A. Payne with the charter members offers the blessing



Haden Property, Park Street

On October 25, 1964, the congregation voted to purchase the Haden property adjoining the Church on the north. The parcel included 2.29 acres with 200 feet on Park Street and running back to 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The rear part was later improved and turned into a parking lot. The purchase price was \$75000. The house on the property was built around 1845 by Miss Betsy Cole. It was a large brick house. In 1875, a Mr. Southall purchased the property. He enlarged and remodeled the house in the Victorian style around 1884, and probably built the carriage house at the same time. The church demolished the house in 1969, but spared the carriage house.

After many years of neglect, the carriage house was transformed into usable space which was needed by a vibrant Christian Education and Youth Ministry Programs. The carriage house is one of only two such structures remaining in the City of Charlottesville, and by Charlottesville preservation regulations must be maintained with historical integrity. Interest in the renovation was high, and four highly respected contractors' submitted bids. The low bidder was Alexander-Nicholson, and they were awarded the contract. Funding for the project came from two reserve funds: property and maintenance reserve and the parking lot reserve. Addition funds were received from the congregation.

After serving five and one-half years in the Army during WWII, Robert L. Blaeser received a Bachelor's Degree from Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky. Bob was born September 23, 1915, in Patterson, New Jersey. He was married to Arlette Slaughter Blaeser, who predeceased him. Bob moved to Charlottesville in 1952 to manage the McCroy's Store. He was ordained a Deacon and Elder and in 1962, he entered the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, receiving his Degree of Master of Christian Education in 1965. He then

served as Director of Christian Education at the First Presbyterian Church until his retirement in 1983. He died September 18, 2006.



Bob Blaeser, DCE ca 1973



Carriage House before



Carriage House after

The three stables on the lower level were turned into utility and storage space. The attic houses the heating and air conditioning system, and has a large open space with natural light. The main floor is comprised of two large rooms with a large doorway between the two. Each room opens into a back area which serves as a kitchenette and bathrooms. The renovated carriage house was dedicated on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2002.

In the fall of 1964, to help prepare disadvantaged children to enter the first grade, a kindergarten was established. Mrs. Chapman, the City School Visiting nurse identified the children and recommended them for the program. Mrs. Lucille Leitch, the President of the Woman of the Church and a teacher in the city school system, was instrumental in getting a group of young mothers from the Clarion Sunday School Class interested in the project. The fall

of 1964 was spent planning and screening children. In January of 1965, the "Tots on Top" began. Mrs. Elizabeth Meiburg served as the volunteer teacher five days a week. Others served as volunteers, teaching assistants, and bus drivers, or donated fruit and snacks, material, and equipment. The first year the school was supported solely by donations of time and supplies. Children were transported in an old school bus, which had been given to the Church. Later the program became part of the Church budget and Roberta Jones became the first Director.

With the advent of public kindergartens, the program became a preschool for four-year olds. A van was purchased by the Church, and Carroll Brooks became the bus driver. In recent years, Jaunt has been used for transportation.

The students were referred to the program through the Public School Nurse, the Welfare and Health Departments, and then through the continuing family program. The students were taught the basic skills and discipline.

Mrs. Ellen Davison became Director of "Tots on Top" in 1969, and served for thirteen years. She was replaced by Mrs. Barbara Stark in 1982, and Mrs. Ellen Sadler became Director in 1989. Mrs. Gayle Houser has served as the Director since 1990.

For twenty-five years the First Presbyterian Church undertook an ambitious ministry on behalf of "at risk" children. Relying on volunteer labor and congregation funding, the five-morning-a-week program of activities for five-year olds came to an end in 1989.

Within the congregation today, people tell treasured stories of their experiences with these children. Throughout our community and beyond, people who have succeeded in school and are now contributing members of the community tell stories of incredible new experiences they had as a TOT.

With five-year olds attending public kindergartens and "at risk" four-year olds in programs, the public schools have caught up with the vision of the church. As the TOT's program was disbanded, the church looked for new ways to minister to needy children beyond our congregation. This led to the formation of the First Presbyterian Church Preschool which serves children between the ages of sixteen months through five years. The preschool stresses a relaxed, loving, Christian environment in which the children can express themselves and grow as individuals. Gail Houser continues as the Director, with Cathy Perry as the Assistant Director. Other members of the current staff are: Anne Whitlock, Jodi Roper, Sharon Culberson, Sandi Hawkins, Carol Nicoll, Susan Baber, Leigh Moon, Clair Robinson, Lynn Goyne, Sara Ray, Jane Mathias, Shelby Ern, Kathy Brust, Kaye Lauffenburger, and Deane Carroll.

Preschool Director Gail Houser was recognized by the Central Virginia Down's Syndrome Support Group for her work in including handicapped children in the church preschool. In 1991, an award plaque was presented to Mrs. Houser. It was created by the father of one of the children attending the preschool on a church scholarship.

The following have served as volunteers over the years: Anne Acuff, Harriett Adams, Mary Armstrong, Angelyn Bagwell, Dorita Bigelow, Bonnie Bikos, Adria Bishop, Betty Blackburn, Ethel Boring, Virginia Brower, Marie Brown, Beth Burnet, Beverley Carson, Duanne Carter, Betty Drinkard, Maggie Edwards, Helen Faulkner, Judy Friedericy, Sarah Gardner, Rose

Gillespie, Marilyn Gillespie, Gloria Gilmer, Peggy Harris, Vic Harris, Roberta Jones, Jean Jongeneel, Pearl Junke, Dot Labes, Kaye Lauffenburger, Mary McCann, Elizabeth Meiburg, Helen Miller, Ella Payne, Jo Peebles, Bonnie Peatross, JoAnne Phillips, Ferrel Phillips, Joan Poole, Sybil Quick, Jackie Rounseville, Julia Seiler,, Mrs. Ralph Seiler, Mary Elizabeth Snoddy, Joanne Tate, Amelia Thompson, and Nannie Wheeler.



Bonnie Reynolds  
Director



Karen Chipman  
Assistant Director

Bonnie Reynolds, director of the First Presbyterian Church Preschool (FPCP), has been a member of the staff since July of 2003. Bonnie and her husband, David, joined First Presbyterian Church on October 16, 1988. As the preschool director, Bonnie oversees its operation, its 166 students, and its nineteen staff members. She is known as "Miss Bonnie" by all her preschool friends. A native of Batesville, Virginia, Bonnie grew up surrounded by beautiful mountains and is an alumna of Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia. Her career includes ten years teaching and over twenty years in business. Proud parents of Emily and Phillip, each grown and married, Bonnie and her husband now are totally devoted to their chocolate lab, Graham, a road warrior who joins them wherever they go. This often includes new adventures somewhere between here and Kentucky, where their daughter now resides.

The preschool Assistant Director is Karen Chipman. She is an Army JAG wife of nearly twenty-three years, with three teenage children. Karen lives in Charlottesville, and has taught three year olds, Pre-Kindergarten and second grade over the last ten years. Karen and her family are members of Meadows Presbyterian.

Dr. Taylor announced that he would be resigning, and his resignation was accepted by the congregation on December, 12, 1965. On December, 25, 1965, the Rev. Ray L. St. Clair, was called as Interim Pastor, and served through July 1966.

Hand-bell ringing was added to the Music program in 1965. It was organized by Mrs. William Pritchett.



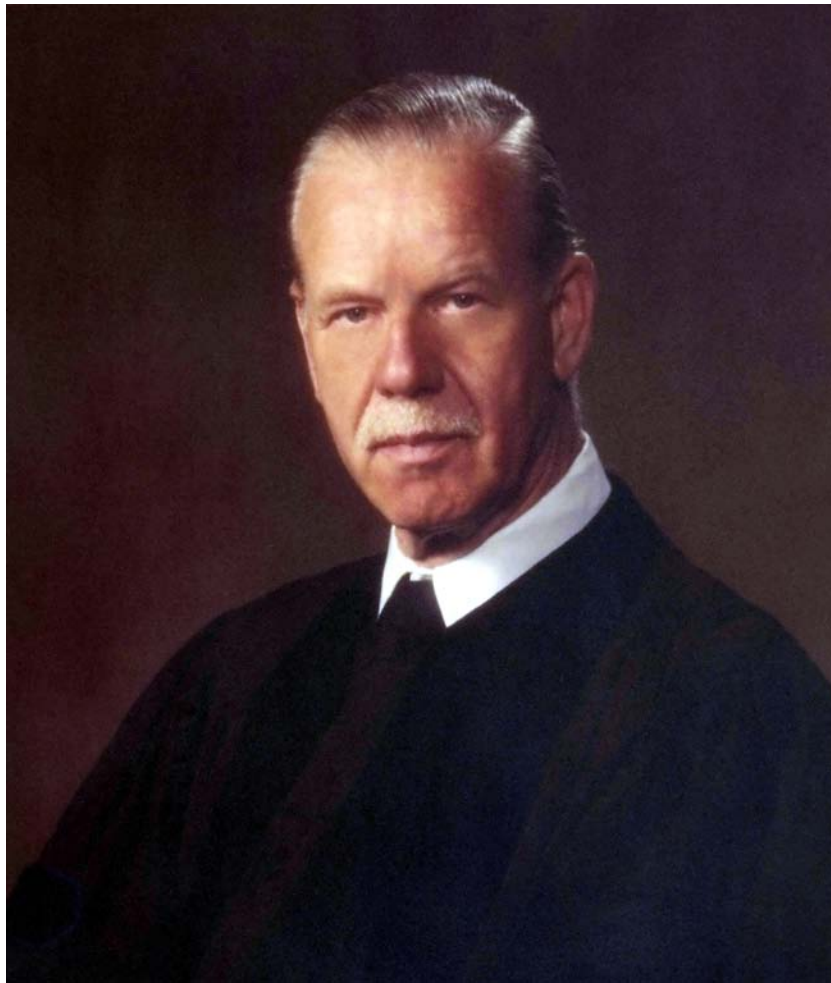
Hand-bells Ringers, ca 1990



**Chapter 13**  
**The Bestebreurtje Years**  
**1965 - 1981**

*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”*

James 2: 14-17



The Rev. Arie D. Bestebreurtje  
1966 - 1981

Dr. Arie D. Bestebreurtje was installed as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, on September 4, 1966. He became affectionately known as "Dr. B", and was born in Rotterdam, Holland, the son of Anton Dirk and Hermanna Worst Bestebreurtje.

He was married to the former Gertrude Maud Bersch, Australian born, and they had four children.

He was educated in a number of European countries, specializing in International Relations and Law, in which he held a Doctor's Degree from the University of Zurich in Switzerland.

After, a year of German occupation of his native land, he escaped in 1941 to England. Dr. Bestebreurtje was commissioned by the Royal Military College in Alder-shot, England, and served subsequently with British Infantry and Commando Units. After volunteering in 1943 to serve with Allied Special Forces, an organization of undercover agents which operated in Europe during the Nazi occupation, he participated in three parachute missions, one of which was with the 82nd U. S. Airborne Division. He played an instrumental role in the capture of the Nijmegen Bridge in Holland, and in the liberation of the concentration camp in which Mr. Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank, famous for her diary, was held. He was wounded on several occasions and received the highest military decorations from four governments -- among which are the Williams Order of the Netherlands, an award held by only two other Americans, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Franklin D. Roosevelt; the Order of the British Empire and three other British decorations; the French Croix de Guerre; and the American Legion of Merit, Officer's Degree, and two Purple Hearts.

After the war, Dr. Bestebreurtje came to the United States, where his parents lived, and practiced law in New York City. In 1952, he received a called to the Gospel ministry and graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He was ordained in the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., on June 26, 1955, and served two churches in the New York area before going to Louisville, Kentucky. Under his leadership a mission church of less than a hundred members, the Calvin Presbyterian Church, grew to be the largest of the denomination in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For his many accomplishments there in both the ecumenical and social fields, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Centre and Pikeville Colleges.

In 1966, he accepted a call to become the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. He served this church with complete dedication and love. In 1981, he retired and was elected "Pastor Emeritus." His contributions to the church and the community can best be summed up by quoting the editorial in the Daily Progress on his untimely death. "Dr. B always insisted that his role was preaching the Bible, not his opinions. During his retirement interview in 1981, he stated that it didn't matter what he thought, what matters, he said, was what God has to say." The editorial concluded with these words, "God especially loves those who have the strength to act and the will not to be diverted when he has work to be done upon earth. He must have prepared a very special welcome for Dr. Arie Bestebreurtje." Dr. B died in a tragic accident on January 20, 1983. He was ice skating on the Rivanna River when he fell through the ice and died. He is buried at Monticello Memory Gardens.

The Rev. James A. Rohne was called as an Assistant Minister, and was installed September 1, 1969. He served the Church until December 31, 1986, when he was granted an educational leave of absence to pursue his education at Union Theological Seminary. In the

summer of 1987, he accepted a call to become the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Covington, Virginia.

In April of 1971, the Fifty-Plus Club was formally organized with sixty members. The first co-presidents were Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Spencer. The group continues to meet.

In 1973, the Mothers' Morning Out was established as a nonprofit one day a week nursery open to children aged six months through three years. Lois Gray was the first coordinator.

The First Presbyterian Church has been responsible for the resettlement of three refugee families from Southeast Asia. In July of 1975, the family of Hoai and Nhung Nguyen arrived from Saigon; in May of 1978, the family of Thomas and Kham Saou Ladare arrived from Laos by way of a refugee camp in Thailand; and, in September, of 1979, the family of Tu and Yen Quan Phung arrived from Haiphong, following a sojourn of nine months in a refugee camp in Hong Kong.

The Nguyen family left Virginia early in 1980 to be near relatives and friends in Texas, and in 1982 support for the Ladara and Phung families was no longer needed.

In April of 1982, the resettlement of two refugees from Ethiopia was approved, and on May 26, 1982, Mulugeta Desta was welcomed at the Charlottesville Airport after spending two and a half years in the Djibouti refugee camp on the Red Sea. Mulugeta's American name was "Jim". On July 18, 1982, Abiy Desta, no relation to Jim, arrived in Charlottesville under the care of the Church. By 1984, Jim and Abiy Desta had moved from Charlottesville.

In September 1976, a small group of Korean Christians gathered in a home for Bible study and prayer. Six months later, they assembled at Dong's Karate Studio for their first worship service. From such beginnings has grown the Korean Community Church, which attracts Koreans from all over Central Virginia and as far away as Lynchburg. In June 1980, the Korean congregation became an official new church development project of the Blue Ridge Presbytery, and in September, at the invitation of the Session, they began meeting in the First Presbyterian Church Chapel every Sunday. On March 1, 1981, the congregation was formally organized as a Presbyterian Church, and called its first Pastor, Mr. David Park.

The Rev. Stephens G. Lytch was called to be an Associate Pastor, and was ordained and installed on September 17, 1978. This relationship was dissolved on April 20, 1980.

At the retirement of Dr. Bestebreurtje, Dr. W. T. Manson, Jr., was employed as an Interim Pastor.

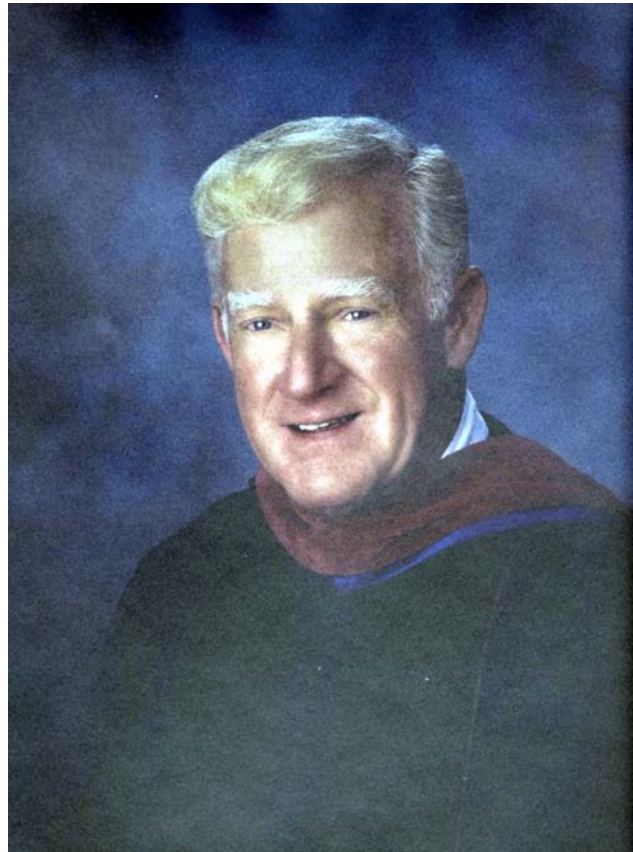


Dr. and Mrs. "B" at his retirement celebration

**Chapter 14**  
**The Kennedy Years**  
**1981 - 2000**

*“See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”*

I John 3:1



The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy  
1981 - 2000

The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy was called to be Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church on August 30, 1981. Dr. Thomas Darrell Kennedy was born at Florien, Louisiana, the son of Cecil Thomas and Rosie Harris McDaniel Kennedy. He is married to the former Christine Sylvia Meyers of Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, and they have one daughter, Christine Elizabeth. He attended grade and secondary schools in northwestern Arkansas. In 1955, he entered Arkansas State University and studied Speech and Drama for two and a half years. After two years of service in the United States Navy, Dr. Kennedy became a police officer with the

Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department. In 1960, he was employed by the United States Department of Justice, as a border patrol officer in Texas and California.

After the Department of Justice denied his request for a leave of absence, Dr. Kennedy resigned to pursue his education at the University of Arkansas, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech and Drama. In 1963, he entered Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, and received a Master of Divinity Degree, with emphasis on Theology, in 1966. He was ordained June 16, 1966.

Dr. Kennedy's first call was to the First Presbyterian church, Anderson, Indiana, as Assistant Minister of Education. His primary responsibilities were the Christian Education and Youth Programs. Sixteen months later, Dr. Kennedy received and accepted an unsolicited call to become the Associate Minister of the Presbyterian Church, Royal Oak, Michigan. He served this church for nine years, during which time he developed educational programs, led large and active youth groups, and worked with varied groups and programs for all ages in the church.

In 1975, he received the degree of Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, and the same year accepted a call to become the Head of Staff at the First Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky. During the next six years, attendance at corporate worship increased significantly, and the church increased in membership by eighteen percent. Paid pledges and other contributions increased eighty-five percent, and the church indebtedness was paid off during his ministry.

On August 30, 1981, Dr. Kennedy was called to become the Minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. Dr. Kennedy assumed his ministry with enthusiasm and dedication, and his ever present smile made the transition an enjoyable one.



Sanctuary Choir ca 1982

Those who planned and built the Church on Park Street did so with great insight, but thirty-one years produced joyous over-crowding. At a congregational meeting on June 2, 1985, it was agreed to raise \$695,000 from the membership to construct a 4,000 square-foot addition to the educational wing of the Church. Also included were projects to air condition the entire church facility, refurbish the existing building, and to provide for mission aid and outreach. A Capital Funds Committee was established by the Session on June 26, 1985, and their task was to raise the money for the projects approved at the June 2nd meeting of the congregation.

On August 25, 1986, an historic moment in the life of the congregation took place, when the ground was broken for this new 4,000 square-foot addition. It was a beautiful day, and the sun shone brightly.

The ground breaking took place at 1:30 P.M., as Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy, Pastor; Mr. David W. Carr, Chairman of the Building Committee; Mr. Laurence A. Brunton, Vice Chairman of the Building Committee; Mr. William V. Pleasants, member of the Building Committee; Mrs. Robert H. Pate, Member of the Building Committee; Mr. William T. Turner, member of the Building Committee; and Mr. Robert E. Simpson, Clerk of Session; turned the first shovels of earth.

There were approximately fifty persons in attendance as Mr. David W. Carr made some appropriate opening remarks. Mr. Laurence A. Brunton reflected on the Church's great tradition, and how God's many blessings have been ours as we have endeavored to respond to His call.

Dr. Kennedy offered an appropriate prayer for the occasion, and then stated that, "When you speak to someone about First Presbyterian Church, he or she will usually ask, "Is that the red brick church on Park Street near downtown?" Also people still ask, 'Isn't that Dr. B's church?'" He said that we are known by our people, and that we are also known by our edifice. As the kind of house in which we live tells something about us, so the kind of edifice a congregation builds tells something about that congregation.

Although we know that God is not boxed within our walls, this church is for us 'The House of God'. Our buildings not only house our worship and educational activities, but buildings also express our faith. Because religion is a spiritual matter, we have required physical expressions for that spiritual reality. One such expression is our, church."

Construction began immediately. The architects for the addition were Vickery, Moje, Drinkard, and Oakland. The R. E. Lee Construction Co. was awarded the contract for the construction. The total project was estimated to cost \$530,000.

On a beautiful sunny day following the morning worship service on October 11, 1987, the congregation gathered in the courtyard as the carillon played to dedicate the new addition. This was indeed a time for celebration.

With a tremendous crowd present, Mr. David W. Carr, Chairman of the Capital Campaign Committee, delivered the welcoming remarks. "Kids of the Kingdom" was sung by the Cherub and Chapel Choirs to the delight of the crowd.

The many memorials were dedicated and Dr. Kennedy offered a prayer and led a service of dedication and response. A hymn of celebration was sung, the carillon continued, and the congregation enjoyed a bountiful picnic on the lawn.



Mrs. Robert H. Pate, Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy, Mr. David W. Carr, and Mr. Robert E. Simpson



Educational Wing Construction, 1987





October 11, 1987 Dedication

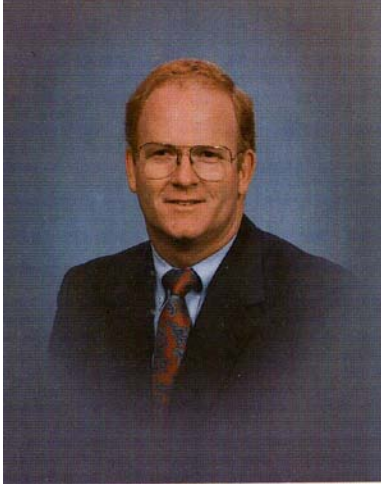


After Church

Dr. Kennedy visits Bernard Bailey

At a congregational meeting on November 22, 1987, the Rev. John Lewis (Jay) Sanderford, Jr., was extended a call to become an Associate Pastor. He was a native of North Carolina, where he graduated from the University at Chapel Hill in 1977. He received a Master of Divinity Degree from Yale Divinity School in 1982. He is married to the former Lizabeth Dearman, and they have two children. Jay resigned in March of 2000 to accept a call to the Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church at Severna Park, Maryland.

At a congregational meeting on April 2, 1989, the Rev. Stephen Harold Brown was extended a call to become an Associate Pastor, specializing in Christian Education. Mr. Brown, along with his wife, Carolyn Carter Brown, a certified Christian Educator, became Co-Directors of Christian Education. Mr. Brown graduated from Duke University, and earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Yale Divinity School in 1974. Mrs. Brown graduated from Rhodes University in 1969.



The Rev. John L. Sanderford, Jr.



The Rev. Stephen H. Brown and  
Mrs. Carolyn C. Brown

On November 10, 1997, over 300 children and adults gathered to say goodbye to Steve and Carolyn Brown as they began their journey to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The Rev. Brown will begin his ministry there as the Associate for Education and Carolyn will assume the role of Children's Ministries Coordinator. As a congregation and as individuals we all benefited from their ministry among us. We were blessed by God's call to them eight years ago. Much was accomplished through their time with us and the congregation continues to benefit from the strong foundation they helped to build.



Bill Isaacs is greeted by Laurence Brunton

The Sesquicentennial Celebration began with a processional of ceremonial music by George Frederic Handel, accompanied by a brass ensemble and organ. The service of worship on the sesquicentennial Sunday was held September 10, 1989. The Chapel Choir sang, "Celebrate God's Love", which set the tone for the day that followed.

The Rev. Dr. David H. Burr, pastor 1951 - 1958, delivered the sermon, "What's next?" He challenged the congregation, individually and as a Christian community, to allow the Spirit to lead, whatever is next. He stated that the Christian community needed to be more serious in their faith. "Many do not trust God!" he said. He concluded by saying, "Only good will follow if we trust in the Lord God Almighty, and love Him as He has invited us to do."

The anniversary prayer- was offered by the Rev. Alfred S. Taylor, pastor 1958 - 1966. After the benediction, the congregation proceeded to the "Cage" at the University of Virginia, where all enjoyed a bountiful lunch and the presentation of "A Cavalcade through the Years" which was written for the occasion by The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy. Dr. Kennedy led a chorus of mice through the church history. It was a wonderful expression of music and drama as the history of the church was told by the church mice. Special thanks were expressed to so many that made this celebration such a memorable occasion. We can't wait for the bicentennial in 2039.



Dr. Arthur F. Stocker, Chairman of the Sesquicentennial Committee  
Provides Introductory Remarks at the "Cage"

Other Committee members: Laurence A. Brunton, Kal Howard, Robert E. Ramsey, Robert E. Simpson, Mary Elizabeth Snoddy, Wayne Wallace, and Margaret Wood



Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy, grandpa mouse, and the other Church mice (Becky Garnett, Ellen Youel, Robin Williamson, Bobby Garnett, Jack Higgins, and Kate Higgins)

To add to the sesquicentennial, Dr. Arthur F. Stocker, chairman of the committee provides the following interviews to add some perspective to the long and fruitful church history.

“Mrs. Seth Burnley was interviewed at her apartment in Staunton, Virginia, on 24 August 1989 by the Stockers and Mrs. D. Barry (Ann Fife) Marshall, who was herself once a student in the First Presbyterian Sunday School. She has clear and vivid recollections of the time when the Church was located on the southwest corner of Second and Market Streets and George L. Petrie was its pastor. She remembers Dr. Petrie (pastor, 1878-1928) with the greatest admiration and affection. She remembers her Sunday School class, taught by Mrs. Snodgrass; and she recalls her association with the Women of the Church, a group which had just undergone a controversial reorganization in 1921, when she joined the Church, but which had settled down into a normal degree of tranquility by the time she became active in it.

Mrs. Burnley's recollection is that the women's group did not hold regular meetings at this time, but pursued various projects in the Church's work, most of them related to the raising of money. The activity she remembers most vividly is the annual Christmas bazaar, which she feels quite strongly had substantial value, not only because of the amount of money which it raised but as an instrument for the development of esprit de corps and fellowship among the women of the Church.

Similarly, the Sunday school followed no prescribed curriculum. As Mrs. Burnley remembers it, there were not even "quarterlies" or study books, but the teacher (in her case, Mrs. Snodgrass) had nearly unrestricted latitude in selecting the subject for each Sunday's lesson and developing it in her own way with her class.

Mrs. Burnley was related by marriage to Charlottesville's well-known philanthropist, Paul Goodloe McIntire, whom she calls, "Cousin Good-Ice." Mr. McIntire was her father-in-law's first cousin. While Mr. McIntire's benefactions were directed largely toward the city of Charlottesville, and the University of Virginia, he did make substantial gifts to the First Presbyterian Church, which he attended when he was in Charlottesville, although Mrs. Burnley was uncertain as to whether he had ever been a member.

Mrs. Burnley recalls that the Church edifice, in her time, was at one end of a block on the south side of East Market Street, and many of the Sunday school activities took place in a house at the opposite end of the block, which had at one time been owned by a gentleman named Payne. She told about the son of a prominent member of the Church, one of the Waddell's, whose father used to deliver him on Sunday morning at the front door of the Payne house, for Sunday School, and then himself go on to the Church for some other class or Church activity; the boy would run through the house and out the back door, playing the Sunday equivalent of week-day "hooky."

Mrs. Burnley's memories of George Petrie's successor, Dwight M. Chalmers, were equally pleasant. He christened at least one, and perhaps more, of her children.

Mrs. Burnley thinks joint services with other downtown churches, such as are now held during Lent and on Thanksgiving Day, were not in vogue during the time she was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, but she remembers one Thanksgiving Day, necessarily between 1923 and 1928, when President Calvin Coolidge came to Charlottesville and attended a

Thanksgiving Day service in the First Baptist Church, then on the other side of Lee Park. The thing; that impressed her especially about Mr. Coolidge was that he could move his head, and shift his gaze, so slowly that the change in position and direction was nearly undetectable. Opinions about the Church edifice, on the corner of Second and Market Streets, where the Jefferson National Bank now has its parking lot, differ widely, but Mrs. Burnley is among those who thought it ugly. As early as the 1940's, she said, there was some thought of erecting a new Church, but there was opposition, too, and the United States' involvement in World War II (1941-1945) eliminated the possibility for a time.

A real insight into the mind of this Church about half a century ago was derived from this conversation with Mrs. Burnley, whose recollections were sharp and clear and whose demeanor is that of a woman at least twenty years her junior. Indeed, after the interview, she went out to lunch with her interlocutors, and moved just as briskly, and ate nearly as heartily, as any of them. If the other members of the First Presbyterian Church in the second half century of its existence had anything like the sparkle and verve of Mrs. Burnley, it is small wonder that it has grown and prospered so mightily during its third fifty years, the end of which is now being commemorated.”

“There are surely few better repositories of memories associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Charlottesville than Mrs. Ralph W. (Neville Wood) Feil and Miss Hazel H. Key, whose , collective memory runs back very nearly as far as the years of World War I. These ladies kindly consented to be interviewed in the Church library on 2 September 1989.

Miss Key displayed a cherished memento of her exceptional attendance record at the First Presbyterian Sunday School. She received, to begin with, a bronze pin, then a silver one, and then gold. The next step was to earn a wreath to surround the pin, and after that she received a bar for each year of perfect attendance. Miss Key, whose record of participating in Sunday school activities actually spans at least fifty years, acquired thirty bars before the practice of awarding them was discontinued. She wore the piece first as a bracelet, and then, as the number of bars increased, as a necklace. People who were out of town on Sunday could maintain their record for perfect attendance by presenting written proof that they had attended Sunday school somewhere else. Miss Key availed herself of this opportunity. When she used to visit Iowa during the summer, she kept her record intact by attending a Methodist Sunday School — occasionally, when the dirt roads of those days were impassable because of rain, in the home of her mother's first cousin, who was a Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Iowa.

The First Presbyterian Sunday School — of which Mr. Robert P. Valentine, the father-in-law of Mrs. Vinton (Irene) Valentine, one of the Church's present senior and most active members, was for many years superintendent — gradually outgrew its quarters in the Church building on the southwest corner of Second and Market Streets and spilled over into a so-called "Annex," a house at the other end of the block that had once been owned by the Church organist, Mr. Kirk Payne. The list of teachers and Church members who were active in that Sunday school includes some of the best-known names in the Church's history. Mention was made of Miss Edna Bailey, Dr. and Mrs. Halsted Hedges, Miss Mary Dinwiddie and her two sisters, Miss Lucy and Miss Estelle Dinwiddie, Mrs. Tom Lewis, Mrs. Percy White, Miss Carey Schultz, Mrs. Snodgrass, Mrs. Harry demons, and Mr. Joseph L. Vaughan and the lady who was to become his wife, Miss Ann Doner.

A unique group associated with the Sunday school was the "Penny Band," consisting of younger children, those of pre-school age and a little older. They occupied themselves with hand-crafts, much as children in kindergarten do today, and the pennies were used to buy

supplies. Children brought a certain number of pennies, probably according to age, and then marched around in a little circle, dropping the pennies into a pot and singing:

Drop in, drop in pennies,  
Listen to them fall,  
Every one for Jesus,  
He will get them all.

All of the Church buildings had soft coal furnaces, and one of these ladies' more vivid recollections is of the effect soot from these furnaces had on the white clothing in which doting parents were wont to send the youngest of their progeny to Sunday school. Mention was made of a little Spence boy, who used to come to Sunday School dressed in white, from head to foot, and whose perverse delight it was to lift up a rug and crawl under it, thereby covering himself with a layer of very black soot.

Miss Key recalls the presence at this time in the Sunday school area of a small organ, that had to be pumped by hand, and the pleasure taken by small boys who were asked to perform that function.

Sunday School picnics were then occasionally held in an area called Wilder's Woods, near where Park Street Extended now becomes Rio Road and about opposite the point where Melbourne Road now goes off toward the Charlottesville High School. This was then a secluded and pleasantly wooded area on the banks of a small creek, but, as the Great Depression of the 1930<sup>f</sup>s deepened, it became a gathering-place for hobos jumping off Southern Railway freight trains, and it lost its suitability as a place for picnics.

Young people's activities during this period revolved to a considerable extent around "Christian Endeavor." The ladies recalled especially, as active in this group, Joseph and Ann Vaughan, Laurence Brunton, Ernestine Feuchtenberger, Don Mahoney, Kenneth Quick, Adele and Jack Hall, Sam Hart, and Mildred Key Ferneyhough. The young people at that time planned their own activities, with very little direction from adults, and their projects included some church work among prisoners in the confinement facility on East High Street and the giving of Christmas presents and Christmas baskets, rather than to each other, to needy families in the community, especially to those with children.

Memories of the First Presbyterian Church could hardly fail to include recollections, like those of Mrs. Feil, of the many church activities in which Dr. and Mrs. Tom Daniel and their family were engaged. The Daniels were long-time missionaries in Korea, and seven of their eight children were born there. Mrs. Daniel became a teacher in the Sunday school, and is described as a "super-teacher."

The three houses which stood on the site of the Church's present property on Park Street are well remembered by Mrs. Feil because of her family's association with one of them. At the corner of Park and Maple Streets stood the McGuffey house, "one of those real old pretty houses," Mrs. Feil describes it, "that are two, two, and twos the central hall, and two rooms and two rooms, and then, in the back, it went with one room thick." As with many houses of the period, there were a number of satellite structures, one of which, in this instance, was a little brick building, hardly larger than a tool-house that was used for Sunday school purposes, although it could hardly have accommodated more than about a dozen children. North of this on Park Street was the Wood house, remembered by Mrs. Feil as "a beautiful Victorian brick house, with porches on all sides and lots of ginger-bread, and big high-ceilinged rooms." She thinks it

had been built in about 1902. North of that, and not acquired by the First Presbyterian Church until after the Park Street structure had been built and occupied, was the Haden house, behind which, where the Church's present parking lot has been paved over, was a pasture for the Hadens<sup>1</sup> pony. The building still standing on the property was the Hadens<sup>1</sup> carriage house.

There were vague recollections of Presbyterian activity in the so-called "Mayo Chapel," south of Charlottesville on the Old Scottsville Road, and also at a site on West Main Street, near the old Bradley-Peyton Motor Company building — an interest which this Church later turned over to the Lutherans. Miss Key remembers attending services at the Lutheran church on West Main Street with her childhood friend, Ernestine Feuchtenberger, who was the mother of Robert E. Ramsey, but by then there was little or no memory of Presbyterian involvement with work in that area. Both sites seem to have been centers of what was essentially home missionary activity, and to have been staffed largely by lay members of the First Presbyterian Church.

The impression one draws from talking with these ladies is that the roots for the service and worship practiced by the First Presbyterian Church today extend very far back, and that its present activities represent in large part the flowering of seeds that were sown by devoted and far-seeing spiritual forbears over a great many years.”

A great legacy was provided by the congregation of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church in 1902, when a pipe organ built by Adam Stein of Baltimore, Maryland was purchased and installed. This organ was renovated when the church relocated to Park Street in the 1950's, and served the congregation extremely well for many years. After many organ malfunctions on several occasions, the session on April 22, 1991 authorized the formation of a committee to determine the best course of action regarding the church organ, the costs and desirability of the options. The committee's task was to study three options: first, the extensive renovations and repair of the present organ; second, the purchase of a rebuilt organ suitable for our sanctuary; and third, the purchase of an entirely new organ. The committee was composed of the following: Lu Bolen, Pat Davis, Elizabeth Gatewood, Douglas Hargrave, Richard Herath, George Spence, Barbara Stoudt, and John Youel.



Installation of new organ, ca. January 1995



L-R: Dr. Kennedy, Pat Davis, Ray Hunt, David Carr, John Youel, Dick Hearsh, Barbara Stoudt, and Elizabeth Gatewood

After three years of study, searching, traveling and comparing various options, the Organ Search Committee recommended to the Session and the Session recommended to the congregation that First Presbyterian Church place an order with Casavant Freres Organ Company to build and install a new pipe organ. Five ranks of pipes from the 1902 Adam Stein organ was reused, continuing the heritage of the Church. The congregation approved the recommendation,



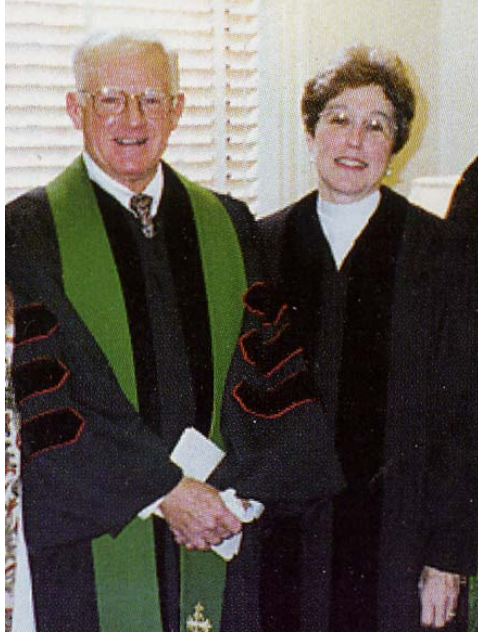
and the Organ Fund Committee began its work to raise the necessary funds. The Organ Fund Committee was composed of Howard Blauvelt, Ray Hunt, David Carr, John Youel, and Tom Kennedy. The Chancel Renovation Committee members were: Robert Ramsey, Douglas Hargrave, Jack Stoner, and Jay Sanderford. Richard Shank designed the Chancel Rail.

On Sunday, August 29, 1993, the congregation approved a capital campaign to \$550,000 to purchase a replacement organ for the church. The cost of the organ was \$462,000, and additional \$75,000 was approved to cover the cost of renovation and installation.

The new instrument known as Casavant Freres Organ, Opus 3738, was dedicated to the glory and worship of God on April 9, 1995, before a joyous congregation. The new organ consists of 3 manuals, 42 stops, or 59 ranks of pipes; this is approximately twice the size of the organ that was replaced.



Ranks of Pipes



Dr. Kennedy and The Rev. Tina Cox

Following her graduation from Union Theological Seminary in June of 1997, The Rev. Tina Cox was called by the Session in July to serve as Interim Associate Pastor. She was ordained on November 9, 1997 in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. Tina and her husband Irv joined First Church in 1982. A graduate of Hollins College, Tina holds a Master of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary. In 2000, Tina accepted a call to become Pastor of the Gordonsville Presbyterian Church.



Carol A. Schneider

In January of 1998, the Session called Carol A. Schneider to be the new Director of Christian Education. Carol and her husband Dick came from the Second Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, as Director of Christian Education. Prior to that, she was Director of Christian Education at the First Presbyterian Church, Naples Florida. Carol is a Certified Christian Educator with a wide range of experience in local church as well as in Presbytery training events. Due to continuing health related issues, Carol retired on January 31, 2008, and died March 26, 2008.

Prior to her death, the congregation celebrated Carol's ministry with a retirement party. A brunch was held in the fellowship hall immediately following the January 27<sup>th</sup> worship service. Carol was also honored by the Presbyterian Woman at a tea held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate her ten years of ministry at First Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Women presented her with Honorary Life Membership for faithful and extraordinary service.



Jeff LeDuc

A new Director of Music Ministries/Organist, Jeff LeDuc, was called by the Session in September of 1999. Jeff and his wife Trish moved to Charlottesville with their children, Patrick and Grace, from Concord, North Carolina, where he served the First Presbyterian Church in Concord as Director of Music Ministries, from 1988 to 1999. Jeff is a native of Michigan, and attended the University of Michigan, School of Music, where he earned a bachelor's degree in organ and his master's degree in sacred music. Prior to his years in Concord, he served as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Plano Texas. Mr. LeDuc died unexpectedly on January 6, 2008.

The Session approved a plan to establish a Memorial Garden at First Presbyterian Church, and authorized the funds to begin the project. The advance money is to be repaid to the Church reserve fund from monies received from gifts, and prepayment of burial fees. The fee for burial is \$350.00. That amount covers a bronze name plate which will show the full name and birth and death years of the deceased and is affixed to a plaque located just outside the Chapel door. The fee also provides for a page per person in the permanent Memorial Book; for preparation of the site for burial; and for maintenance of the garden.



Consecration of Memorial Garden, December 19, 1999

On Sunday, January 9, 2000, Dr. Kennedy formally submitted his retirement plans at the annual meeting of the congregation. He continued to serve through Sunday, June 11, 2000, and became the longest serving Pastor, with the exception of Dr. Petrie. Plans began immediately to honor Dr. Kennedy for his many years of service and dedication to the congregation. The retirement events coordinating committee included Ron Dimberg, Nancy Savides, Debbie Ripley, Bea Ammons, Barbara Stone, John Metz, and Tina Cox. Three events included a Banquet at the Omni Hotel on June 4, 2000, was planned. An overflow crowd fills the ball room of the hotel for an outstanding program as the congregation expressed its love to the Kennedy's. On Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> the Sanctuary Choir accompanied by the Casavant Organ and the Skyline Brass Ensemble created a musical tribute to Dr. Kennedy with many of his favorites. A picnic lunch was held on the lawn after the service. On June 3, 2001, on the recommendation of the session, the congregation elected The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy, Honorably Retired, as Pastor Emeritus. He was formally recognized during the morning worship service on June 24, 2001.

First Presbyterian Church  
Adopted unanimously by the Session on June 25, 2001

## A RESOLUTION

Whereas, Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy served faithfully as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, during the last nineteen years of the twentieth century, from 1981 to 2000;

Whereas, Dr. Kennedy brought to the position of Pastor the devotion, energy, wisdom, and pastoral integrity to be a genuine and authentic spiritual guide and mentor to the members of First Presbyterian Church;

Whereas, Dr. Kennedy brought to the position the gifts and skills necessary to provide effective pastoral oversight and to equip and enable members of the congregation for their tasks within the church and their mission in the world;

Whereas, Dr. Kennedy demonstrated a quality of life and relationships that commend the gospel to all persons and that communicate its joy and justice;

Whereas, Dr. Kennedy was faithful and diligent to study, teach, and preach the Word of God, and to pray with and for the congregation;

Whereas, Dr. Kennedy exercised compassionate pastoral care, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the troubled, the dying, and the bereaved;

Whereas, Dr. Kennedy participated fully in governing responsibilities, including leadership of the congregation in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness in the decision making of the church, and its task of reaching out in concern and service to the life of the human community as a whole;

Whereas, Dr. Kennedy graciously prepared the congregation before his retirement and, in retirement, has respected the future interest and potential of the congregation under new pastoral leadership and guidance;

Whereas, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church duly elected Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy to the honorary position of "Pastor Emeritus" on June 3, 2001, and the Presbytery of the James concurred with said action on June 9, 2001;

Be it resolved: that the members of First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, do hereby express their deepest and most heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy for his devoted service to the life and ministry of this church and for work faithfully accomplished in our midst;

Be it further resolved: that hereafter, Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy shall be regarded as "Pastor Emeritus" of First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia.

A copy of this Resolution, adopted unanimously by the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, on June 25, 2001, shall be entered into the permanent minutes of the

Session, recorded with the office of the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the James, and presented to Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy, Honorably Retired.

John A. Wilkerson, Jr., Moderator  
Fred Foster, Clerk of Session

During Dr. Kennedy's ministry at the First Presbyterian Church, increased interest was placed in local and global missions. The Christian Outreach Committee explored and researched opportunities for the First Presbyterian Church to become involved.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you to the close of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

In Dr. Kennedy's retirement, he served as director of the Thomas Jefferson Area Chapter of *Leave a Legacy*, a program encouraging charitable gift planning. He also served as a part-time chaplain for residents of Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge. Dr. Kennedy died on November 8, 2006. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection was held in the sanctuary before an overflow crowd on November 15, 2006.

In response to words of the Great Commission, the following is a sample of the mission work: Feeding the hungry daily through the soup kitchen, meals on wheels, the Emergency Food Bank and First Presbyterian has been sponsoring the Thanksgiving Dinner for Blue Ridge House for over twenty-five years; Allowing homeless mothers to work while her children receive child care through our support of the Salvation Army's Inner Faith Action for Homeless Children; Helping the less fortunate with their rent payments and providing heat through energy giving; Helping to fund the Shelter for Help in Emergency; Providing Christian education for children through the Church pre-school program; Building and refurbishing homes in Charlottesville through CHIP, AHIP, and Habitat for Humanity; Supporting Opening Doors in its ministry to establish Sunday School classes and recreational opportunities for people who are physically and mentally disadvantaged; Supporting missionaries Larry and Inge Steshley in Zaire, Rodney and Sharyne Babe in Haiti, and The Rev. Donald Marsden in Russia. Support for the Babe's in Haiti started in 1993, and continues. Mission teams from the Church continue to make regular trips to Haiti; and Refurbishing homes in Appalachia and Tennessee.

It was hoped that each effort would put a “real human face” on missions and provided ways to build long-term relationships over a number of years. The Mission Statement, currently used by the Church, was developed and approved in 1990. The success of the mission effort at the Church required and received leadership from Dr. Kennedy.

During the fall of 1997, the Presbytery of the James had established a New Church Study Group consisting of representatives from the churches in the Central Virginia area (District 1). Its purpose was to gather information and to make recommendations regarding the establishment of a new Presbyterian Church in the area. The last new church development activity occurred in the early 1960's with the establishment of Meadows Presbyterian Church. There were some

within the church that felt that this effort was long overdue. A detailed demographic study identified an area north of Charlottesville in Albemarle or Greene County.

In 1999, a New Church Development Task Force was formed with the following members: The Rev. Albert Connett, Olivet; John Simpson, Olivet; Margaret Thompson, Orange/Gordonsville; The Rev. Kim Steinhorst, South Plains; Clair Zellmer, Meadows; Nancy Long, Westminster; Allan Williams, Westminster; Ray Koon, Rockfish; Yates Garnett, Olivet; Bob Simpson, First; Ed Gatewood, First; and Jim Hubbard, First, served as Moderator. Bob Cooper from Meadows and Jeane Pearson were added later. The Rev. Carson Rhyne, Executive Presbyterian was a valuable resource. Financial support was provided from the Presbytery and the District 1 Churches. First Presbyterian Church became the sponsoring Church as it had for Westminster in 1941 and Meadows in 1962.

After three years of meeting, discussing, and praying, a new Presbyterian Church was born. The new Church was to be called Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church, and it is located in the Ruckersville area of Greene County. Services are held weekly at the Blue Ridge Café. A Thanksgiving and Commissioning Service for the new church was held at the First Presbyterian Church on March 3, 2002. The Rev. William Christian was called to become the first pastor. His wife Melinda, who will join him in this new ministry, is a Certified Christian Educator.

The Presbytery's New Church Development Committee unanimously approved the Church building plans, preliminary drawings, and finance arrangement. The Presbytery authorized a \$50,000 grant and endorsed a bank loan to help with the building. The district one churches pledged over \$12,000 to help with the building costs. The plan is to break ground in August of 2003







**Chapter 15**  
**An Interim Period**  
**2000 - 2002**

*“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.”*

Philippians 4:8-9

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On January 10, 2000, the session named an Interim Search Committee composed of Dick Brownlee, Pat Craft, Bill Henderson, Bettie Kienast, David Pettit, and Charlotte Ramsey. On August 1, 2000, the First Presbyterian Church welcomed The Rev. Dr. John A. Wilkerson, Jr. to serve as Interim Pastor. Dr. Wilkerson is a native of Lynchburg, Virginia. He graduated from Lynchburg College (B.A.) and Union Theological Seminary in Richmond (M.Div., D. Min.).

Dr. Wilkerson had served as the installed pastor of four churches, as the interim chaplain at Queens College in Charlotte, North Carolina, as interim pastor of six churches, and as the interim Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Salem Presbytery. He is certified by the Division of National Ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as an interim ministry specialist and is a faculty member for interim ministry educational events.

Dr. Wilkerson and his wife Marge were both widowed when they met and married. Together they have six grown children and twelve grandchildren. His ministry at First Presbyterian was guided by the reformed tradition. His sermons were inspirational and thought provoking. He was a strong leader during the time of transition, and it was a rich and rewarding experience for the Church as he served as the interim senior pastor. On February 25, 2002, the session adopted the following resolution. “On behalf of the entire congregation, the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, gratefully thanks Dr. John Wilkerson for his wise counsel, his patient yet strong leadership, and his steady and shining example of commitment to Christian principles, as its Interim Senior Pastor from August 2000 through March 2002. Many initiatives were completed under his care: a mission study, the renovation of the Carriage House, the construction of the North Entrance, a new order of worship which included “a time for children” and education about what it means to be a large corporate sized church.

As Dr. Wilkerson’s ministry with the Church ended in March of 2002, and the congregation celebrated his interim pastorate, the following poem written by Tyler Packard, and dedicated to Dr. Wilkerson, was read to the congregation and presented to Dr. Wilkerson. Dr. Wilkerson was called to the St. Giles Church in Greenville, South Carolina.



Tyler Packard (L) and Dr. John Wilkerson

### **John**

A recent addition to our hearts, and now he has to leave.  
It's hard to believe that he must go, and leave us all alone.

But still his time has come, and he must move on.  
Like Jesus moved from town to town, John's work here is done.

While he may be leaving us soon, He will never leave our hearts  
And his memory will stay alive, until we all are gone.

Our hearts are with him as he goes, and makes his way down south  
And teaches those at his new church, about the evils of sin and sloth.

We hope that one day he'll come back, just for old time's sake,  
And maybe share a new sermon or two, with a group of old friends.

We all are told that friends last forever, and I really hope that's true,  
One day a friend I know shall return, And I hope that friend is you.

**By Robert Tyler N. Packard  
March 7, 2002**



Sally and Charles Pickell

The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Pickell, a retired Presbyterian minister, who with his wife Sally moved to Charlottesville in November of 2000. He joined the staff of the First Presbyterian Church as Parish Associate. His part time role includes visiting the sick and shut-in members, teaching, preaching and assisting in worship. A native of New Jersey, Dr. Pickell is a graduate of Juniata College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He served churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maryland and Virginia. On the departure of Dr. Massey, the relationship with Dr. Pickell ended after consultation with the Presbytery Executive and members of the Committee on Ministry. Dr. Pickell stated, that *“this has been a very difficult decision for me to make. Sally and I chose to become part of the First Church family when we moved to Charlottesville in 2000 before I became a member of the staff in 2001 and we plan to be buried in the Memorial Garden. We have made many friends and will miss seeing you all on Sundays, but given the circumstances, I believe my departure for a time is the right thing. My time as a member of the staff has been among the most satisfying of my fifty-five years in ministry. You are a congregation of gifted people and I believe you have a great future.”* A beautiful tribute to The Rev. Charles and Sally Pickell was written by Elder Jim Hubbard and is included in the June 2008 issue of “The First Pres.”



The Rev. Ann Cherry

The Rev. Ann Cherry joined the staff of the First Presbyterian Church on December 1, 2000, as an Interim Associate Pastor. Rev. Cherry had vast experience in interim ministry. First Presbyterian was her sixth interim position. She came to the Church from the Second Presbyterian Church in Petersburg. She has a B.S. from Elmira College, and a M.A. in counseling from Western Michigan University. She has a M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. She is the mother of three boys. The Rev. Cherry resigned from her ministry at First Presbyterian Church for personal reasons, effective January 8, 2003.

The Rev. Cherry was instrumental in establishing the Walking with Spirit Program, and served as the spiritual coordinator. Jann Balmer served as the Administrative Coordinator. Walking with Spirit is a lay driven pastoral care program, and those who serve are called advocates. The word, advocate, comes from John 14, where Jesus tells us that he will not leave us, but will send an advocate to walk with us in a loving and caring relationship. On March 3, 2002, the following Advocates were commissioned in this lay pastoral care ministry: Jann Balmer, Katie Balmer, Brooke Bosselman, Sandi Bosselman, Janice Bowden, Diane Brownlee, Deane Carroll, Phyllis Colman, Leigh Critzer, Pat Graybill, Melinda Hathaway, Emily Hauenstine, Larry Jepson, Carol Jepson, Dorothy Lambert, Sheila McCormick, John Metz, Theresa Metz, Alice Micklem, John Savides, Robert Simpson, Anne Sloop, Judy Smith, Barbara Stone, Liz Stoner and Becky Treacle. The program was designed to provide care and presence to members of this congregation. As the title of the program suggests, advocates are trained to walk with – not ahead of, nor behind – our congregational membership.

The Walking with Spirit Ministry was replaced with the Stephen Ministry. The Rev. Tim Read provided the leadership, wisdom, counsel and inspiration for this Ministry Team composed of the following: Phyllis Savides, Alice Micklem, Karen Kenned, Bob Garnett, Gwen Hoyle, Diane Brownlee, Ellen Roberson, John Meaney, Donna Authers, and Katherine Jenkins. They

call themselves, *“After People.”* Our congregation’s Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. They are ready to come alongside and provide comfort and support for as long as they are needed. *“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* Galatians 6:2

The Church steeple became the home of three bronze bells as a gift from Jan and Dan Meador. The bells were cast at the Petit and Fristen Bell Foundry in Aarle-Rextel, Holland. The bells were installed by the Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. A steel ladder and platform was built into the steeple prior to the bell installation. The platform was built to accomplish the installation and to perform semi-annual maintenance of the bell clapper mechanisms. A plaque was installed in the narthex with the following inscription:

**The millennium bells cast in the Netherlands  
Are given to the First Presbyterian Church  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
To the Glory of God  
In honor of Dr. Thomas D. Kennedy, Pastor, 1981-2000  
And in memory of Dr. Arie D. Bestebreurtje, Pastor, 1966-1981  
A.D. 2001**



Dan and Jan Meador at Dedication



Abednego (L), Meshach



David Goodwin and his friend Clayton Birkhead assists in wheeling a bell in position to be hoisted to the steeple



Shadrach



Huge bell pulled into steeple



A crane was used to hoist the large 960 pound bell toward the steeple.

In 2001, the Session began to look at other ministries that could serve a growing and diverse congregation. With the problems facing health care today, this may be a chance for the Church to once again be seen as a healing place. A Parish Nursing Ministry Committee was established to determine the need for a parish nurse program. Parish nursing is a unique, specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the promotion of health with the context of the values, beliefs and practices of a faith community. The Rev. Donna B. Coffman is the executive director of Caring Congregations, and is an associated program of Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond.

After thoughtful and prayerful consideration, Ms. Liz Stoner, R. N. was hired into this new church ministry. Ms. Stoner graduated from the Caring Congregations Parish Nursing Course at the Seminary in Richmond, and was anointed and set apart for this healing ministry on December 3, 2002. The general guidelines for this program can be found on the Church web site, <http://www.fpchurch.com>.



Liz Stoner, RN, as she addresses the Men's Luncheon

Ms. Stoner resigned December 31, 2003, to spend more time with her children. Ms. Kathy Freer, R.N. was hired effective January 1, 2004, to carry on this full time ministry. Kathy received a B.S. in nursing at the University of Maryland and an M.S. in nursing from the University of Virginia. She began her career as a trauma intensive-care nurse at the University of Maryland Hospital. This was followed by an extensive career in kidney dialysis at the University of Virginia Health System. Kathy and her husband, Rob (an employee of the University of Virginia Investment Management Company), have two children-Walker, a 2007 University of Virginia graduate, and Hallie, currently a student there. Kathy enjoys living in downtown Charlottesville, which enhances her favorite form of exercise, walking; but spending time at the beach and traveling also are high on her list. Kathy believes that it is truly her privilege to serve the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.



Kathy Freer, RN



On May 5, 2002, the north entrance addition was dedicated during the 11:00 a.m. service. A generous gift was bequeathed to First Presbyterian Church by Laura Wood Bailey for this purpose. Mrs. Bailey was born in Charlottesville and was a lifelong and dedicated member of the Church until she died in 1982. She was married to C. Bernard Bailey who served the Church as an Elder. Mrs. Bailey was also a member of the building committee for the present church that was built in the 1950's. The gift is a memorial to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Burnley Wood, whose home formerly stood where the present sanctuary now stands. The architect was Smith Garrett Architects PC, and the contractor was Alexander-Nicholson, Inc., both located in Charlottesville.



The North Entrance, Dedicated May 5, 2002

**Chapter 16**  
**The Massey Years**  
**2002 - 2008**

*“To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



The Rev. Dr. Samuel R. D. Massey  
2002 – 2008

The Rev. Dr. Samuel R. D. Massey was called to serve the First Presbyterian Church at a congregational meeting on January 27, 2002. He was installed as Senior Pastor, head of staff, on Sunday, June 9, 2002. The July 2002, First Press captured the feelings of the congregation, when it recorded, *“Some of you may have thought that this day would never come, some of you still can’t believe it has. We sometimes wonder what God is up to; we sometimes wonder if God*

*answers our prayers, but we don't need to look any further than the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee to know that God is present, active and bringing about new things in our lives. God has done a wonderful thing in calling Sam here."* The Pastor Nominating Committee was composed of those pictured below.



Pastor Nominating Committee, L-R: Glenn Forloines, Jay Swett, Bev Kocotas, George Grattan, Tuck Carter, Jane Adair, Downing Miller, Ron Dimberg, Emily Maloney, and Gary Greene

Dr. Massey, affectionately known as Sam, was born in Washington, DC. His father was a Professor of Physical Education (physiology of exercise, kinesiology) at the University of Maryland, Penn State University, and the University of Illinois. His mother was a homemaker. He has one brother Ben, a physician in Columbia, South Carolina, and two sisters, Florence a public school administrator in Jackson, Tennessee, and Jean a homemaker in Batavia, Illinois. Sam married his wife Susan during his first pastorate at Paxton Federated Church, Paxton, Illinois. It was love at first sight, Sam proposed to Susan on the third date. Susan's mother was the clerk of session, and her father was president of the trustees. Sam and Susan have a son Will, and in 2003 they adopted Daniel.

Sam graduated from Greenville College, in Greenville, Illinois, in 1978, with a bachelor's degree. He received a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1982, and a Doctor of Ministry from Princeton in 1994. From 1983 to 1986, Sam served as Pastor of Paxton Federated Church in Paxton, Illinois. From 1986 to 1990, he served as Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. From 1990 to 1995, he served as Pastor and Head of Staff of the Wekiva Presbyterian Church, Longwood, Florida, and from 1995 until he join our church in 2002, he was Pastor and Head of Staff of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Iowa.

Sam also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa; The Board of Trustees of the University of Dubuque; and Moderator of the Des Moines Presbytery Worship Task Force. He also served the Central Florida Presbytery as Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, and on the Personnel Committee.

In 1963, while serving a church in suburban Washington, D.C., Dr. Charles Pickell, Parish Associate, met a man, who was an elder in the Church. This man had a son named Sam. Dr. Pickell never dreamed that he would be participating in the installation of that boy named Sam. Yes, in June of 2002, Dr. Pickell delivered the charge to The Rev. Dr. Samuel R. D. Massey as he was installed as the Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville.

Shortly after Dr. Massey's arrival, he issued several "*Vision Letters*" in an effort to capture his understanding of the needs of the First Presbyterian Church as identified in the Mission Statement prepared by the Pastoral Nominating Committee. These Vision Letters addressed the following topics: To retain the vibrancy of traditional worship, while looking for more creative worship expressions; Mission, spiritual growth, and staffing; Develop financial resources to care for an aging facility; and What it means to be a caring congregation.

On September 7, 2003, after many months of preparation, three worship services were introduced for the glory of God. The services were created in response to comments and ideas expressed by members and in anticipation of those yet to come. The 8:45 a.m. service was defined as a "*creative traditional service*" and includes a children's sermon, creative worship experiences such as poetry, inspirational readings and dramatic arts. Communion was planned for the first Sunday of every month. The 10:00 a.m. service was defined as a "*formal traditional service*" and included the vibrancy and solemnity of traditional worship services. The 11:15 a.m. service was defined as an "*informal family service*" and included a sermon for children and involvement of more lay persons in liturgy and presentation of the Word. The pastors did not use their traditional robes and the sermons were delivered from the chancel area rather than from the pulpit. Communion was served each week and the service included diverse instrumentation and a praise choir.

The change in the worship schedule was not a happy one for many, and after a review of the new worship schedule, the Worship and Music Committee presented a recommendation to the session to change the format for the new worship services effective February 29, 2004. The Session adopted the recommendation. The recommended worship schedule was as follows: 8:00 a.m., early traditional service; 9:30 a.m., alternate informal service; and 11:00 a.m. traditional worship service.

At a congregational meeting held on January 25, 2004, The Rev. Timothy T. Read was called as Executive Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Congregational Development. Tim was born at Tyler, Texas, and is married to the former Lee Tipton. They have three children, Katie, James and Leighton. Rev. Read received his BA at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas in 1978, and graduated from the University of Texas, School of Law in 1981. He received his Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary at Decatur, Georgia in 1998. His

grandfather and great grandfather were Presbyterian ministers. He practiced law in Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, California and Waynesboro, Virginia before entering the ministry. Before his call to the First Presbyterian Church, he was serving as Pastor of Tabor Presbyterian Church in Crozet, Virginia. Tim preached his first sermon on March 7, 2004.



The Rev. Timothy T. Read

Due to a reduction in staff, recommended by the Plan of Action Committee and approved by the Session and Congregation, The Rev. Read preached his last sermon on February 17, 2008. The Board of Deacons expressed their appreciation for The Rev. Read's faithful service by adopting the following that was shared with the congregation:

*“In gratitude to God for the gift of Pastor Tim Read’s leadership, the Board of Deacons would like to thank Pastor Read for his dedicated and compassionate service. In his advisory role on the Board of Deacons, Pastor Read faithfully reminded us our duty is ‘first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.’ Pastor Read has cared for us, as a board and as individuals, and in doing so he has modeled for us what it means to bear Christ’s light and to share Christ’s love. We thank God for the blessing of Pastor Read’s service and we thank Tim for responding to God’s call to serve with great faith and great love.”*

At a congregational meeting held on Sunday, July 25, 2004, The Rev. Kimberleigh E. Wells was elected to serve as the new Associate Pastor for Mission and Christian Justice. Kim earned her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in May of 2003, and served as Pastoral Ministry Intern at the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford, New Jersey until May of 2004. Kim was born in England to an English mother and an American father. She was raised from early childhood in Berkeley, California, and grew up playing the violin and singing in choirs. Kim was ordained and installed by a commission of the Presbytery of the James on Sunday, September 26, 2004.



The Rev. Kimberleigh E. Wells

People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry (PACEM) is an interfaith collaboration of congregations and community partners in Charlottesville that provides shelter and support during the winter months for homeless individuals who have nowhere else to sleep. PACEM opened its doors November 15, 2004, and immediately began serving some of our neediest neighbors. The program is modeled on the long running and highly successful (CARITAS) program in Richmond, Virginia, and (NEST) program in Norfolk, Virginia. PACEM operates as a shelter of last resort; through PACEM, local congregations take turns hosting men and women who have nowhere else to sleep at night. Meals are included, and some sites provide access to showers and laundry. PACEM also provides an emergency lodging program and individual support for families. **PACEM's Vision:** "A Pillow for Every Head." **PACEM's Mission:** "To engage the faith community of the greater Charlottesville area in providing shelter, compassionate support, and access to services for people who are homeless." First Presbyterian Church was involved in this effort from its beginning. At a recent shelter at the church in 2009, one hundred and ten volunteers served during fourteen nights. They cooked and served meals, conducted evening activities and some stayed all night. Many of the Youth at the church participated by setting and cleaning up and serving evening snacks.

In 2008, Dr. Massey was honored by PACEM in receiving their highest honor – a golden pillow – for his work with the region's growing homeless population. Ms. Rhonda Miska, social witness coordinator, Church of the Incarnation, had this to say about Dr. Massey.

*"Neither PACEM nor IMPACT would be where they are today without Sam's vision and hard work. In fact, I think it is fair to say that neither PACEM nor IMPACT would exist if it weren't for Sam Massey. His commitment to interfaith collaboration and racial reconciliation has been bold and prophetic. His willingness to look beyond the walls of his own church and*

*into the larger community is a rare trait, and our local community has benefited immensely from his vision as a Christian to bring about both charity and justice in Central Virginia.”*

Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together (IMPACT) is a grassroots initiative with a mission to bring a greater degree of justice and fairness to the Charlottesville and Albemarle area. Thirty-three IMPACT congregations came together to work on the root causes of community problems. IMPACT congregations range in size from 20 to 5,000 people and include predominantly black and predominantly white congregations as well as Protestant, Catholic, Unitarian, Jewish and Muslim congregations. First Presbyterian is one of the congregations working for justice and fairness in this community through IMPACT.

IMPACT addresses and achieves solutions to community problems through the basic organizing processes of listening/networking, research, and direct action meetings. Through coming together they build the power and ability to successfully live out God’s call.

IMPACT congregations began planning in 2003 to create this congregation based community organizing effort and in 2006, IMPACT held the Covenant Assembly to launch its efforts.

In June of 2004, the Session was called upon to address a number of issues that had been raised by some members of the congregation relative to the direction and programs of the church. The Session reported to the congregation that it had heard their concerns on the change of the worship services, youth programs, staff interaction with the congregation, the rapid rate of change, staff growth, the interpretation and implementation of the Mission Study, and lack of effective communication.

Because of these concerns, the Session enlisted the services of The Rev. Susan Richey Nienaber of the Alban Institute. Her goal was to help the Session understand the challenges and to develop and implement solutions as needed. A Special Session Committee composed of the Parish Associate and the Clerk of Session was appointed to recommend to the Session a course of action. The committee worked with The Rev. Nienaber to establish a questionnaire. According to The Rev. Nienaber, the process ran very smoothly because of the strength of the congregation and its leadership. After a data gathering stage which included written information, interviews with staff, the church leadership and congregational groups a report was completed in November of 2004.

The Rev. Nienaber reported that several things stood out as important in understanding the current situation. First, she stated *“that First Presbyterian is an historic church in an historic community.”* Second, *“the church has experienced long pastoral tenures since the mid 1960’s. These long pastor tenures were characterized by great stability and steady growth.”* And third, *“the emphasis and identity of this church can be found in the excellence in Christian Education embracing the Reformed tradition.”* She further stated *“that it appears that the identity and traditions of the congregation may be shifting.”*

There were some interesting facts accumulated from the approximately 175 questionnaires. A very small number of the respondents participated in the Mission Study

conducted in 2000/2001 based on the church membership at the time. Thirty-six percent of those completing the questionnaires had been members less than ten years. Fifty-three percent had been members of other large Presbyterian churches, and forty-three percent of the respondents were in the 60 to 74 age group. Eighty-eight percent attend worship every Sunday. Eighty-three percent are involved in volunteer programs and ministries at the church. The Christian Education and Youth Programs was the number one reason why the respondents joined this church. Second was family history with the church. When asked what the greatest strengths in this church were, the overwhelming majority responded “*dedicated, loyal, gifted membership.*” The Rev. Nienaber stated, that “*this is a very gifted congregation that values opportunities for service and intellectual growth.*” The Consultant’s Report produced a number of recommendations to address the following issues:

1. Develop a workable mechanism for the congregation to communicate their concerns to the Session.
2. A special focus on communication and change
3. Providing opportunities to clear up misinformation
4. Creating opportunities for reconciliation and mediation
5. The role and function of the session, Pastoral and Staff Relations (PSR), role of Pastor and Executive Associate Pastor.
6. The effect of staff transitions
7. Creating a disclosure policy by PSR
8. Training and education for all in dealing with conflict and education on the cultural changes affecting churches
9. Examining the congregation’s norms, patterns and history of dealing with conflict and change
10. Recommendations to improve staff functioning
11. Re-examination of the Mission Study (2000-2001)
12. The pastor – congregation relationship

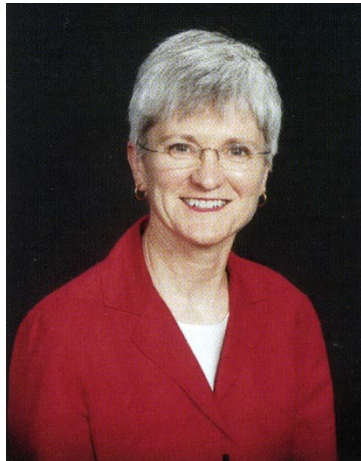
The Rev. Nienaber quoted Peter Steinke as her final thoughts.

*“We need, therefore, to see forgiveness more as a process than an event. It takes time to let emotional heat cool down and to move from instinctual survival to sober judgment. God’s forgiveness is a free gift. There are no strings attached – that is, ‘you must change’ (so I can feel less anxious) or ‘I must give up’ (so everyone else feels less anxious). God’s forgiveness cannot be fiddled with, modified, or altered. It is irreversible. It is always available to us. Human forgiveness is slower and more erratic. It is always entangled in our creature anxiety. But it’s not impossible. Forgiven, we are secure in our relationship with god. Nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Our ultimate hope is not in anxious processes but in a*



*resurrected Lord. So centered, we can extend forgiveness to others. If we possess the future, we need not be anxious in every threatening moment."*

In March of 2005, Judy Blair was hired as the Church Business Manager. She serves as a staff resource to several ministry groups, including those working with finances and administration, contributions and receipts, investments and cash management, business affairs, human resources, facilities and administrative support to the preschool. She brings thirty-seven years of professional experience in fiscal management and administrative operations. Judy and her husband became members of our church in March of 2001.



Judy Blair  
Business Manager

Jeff Bailes' house was always filled with music. Born in Charlottesville, he grew up listening to Rhythm and Blue performers and loved the Beatles. At an early age he knew what he wanted to do for the rest of his life, Sing, Sing, Sing! However, from 1985 to 1995 Jeff was stationed in Charleston, South Carolina, with the U.S. Air Force; and then, after moving back to Virginia, he was employed with DuPont in Waynesboro. But he knew God was calling him to the worship ministry and there were some real decisions to be made. By the end of 2004 Jeff decided to quit his job and follow God's calling. In early 2005 he answered an ad in the Daily Progress. First Presbyterian Church was searching for a "Praise Leader." As the praise team director, Jeff was always asking, "How is this going to bring God glory?" And, "How am I going to use this to bring God glory?" He believes that the words of John the Baptist apply to himself and all of us believers. We have to become less so that Christ can become greater. Jeff lives in Stuarts Draft with his wife, Linda, and their three children.

Will Cooke joined the First Presbyterian Church staff in the fall of 2007 as Director of Music for Children and Youth. Will, a native of Charlotte County, Virginia, earned his B.A. in music from Virginia Commonwealth University. After college, he taught music in the City of Richmond Public Schools for ten years. He currently serves as the choral department director at

Charlottesville High School. On Wednesday evenings he instructs and conducts the Joyful Praise Choir (grades K through 5) at First Presbyterian Church and on Sunday afternoons, the Youth Chorus (grades 6 through 12). The children's/youth choirs perform about once a month, alternating between the 8:55 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. Youth Chorus members also enjoy a monthly outing, which extends their time of fun and fellowship together.



Jeff Bailes  
Director of Praise Team



Will Cooke  
Director of Music for Children



Colleen Plitt  
Interim Ministries Coord.

In September of 2007, Colleen Plitt was hired as an interim, part-time Program Associate. This position was designed to provide up to fifteen hours of support per week in the areas of youth ministry and worship. In this role, Colleen will assist The Rev. Kim Wells and Carol Schneider in the coordination of a variety of youth activities, and assist The Rev. Tim Read in the coordination of the contemporary service.

When the Session granted Carol Schneider compassionate medical leave for the remainder of her employment, Colleen's position was expanded to incorporate Carol's duties of leading mid-high youth ministries. Colleen was offered and accepted the new position, Interim Discipleship Ministries Coordinator.

Dr. Massey named the following church members to serve on what was called, "*Christian Education and Youth Ministry Assessment Team, which came to be known as the 'A Team.'*" Rod Beckwith, Chris Dean, Kathy Doby, Bob Garnett, Elizabeth Gatewood, Elaine Knight, Bev Kocotas (chairperson), John Meany, Adriana Nicholson, Mark O'Donnell, Linda Odom, Kaitlyn Parks, Vance Pilkington, Sara Ray, Tim Read, Mark Sackson, and Ex. Officio Sam Massey. Resource persons were: Donna Authers, Gordon Lindsey, Lee Read, Carol Schneider, and Kim Wells. The "*A Team*" was charged with evaluating the entire ministry of education and spiritual formation for all age groups, to present progress reports to Session, and a final plan of action and implementation. At a Session meeting on January 28, 2008, the "*A Team*" presented the recommendations listed below.

*“Hire or appoint a full-time professional Discipleship Ministry staff person and supplement with part-time experts (paid or volunteer) for specific work. Provide a dedicated time Sunday morning exclusively for Discipleship Ministry that is available year round. Establish a small group pilot before implementing the entire structure. The curriculum shall include all three components of discipleship, know it, grow it, and show it. Initiate a systematic ongoing mentoring and training program for Discipleship leaders. Lastly, develop a process for periodic review of all aspects of Discipleship Ministry.*

In April of 2009, the “A Team” was dismissed, and the recommendations were not implemented.

The Session at its meeting on January 8, 2008, approved a report to the congregation that was delivered by Elder David Rathburn, chairman of the Pastoral and Staff Relations and Plan of Action Committees. The report was to inform the congregation about the events that have taken place over the last several months. He presented the report in four sections; history of recent events; second, ten resolutions adopted by the Session; third, the next steps; and fourth, a motion from the Session for the consideration of the congregation.

Elder Rathburn stated that, in 2007, a group named “CCC” was formed. This group was formed by church members expressing concerns about a number of issues in the church. The acronym stands for Cookies, Coffee and Conversation. The group’s size grew to exceed seventy members including a number of ordained elders and deacons.

The “CCC” group contacted the Session through the Pastoral and Staff Relations Committee (PSR). The Session approved meetings between the PSR and the CCC in August of 2007. As a result of those meetings, a town hall meeting was conducted on October 30, 2007 to address the following issues: Preservation of the 11:00 a.m. traditional worship service; Session Governance Issues; Staff turnover rates; Implementation of the Alban Institute recommendations; improved communications; relationships between pastors, staff, lay leaders and congregation; and Church finances. Also, extensive time was spent on the roles, relationships and interfaces between the pastors and the staff as well as between the pastors and the congregation. Discussion also included the style and content of sermons. There was general agreement that legitimate questions and concerns were raised by the CCC.

As the process moved forward, a misunderstanding occurred and a representative of the CCC feeling that its concerns were not being addressed, sent an E-mail message to every member of the Session and the Diaconate, as well as to the General Presbyter, The Rev. Carson Rhyne. The Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery immediately became involved and a series of meetings were held in December of 2008 with the three church pastors, the clerk of session, the chairman of the PSR committee, and two members of the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry.

After an extended meeting on December 20, 2008, the Session appointed six Elders to serve on the “*Plan of Action Committee (PAC).*” The following elders were selected: David Rathburn, Glenn Forloines, Adriana Nicholson, Ron Dimburg, Deborah Starns and Margaret Smith. The committee was tasked with studying the challenging issues facing the church and to

make recommendations to the Session. Dr. Wayne Bernardo, pastor of the Culpepper Presbyterian Church, moderated the session meetings. The PAC completed its work on January 5, 2008. The report was adopted by the Session on January 8, 2008, without change. Ten Resolutions were adopted. These Resolutions are included in the report of the Session and are not included as part of the church history.

The Plan of Action Committee (PAC) considering the current size of the First Presbyterian Church membership and the current economic and budget conditions concluded that the church should close the position of Executive Associate Pastor for Congregational Life, effective February 17, 2008, and reduce the compensation package for Dr. Massey. The Pastoral and Staff Relations Committee, the session and the congregation approved the recommendation and requested the Presbytery of the James to dissolve the call between The Rev. Tim Read and First Presbyterian Church, effective February 17, 2008.

Dr. Massey advised the Plan of Action Committee (PAC) during the course of its work, his discernment of God's will was that he should seek another call. His letter of resignation was dated December 27, 2007. On January 8, 2008, the PAC moved acceptance of Dr. Massey's proposal consistent with the terms included in his letter of December 27, 2007, and was approved by the Session. His last day was April 30, 2008. The Session unanimously approved a Resolution with appreciation to Dr. Massey for his service.

Elder Rathburn concluded his report to the congregation by paraphrasing the following words by President Abraham Lincoln, substituting the word church for the word nation:

*“with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the church...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and all churches.”*

Elder Rathburn went on to say, *“Let us come together now as a Church in the spirit and love that God has granted us to heal our wounds, share the grace, love and forgiveness that God has blessed each of us with, and move forward to do God's work.”*

On January 28, 2008, the Session appointed an Interim Pastor Search Committee composed of the following members: Diane Schmidt, Chairperson; Barbara Herath; and Mark Sackson. On May 19, 2008, the Session approved the recommendation of the Committee to call Dr. Robert A. Johnson, Jr. as a Temporary Supply Pastor. Dr. Johnson graduated from Austin College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and received a PhD from Union Theological Seminary.

Dr. Johnson started his ministry at First Presbyterian Church on May 1, 2008. Dr. Johnson, a member of the Presbytery of the James accepted the invitation to become the Temporary Supply until an Interim Pastor could be called. Dr. Johnson and his family had just finished three years of service as PCUSA mission worker in Pakistan, where he served as Dean of Chapel and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Forman Christian College. He

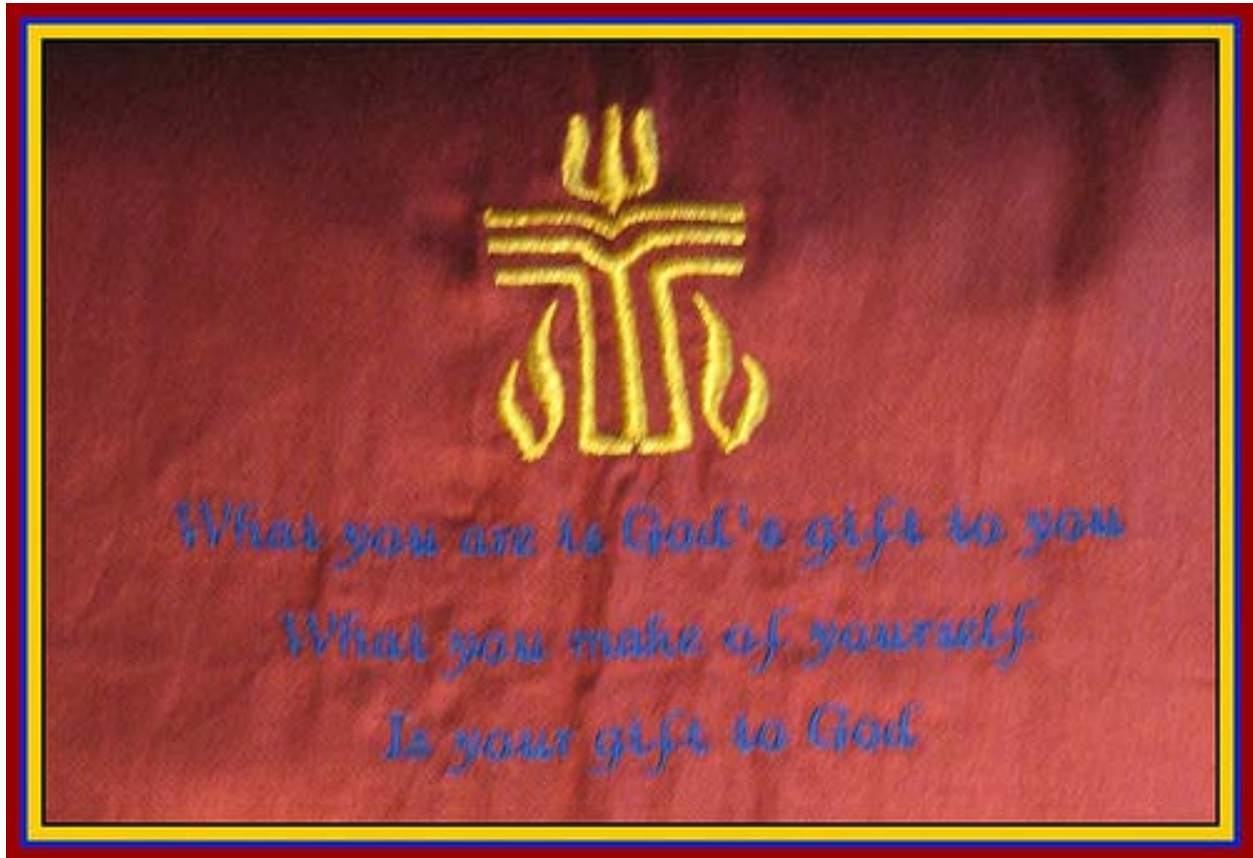
previously directed the Institute for Reformed Theology at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, where he received his PhD in History and Theology. He also worked for the General Assembly's Office of Theology and Worship in Louisville, Kentucky, and served as pastor at three churches from 1988-2000. Dr. Johnson served as Temporary Supply until August 30, 2008. After leaving the First Presbyterian Church, Dr. Johnson completed the first level of interim training at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, and accepted a call as Interim Pastor of Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Richmond.

The Interim Pastor Search committee continued their work and with great enthusiasm, joyfully recommending The Rev. Gavin D. Meek as the Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, effective September 1, 2008. The committee was searching for a candidate with past experience as an interim, proven experience in a conflicted church, and strong relevant sermons. A number of candidates were considered but The Rev. Meek rose to the top. The Presbytery of the James, Committee on Ministry, and the church session approved of the recommendation.

The committee was guided by prayer in their work and thanked the congregation for its support and patience. The committee chairperson, Diane Schmidt, reminded the congregation that God has his own timeline and it is not up to us to change it to meet our own needs and desires. She also stated, "*That we must now continue to be patient as we continue our healing journey during this interim period.*" The Committee was dismissed with thanks on June 30, 2008.

The Session understanding the anguish and confusion in the congregation over the many issues facing the church, appointed a committee on January 30, 2008 called the Congregational Care Task Force (CCTF). The committee members were: Donna Authers, Cathy Burgess, Mary Jane Derby, Kathy Doby, Elizabeth Gatewood, Steve Harris, Barbara Herath, Jocelyn Schauer and Jason Worley. Their first action was to engage the entire congregation in prayer. The charge was to identify ways to help the congregation heal and move forward. Many members of the congregation, on both sides of the issues, were hurt and not ready to heal. The committee strove to make it easy to communicate with the Session and to receive thoughtful and timely responses. A series of group meetings was held to provide accurate information on the issues facing the church. It was not the intention of the committee to act as a "*middle man*" but to assist church members feel comfortable communicating directly with the Session. Bulletin boards were used to highlight the Sessions activities, to post questions and answers, and to help foster ongoing communication with the congregation. The committee continued to work to establish venues for members to discuss differences and concerns and to provide ways for members to talk informally. The CCTF was dismissed in April of 2008.

**Chapter 17**  
**An Interim Period**  
**2008 - 2011**



Life's Motto, The Rev. Gavin Meek

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The Rev. Gavin D. Meek began his ministry as Interim Pastor on September 1, 2008.

His parents grew up as Presbyterian, his father in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and his mother in "the" Presbyterian Church, the Church of Scotland. His mother was born and raised in Edinburgh. He is the youngest of three boys.

He was baptized, raised, and ordained both as an Elder and Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church of Greenwood, Indiana where his father is also an elder and his mother was a deacon. In 1983, he was elected an Elder commissioner to the 1983 "reunion" General Assembly that joined the southern and northern branches of their church; he was the youngest commissioner at that historic assembly. At Manchester College in Indiana, he received a degree in psychology and business, and his theological degree was earned at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

The Rev. Meek's first call as a Pastor was to the church in Lebanon, Kentucky where he had a wonderful time and ministry for ten years! The church was instrumental in founding the

local Habitat chapter, food bank, spouse abuse center, and started annual mission trips to both Appalachia and a remote village in Haiti. He did a pulpit exchange with a pastor in Scotland, was an adjunct professor at the seminary, and served on the Committee on Ministry, assisting six Pastor Nominating Committees and serving as moderator. During those years, he received training in conflict resolution and prevention. These experiences, combined with the urging of a friend, led him to a call to, and passion for, the challenging and exciting work of interim ministry. God continues to call him to this ministry.



The Rev. Gavin D. Meek  
2008 - 2011

The Rev. Meek has completed four interims: Louisville, Kentucky; Bloomington, Indiana; Morgantown, West Virginia; and Guilford Park, Greensboro, North Carolina. All were exciting and challenging in their own way! In the midst of them, he acquired the second and advanced levels of interim training as well as training in the areas of personnel management, strategic planning and systems theory. Recently, he has been invited to be a part of the denomination's faculty that trains Interim Pastors.

The Rev. Meek loves the interim ministry and the opportunity to act as a conduit in assisting churches in healing and facilitating a process by which the church family can discern God's vision, mission, and direction. He has been quoted as saying when discussing the woes of

the world, *“I’m trying to make a difference in the world one congregation at a time.”* The Rev. Meek enjoys traveling, having visited forty-eight states and over thirty countries.

. He enjoys reading history and biographies, hiking, biking, tennis, chess, card playing, Scottish Country Dancing, good food and wine, and a wee dram with friends.

Before his official start day, The Rev. Meek met several times with the church staff, as well as speaking with former staff members. He spent two-hundred fifty hours conducting one-hundred interviews which included all the elders and deacons. He used this effort to identify the issues facing the congregation, and to develop his plans for his interim time and beyond as he prepares the congregation to receive a new installed pastor.

The at large members of the 2010 Nominating Committee were approved at a special meeting of the congregation on December 20, 2009. The entire committee is composed of the following persons: From the Session, Christine Dean, and Elaine Knight; from the Deacons, Mark Roberson, and Litz Van Dyke; at large members; Joe Avent, Sandy Bishop, Duane Blough, Ann Foster, Elizabeth Gatewood, Jocelyn Kelley, and Downing Miller. The following at large members were elected on September 5, 2010: Bill Carswell, Pat Davis, Mary Jane Derby, Cathy Meaney, Carolyn Pettit, Robert Ramsey, and Presley Thach.



At a congregational meeting held on September 5, 2010, the following members were elected to serve as members of the Pastor Nominating Committee: Sue Brown, Kathy Doby, Terry Forbes, Jim Hubbard, Tyler McPhillips, David Rathburn, Ashley Schauer, Diane Schmidt and Mac Thompson.





Joe Avent, sharing drinks



Discovery phase

The first stage in the search for a new pastor begins with a “*Mission Study.*” A Mission Study is very similar to a strategic plan developed for a business. The PCUSA requires the study prior to a search for a pastor. The Session approved on July 27, 2009 and the congregation on September 21, 2009, elected the following persons to the Mission Study Task Force (MSTF), and they were commissioned in September of 2009: Joe Avent; Rod Beckwith; Jane Brennan; Dick Fowler; Jeannette Halpin; Dory Hulse; David Pettit, Chairman; Ellen Roberson; and Pam Turner. The MSTF is designed to manage the congregational process of determining the vision, mission, ministry goals and ministry activities of the church. The process included a congregational survey approved by the Session September 21, 2009. On November 15, 2009, four-hundred and fifteen members of the congregation completed the questionnaires. That was double the number completed in 2000. The completed surveys were sent to the Hartford Institute for tabulation.



Discovery phase



Natalie May

The “*discovery phase*” of the mission study took place on March 7, 2010. The overall study was dubbed “*Appreciative Inquiry (AI).*” Approximately 239 adults and 15 youth

members took part. After a box lunch, the participants were divided up into groups of eight. The inquiry events were led by a consultant, Natalie May, assisted by the members of the Mission Taskforce. Ms. May is one of the leaders at the University of Virginia Center for Appreciative Practice. The participants reassembled in the sanctuary where the strengths of the congregation were explored.

The “*dream phase*”, or what could be, of the mission study took place on March 21, 2010. After enjoying a box lunch, the participants were divided up into groups where the participants, after discerning the churches core values, look at what they visualized First Presbyterian Church looking like in 2015. Again, Ms. Natalie May served as the facilitator. The session was filled with joy and discovery that spilled over into skits that viewed the church of the future.

The “*design phase*” is where the discovery and dream phases were merged to discover the destination of the church, expressing the core values. Goals and strategies were developed to guide the Mission Task Force.

*“When I dream alone, it is just a dream. When we dream together, it is the beginning of reality. When we work together, following our dream, it is the Creation of Heaven on Earth.”*

*Brazilian Proverb*

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) is an organizational development process or philosophy that engages individuals within an organizational system in its renewal, change and focused performance. AI is based on the assumption that *organizations change in the way they inquire* and the claim that an organization which inquires into problems or difficult situations will keep finding more of the same but an organization which tries to appreciate what is best in itself will find/discover more and more of what is good.



David Pettit take notes

Ms. May facilitates feedback

Appreciative Inquiry was adopted from work done by earlier action research theorists and practitioners and further developed by David Cooperrider of Case Western Reserve University and Suresh Srivastava in the 1980s. Cooperrider and Srivastava say that an *organization is a miracle to be embraced* rather than *a problem to be solved*. According to them, inquiry into organizational life should have the following characteristics: Appreciative; Applicable; Provocative; and Collaborative.

It is now a commonly accepted practice in the creation of organizational development strategy and implementation of organizational effectiveness tactics. Appreciative Inquiry is a particular way of asking questions and envisioning the future that fosters positive relationships and builds on the basic goodness in a person, a situation, or an organization. In so doing, it enhances a system's capacity for collaboration and change. Appreciative Inquiry utilizes a cycle of four processes focusing on: DISCOVER: The identification of organizational processes that work well; DREAM: The envisioning of processes that would work well in the future; DESIGN: Planning and prioritizing processes that would work well; and DESTINY (or DELIVER): The implementation (execution) of the proposed design.

The basic philosophy of AI is also found in other positively oriented approaches to individual change as well as organizational change. As noted above, "AI ...fosters positive relationships and builds on the basic goodness in a person, or a situation ...." The principles behind A.I. are based in the rapidly developing science of Positive Psychology. The idea of building on strength, rather than just focusing on faults and weakness is a powerful idea in use in mentoring programs, and in coaching dynamics. It is the basic idea behind teaching "micro-affirmations" as well as teaching about micro-inequities. AI has been used extensively to foster change in businesses (a variety of sectors), health care systems, social profit organizations, educational institutions, communities, local governments, and religious institutions.

The results of the congregational survey, and the "Appreciative Inquiry" were shared with the congregation on May 28, 2010.

On May 18, 2009, the Session approved the appointment of the "Incorporation Task Force" composed of the following members: David Pettit, Chairman; Ralph Stoudt, and The Rev. Gavin Meek. Where permitted by state law, and in accordance with the Book of Order, G-7.0401, local churches are directed by the PCUSA to form a corporation to own its real property and permanent funds under the authority of the session. The corporation has a board of directors which are composed of active members of the Session, who will be called Trustees. The Trustees are responsible for the operation of the corporation subject to the members, active members of the church. On March 14, 2010, the congregation approved the recommendations of the Session to incorporate the church and to adopt the Corporate By-Laws approved by the Session, which is as follows:

BYLAWS OF THE CONGREGATION of First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, approved by the Session 11-16-09

Article I: Name, The name of this church shall be the First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Article II: Purpose, First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, has been called by God and organized to be obedient to Jesus Christ, serving the cause of Christ in the world and furthering “the Great Ends of the Church” as set out in the *Book of Order* (G-1.0200), Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Article III: Governance of the Church, This church shall be governed in accordance with *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II, Book of Order*. Consistent with the *Book of Order*, these bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this congregation.

Article IV: Meetings of the Congregation

1. Annual: The annual meeting of this congregation shall be held at a place and time designated by the Session—ordinarily within the church building no later than the month of February—and, whenever practical, shall be held contemporaneously with the annual meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Charlottesville, Inc. The purposes of the meeting shall be to (a) receive the Annual Report, the year-end financial statement for the church, and the Session-approved budget for the current year; (b) vote on any changes to the Terms of Call for pastor(s); and (c) transact such other business as may be presented by the Session. The Annual Report shall include reports from the Board of Deacons and all committees, councils, and organizations of the church.

2. Special Meetings: Special meetings of this congregation may be called by the Session, by Presbytery, and shall be called by the Session when requested in writing by one fourth of the active members of the congregation. Business to be transacted shall be limited to items specifically listed in the call.

3. Entitled To Vote: All members on the active roll of First Presbyterian Church who are present for the meeting may vote.

4. Parliamentary Authority: All business meetings of the congregation, the Session and affiliate groups shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order*, except in those cases where the *Book of Order* or these bylaws provide otherwise. All meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer. In cases of a tie vote, the moderator shall put the question a second time. If there is a tie vote again, the motion fails.

5. Notice of Meetings: Public notice of a meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays by an announcement in the bulletin, bulletin insert, or other written means. The meeting may be convened following the notice given on the second Sunday. If the meeting is related to the calling of a pastor or pastors, the initial public notice shall be given at least ten days in advance, while also including notice on two consecutive Sundays.

6. Business: Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall include the following:

- a. matters related to the election of elders and deacons;
- b. matters related to the calling of a pastor or pastors;

- c. matters related to the pastoral relationship, such as changing the call or requesting, consenting to, or declining to consent to dissolution;
  - d. matters related to the permissive powers of the congregation, such as the desire to lodge all administrative responsibility in the Session.
7. Quorum: A quorum of not less than ten (10) percent of the active membership shall be required for the transaction of business at any annual or special meeting.
- 8 Moderator: The Pastor shall be the Moderator of all meetings of the congregation.
9. Secretary: The Clerk of Session shall be the Secretary of meetings of the congregation.

#### Article V: Organization

1. Session: The Session is responsible for the mission and government of the church enumerated in the *Book of Order* (G-10.0000). It shall be composed of twenty-one Elders and the installed Pastor and Associate Pastor(s). The Pastor shall serve as Moderator. Elders shall be divided into three classes of seven, serving staggered terms of three years that begin on January 1 or on the date of ordination and/or installation, whichever is later, following each annual class election, ordinarily held in September. Elders may be elected to serve up to one additional year of an unexpired term of office prior to, or following, a regular three-year term for a maximum of four consecutive years of service. No two active members of the same immediate family shall be elected to serve concurrently on the Session. Active members shall not be eligible to serve on the Session while they are paid church staff.
2. Board of Deacons: It is the duty of Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any in distress, as well as to assume such other duties as are delegated and assigned by the Session, to which the Deacons are accountable. The Board of Deacons shall be composed of the pastor(s), in an advisory capacity, and not less than twenty-four members divided into three classes of eight, serving staggered terms of three years that begin on January 1 or on the date of ordination and/or installation, whichever is later, following each annual class election, ordinarily held in September. Deacons may serve consecutive terms, totaling no more than six years. No two active members of the same immediate family shall be elected to serve concurrently on the Board of Deacons.
3. Attendance of Officers: Any officer who has a total of three unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings within any term year (January through December) shall be deemed to have resigned his or her office on the Session or Board of Deacons.
4. Church Treasurer: The Church Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Session and shall be under its authority
5. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of eleven active members, of which no two can be from the same immediate family. At the special officer election meeting, the congregation shall elect seven active members to serve for the ensuing year, none of whom are in active service as an officer of the church or a serving member of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall prepare and present this slate of seven to the congregation. Members of the Nominating Committee and their immediate families shall not be considered for nomination. An exception would be allowed for a member of the immediate family of the pastor for the Board of Deacons. Any active member may make additional nominations from the floor. Two Nominating Committee members shall be active elders designated by Session. Ordinarily they shall serve staggered two-year terms; the elder in his/her second year on the Committee shall serve as moderator and the elder in his/her first year shall serve as vice-moderator. The Board of Deacons shall designate two active deacons to serve on

the Nominating Committee. Ordinarily each will rotate off the Committee after serving for two years, in the same rotational manner as the elders. The pastor shall be a member of this Committee, serving ex officio and without vote.

6. Committees, Task Forces, and Other Entities: The Session shall appoint such committees, task forces, and entities as necessary to carry out their respective responsibilities.

#### Article VI: Elections

1. Officers and At-large Members of the Nominating Committee: Elders, deacons and at large members of the Nominating Committee shall ordinarily be elected in September at a special congregational meeting from a slate submitted by the Nominating Committee and allowing for nominations from the floor. Election shall be by voice vote unless the rules are suspended by two-thirds of the members present or when there are nominations from the floor. In either case, the election shall be by secret ballot.

2. Filling Vacancies: Vacancies on the Session and the Board of Deacons may be filled by election to unexpired terms at special meetings of the congregation, although no election shall be required for this purpose within three months prior to the congregational meeting in September. At-large vacancies on the Nominating Committee will ordinarily be filled unless the Committee has begun to meet for that year's cycle.

3. Eligibility: All active members shall be eligible for election to church office, within the guidelines set forth by the *Book of Order* and these bylaws.

#### Article VII: Finances

1. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year shall be January 1 through December 31.

2. Budget: A budget shall be prepared for each calendar year. No later than January, the Session shall approve a finalized annual budget for church operations and present it, for information only, at the annual meeting of the congregation.

3. Terms of Call for Installed Pastor(s): The Terms of Call for the installed pastor(s) shall be reviewed annually by the Session and changes to the Terms of Call shall be recommended to the congregation at the annual meeting.

4. Solicitation of Funds: No solicitation of funds for special activities or projects of First Presbyterian Church shall be conducted without the express approval of the Session.

#### Article VIII: Amendments

Except for provisions that are required by the *Book of Order*, these bylaws may be amended, altered, revised or repealed by a two-thirds vote of active members present at any duly called regular or special meeting of the congregation at which a quorum is present, provided the public notice of said meeting includes a copy of the proposed amendment(s).

#### Article IX: Effective Date

These bylaws shall be effective on March 7, 2010, and shall supersede and repeal all previous bylaws of the congregation.

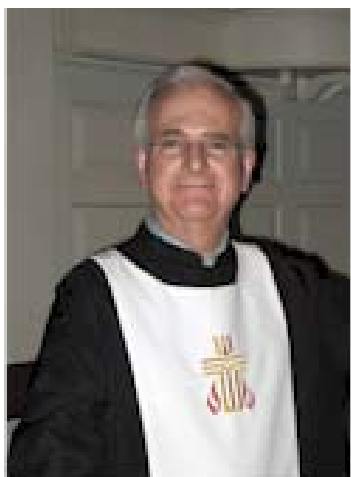
In the winter of 2009 – 2010, the Charlottesville area was blanketed under the most snow since 1881 when records were first kept. Over fifty-five inches of snow fell in the December through February time frame. On Sunday, February 14, 2010, the lawn at the church was decorated with pink flamingos, encouraging passers-by to “join our flock.”



Elizabeth Norfrey, Interim Sanctuary Choir Director, and her husband, David, have been married for nearly twenty-five years. They met while working on master's degrees at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Elizabeth has served in many aspects of music ministry since high school, directing ensembles of all ages and various styles. Her desire is to worship God through music and to help others to do the same. Elizabeth is responsible for coordinating all music for the 11:15 a.m. service. She also enjoys coaching "non-singers," so that they may gain confidence in congregational singing. Elizabeth and David, with their two daughters, moved to Charlottesville in 2006 from Rhode Island, where they lived for sixteen years. Elizabeth also has a bachelor's degree in Spanish and works part time in social services to the Latino community. She is currently a member of the Stephen Ministry training class. Elizabeth enjoys walking and tennis, cooking and baking, choral singing, and watching movies at home with the family.



Elizabeth Norfrey  
Interim Choir Director



Roger Authers  
Interim Organist



David Norfrey  
Interim Handbell Choir Dir.

As interim organist, Roger Authers plays our fine Casavant pipe organ at the 11:15 a.m. worship service each Sunday. Roger joined First Presbyterian Church in 2004 after moving from Connecticut to Charlottesville with his wife, Donna. He has been active in church music all his life, both in his native England and since moving to the United States in 1993. Roger enjoys woodworking and construction projects and has worked on First Presbyterian Church Habitat for Humanity projects and participated in several mission trips. He is also business manager for the Oratorio Society of Virginia.

David Norfrey has served as interim Handbell Choir director at First Presbyterian Church since February 2008. He is the accompanist for the University Singers and Chamber Singers at the University of Virginia and a freelance accompanist at the University and in the Charlottesville area. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have held music ministry positions at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville and at churches in Rhode Island and Georgia. David holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Oberlin Conservatory and a master's degree in sacred music/organ from Westminster Choir College. From 1991 to 2005 David was department accompanist/special lecturer at Providence College (Rhode Island). He also was an active piano/organ accompanist in southern New England, at the University of Rhode Island, Community College of Rhode Island, with the Providence Singers, and, for eight consecutive years, the Rhode Island Senior High All-State Chorus. David and Elizabeth have two daughters.



Doug Friesema

Doug Friesema is our Ministry Intern for 2009/2010. After graduating from Monticello High School and the University of Virginia, he spent two years working as a financial information analyst. During that time Doug was involved in the young adult activities of the church, served as a deacon on the Christian Outreach Committee, and volunteered as a Senior High youth leader. In his new role, he will continue to focus on developing Senior High ministries and helping new confirmands transition into faithful and engaged church membership. This will mean taking on some leadership duties within the diaconate, attending a variety of committee, session, and staff meetings, and serving on the Evaluation Task Force to learn about the structure and leadership of the church. He will also assist with Sunday morning worship and other pastoral care needs within the congregation. In his free time, Doug enjoys outdoor sports, especially skiing and canoeing. Doug loves the idea of working in the church he was confirmed



in! In January of 2010, he submitted his requested as an inquirer status for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

The following persons are part of the support staff of the First Presbyterian Church:



Rebecca Ewing



Michael Joyce



PD Yates



Susan Lawson

Rebecca "Becky" Ewing has been on the First Presbyterian Church staff as music and administrative assistant since 2003. However, since 1999 she has been quite active in the music ministry of the church as a Sanctuary Choir member and soloist. Some of Becky's general office duties include editing the weekly service recordings for radio broadcast and formatting First Pres, the church's monthly newsletter. Becky was born and raised in New England, where she studied voice for many years and performed as soloist with several choral and chamber music groups. Becky also lived in Winston-Salem, NC, for a time, where she met her long-time partner, Paul (the piano tuner), while they were singing in the same choral group. Becky and Paul live in the Charlottesville area with their two cats, Jenny and Forrest.

Michael Joyce joined the staff of First Presbyterian Church in 2006 as our facilities manager, bringing ten years of contracting experience to us. Michael was born in New York and his family moved south to North Carolina when he was in high school; for the past ten years he has called Central Virginia home. A country boy at heart, Michael, his wife, Jeanie, and son, Jacob, live outside of Madison in a house that he built in the woods. Michael enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities, especially hiking with his family.

PD Yates started part-time work at First Presbyterian Church in 2000 as a cook, utilizing his many years of culinary experience. In 2003 he became a full-time facilities worker for the church, but continues to wear his chef's hat for Kirk Nights and special events. His motto: "I do whatever it takes to make the church tick." A member of Zion Union Baptist Church, PD has lived in the Charlottesville area off and on since 1997. In his spare time he spoils his dogs and does auto detailing.

In 1998, Susan Lawson was hired as the pastors' secretary and is now the office administrator. Her main focus is the preparation of the Sunday worship bulletin; but she also answers phones, meets and greets people coming into the church, and provides to committees and church members whatever assistance is needed. A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Susan moved to Virginia after her 1981 marriage to her husband, Robert, a farmer. She has two

children. Susan is happiest spending time with her husband on their beautiful family farm, curling up with a good book, and walking for exercise and enjoyment.

The Rev. Gavin Meek's last Sunday with First Presbyterian Church was August 21, 2011. Parting was difficult for many, including this scribe. A celebration of Gavin's ministry was held in the fellowship hall as all enjoyed a bowl of ice cream. Elder David Pettit acted as master of ceremonies, and the following spoke about Gavin and his influence on the congregation while building a new foundation: A ninth grader Blair Doby, Elder Lee Witherow, Elder Diane Schmidt, Deacon Gweneth West, and The Rev. Kim Wells. An entertaining and enjoyable time was had by all. During the worship service, Rev. Meek was presented a Resolution that was authorized by the session and prepared by Elder Bob Garnett.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
RESOLUTION OF SESSION**

WHEREAS REVEREND GAVIN D. MEEK has served with distinction as INTERIM PASTOR of First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, since September 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS Reverend Meek has served as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament for twenty-three years, more than half of those years as an interim pastor at our church and four previous churches; and

WHEREAS during his tenure he has faithfully and energetically fulfilled his responsibilities by leading worship, providing pastoral care and teaching, bringing us the Word of God, along with words of comfort, encouragement and challenge; and

WHEREAS Reverend Meek led our congregation, along with Session and the Diaconate, through a review of our church's history and a bold mission study, resulting in a new vision for our work and challenges as God's people; and

WHEREAS he continued to lead us as this congregation sought to implement that vision and to discern God's will and strive to fulfill God's call to each of us in the priesthood of all believers; and

WHEREAS Reverend Meek has had an impact on all of us individually and collectively as we sought God's will to heal a conflicted church, at times feeling like the Israelites wandering in the desert; and

WHEREAS in so doing, he has empowered us, with God's help, to seek the Promised Land and a new beginning and to move forward in the work of the Church; and

WHEREAS Reverend Meek has done all these things with grace, good humor and humility, thus earning our gratitude and deepest affection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Session, on behalf of the entire congregation, gives thanks to God for Reverend Gavin D. Meek, honors him and prays for God's blessings upon him and his new wife, Jen, as they enter a new chapter in their lives, and for his ongoing work and ministry in other churches.

Executed by the Session, First Presbyterian Church, on this 21st day of August 2011, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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Lois W. Baylor, Clerk of Session

The Rev. Gavin Meek and The Rev. Jennifer H. Kottler are to be married on October 22, 2011 in Butler, Pennsylvania and will live in New York City where Rev. Kottler is serving as an associate pastor.

**Chapter 18**  
**The Forney Years**  
**2011 –**

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The Rev. Dr. David G. Forney  
2011 -

Dr. David G. Forney was elected to be the new Pastor and Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church Charlottesville on Sunday, July 24, 2011 by an overwhelming vote of the nearly 240 members in attendance at a special called meeting of the congregation. The final tally was 235 in favor and two opposed. Dr. Forney began his service at the end of August and preached his first sermon on September 4th.

His selection was the result of an extensive process undertaken by the nine members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), which began in August of 2010. This diverse team met forty times, reviewed more than 140 applications for the job (which averaged eight to ten pages in length), had twenty interviews over the telephone, traveled to five states to observe pastors in their home churches, and spent more than nine hours in discussion with Dr. Forney before recommending him to the congregation for this call.

Dr. Forney comes to Charlottesville from the First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville, Tennessee, where he served four years. During his tenure a number of exciting things happened including significant growth in the youth programs at the church and an increase in small group relationships that strengthened the spiritual formation in that church.

It was significant to the PNC that Dr. Forney was not looking for a change in call during our search. He had not posted his Personal Information Form (PIF/resume) on the national Presbyterian website to let other PNC teams know that he was willing to take a new call. However, Dr. Ken McFayden from Union Seminary in Richmond, who preached at our church in January of 2010, knew Dr. Forney and thought that his gifts and our church were a good fit. He encouraged both sides to make contact, and that encouragement led the PNC to the decision to recommend Dr. Forney.



Pastor Nominating Committee, First Row, L-R: Diane Schmidt, Sue Brown, Kathy Doby, and Kitty Pettit, Presbytery of the James Committee on Ministry. Second Row, L-R: Tyler McPhillips, David Rathburn, Terry Forbes, Ashley Schauer, Jim Hubbard, and Mac Thompson.

Dr. Forney has a strong theological background strengthened by eight years of teaching at the Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. He comes with an understanding of the business world after being trained as a civil engineer at the University of Kansas. After serving three years as a

highway design engineer, Dr. Forney answered God’s call that was leading him to seminary. He grew up in a strong Presbyterian home in Denver, Colorado, and had been around the church all of his life.

Dr. Forney made the fateful decision to attend Princeton Seminary where he not only received his divinity degree but met his future wife Liz, a fellow seminarian. After he completed his studies at Princeton, he moved to University Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas. Dr Forney says, “It was there that the intersection of faith, service, and inquiry took root in my ministerial role as we wrestled joyfully with what the gospel means to students, professors, and university staff alike.”

While in Texas, he completed his doctoral studies at the University of Texas’s College of Education and LBJ School of Public Policy. He expected to continue his ministry following his graduation, but felt called to teach. That led Dr. Forney to Atlanta to serve eight years on the theological education faculty at Columbia, followed by answering a call to Clarksville.

Says Dr. Forney, “Since returning to congregational service, friends have asked me about my pastorate and how it compares with my work in theological education, to which I have responded, ‘It’s alive!’ And it is ministry’s liveliness that I thoroughly enjoy, as people engage in the good news of forgiveness, reconciliation, and service. I see it through the 55,000 meals served by volunteers annually at the (FPC Clarksville) church, through the seventh-grade confirmation class where young people ask the central questions of our faith, through worship where the Word is preached and heard, and through baptisms and celebrations of the Lord Table. In short, I daily witness grace as we journey together in God’s mission.”

Dr. Forney continues his educational interests as Editor of the *Journal of Religious Leadership* for the next two years. This journal publishes articles to help ministers to be more effective pastors. Dr. Forney also contributes articles that he has written, most recently one entitled “A Calm in the Tempest: Developing Resilience in Religious Leaders” in the spring 2010 edition.

Dr. Forney and his wife Liz have two children. Sam is 14 and will be in eighth grade at Burley Middle School and Ellie, 11, will be in sixth grade at Burley.







As the pictures above indicate, it was a glorious day as the congregation gathered for worship and the installation of the 17<sup>th</sup> Installed Pastor, The Rev. Dr. David G. Forney, on October 16, 2011. The commission consisted of the following: Steve Allred, Ruling Elder, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church, Richmond; the Rev. Liz Forney, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville; The Rev. Doug Hicks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian, Richmond; The Rev. Kathryn Korbon, Cove Presbyterian; Kitty Pettit, Ruling Elder, Meadows Presbyterian; Jocelyn Schauer, Ruling Elder, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian; and The Rev. Kimberleigh Wells, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian. Following the installation, the congregation enjoyed cider and sweets on the lawn.



The Rev. Liz Forney, delivered the following charge to her husband and our new pastor:

*“Oh my – how many wives pray for an opportunity like this? It’s almost too much. There are so many temptations in making a public charge. Like charging you to be home for dinner most nights of the week, or charging you to take the family on vacations regularly. But already do that – you gifted at balance and I have no worries you will remain so, and I don’t stand here as your spouse on this occasion – though it has been my privilege to be so for these last 18 years. I stand here invited by this commission and on behalf of the Holy Spirit to call you to your truest self – to craft a prism of word through which you will focus your ministry in this season.*

*With what would God charge you? By what name does God call you that the Spirit would have you remember and stay true to in such a dazzling and delightful place? What are the temptations of which I am called to make you aware of as a friend in Christ and companion in life and ministry?*

*You who are provider, papa, leader, problem solver, go getter, dragon slayer, must remember you first name, your truest name – and that name is Child of God. In the remembering of that name, God invites you to hear the summons to cling to Him first and foremost. So first I charge you to remember that you are God’s child.*

*You are surely one of the most capable human beings I have ever known and that can lead one to forget where all grace and power truly come from. As you stand strong and bear the weight of many decisions, broken hearts, and unavoidable conflicts in leading this congregation, remember that there are stronger, surer, Divine hands that support that weight with you and for you. This church is led by you and Kim and the Elders, Deacons, and all the minister members, but God alone is head of this church. Lean into God’s sovereignty and feel free to release that which is beyond your control, and trust that God has a plan for where we’re headed even if we don’t see it yet. Child of God, I charge you to remember the watermark on your forehead and on your soul – and be free.*

*Finally, the Spirit has urged me remind you and charge you with this little bit of sacred wisdom from the holy ones at the airline industry. You’ve heard it many times, and you speak it in wisdom to others often, but it truly bears repeating. We have watched those we love hyperventilate and pass out because they failed to follow this critical rule of pastoral safety. ‘In the event of an emergency involving cabin pressure, oxygen masks will drop from the compartment above your seat. Even though the mask may not inflate, oxygen is flowing. If you are traveling with others needing assistance, please make sure you have fastened your own mask before assisting others.’*

*That’s right – No one wants a passed out pastor. So I charge you in the name of the One who fills our lungs and soul – the very breath of God – Holy Ruach – Fill your cup so you can be poured out for others. Pray, read, rest, play, climb a mountain, make some sawdust, eat some sushi – you know what fills that tank – inhale deeply of the love of God that surrounds each one of us – if we but pause to breath deep.*

*That is all I have to give you as a charge – honor God’s sovereignty and your identity as a child of the King. Trust and follow where the Spirit leads and remember to inhale deeply and regularly so that your cup may be full and your light may shine to the glory of God.”*

In an interview with Dr. Forney in 2014, he looked back over the three years of his ministry at First Presbyterian Church. When you look back on Dr. Forney's ministry, it is necessary to talk about the importance of what happened prior to his arrival. As he stated, "a member of the Pastoral Search Committee referred to that period as 'the recent unpleasantness.'"

It is important to say that what happened was a part of the church history, and has huge impact on the years that followed. It is part of who this congregation recovering from the death of Dr. Kennedy, Carol Schneider, Jeff LeDue, and the resignations of Dr. Massey and Rev. Read..

Dr. Forney reminded me of the importance of the Mission Study Group and the significant work that was done prior to his arrival. It had broad participation, and was the road map for what has taken place over the past three years. The staffing model proved to be a very good model in implementing a successful process in dealing with filling personnel positions. It was determined early, that the church was not adequately staffed for pastoral care. With changes made in the Book of Order, Covenant Pastors were established as a temporary way where ordained pastors could serve at the discretion of the session. Covenant Pastors are not installed pastors and serve under yearly contracts with the session. The Rev. Elizabeth Forney and The Rev. Kendall Person were employed by the session to meet the needs for pastoral care. Kathy Doby was hired as Director of Children's Ministry and member involvement coordinator.

Dr. Jeremy Thompson was hired as Director of Music, replacing six part time temporary employees. With Dr. Thompson on board, two part time assistant directors were hired, Ashley Grundler and Jordan Davidson. Pictures of the current staff can be found below.



The Rev. Kimberleigh E. Wells, Associate Pastor for Discipleship  
The Rev. Elizabeth Forney, Covenant Pastor for Congregational Care  
The Rev. Kendall Pearson, Covenant Pastor for Mid High Youth  
Dr. Jeremy Thompson, PhD Director of Music



Ashley Grundler, Assistant Director of Children's Music  
Jordan Davidson, Assistant Director of Youth Music



Kathy Doby, Director of Ministry for Children and their families  
Kathryn Freer, Parish Nurse  
Donna Buchanan, Preschool Director  
Judy Blair, Business Manager



Susan Lawson, Receptionist and Office Administrator  
Rebecca Ewing, Communication Director  
Michael Joyce, Facilities Manager  
PD Yates, Custodian

During 2014, the congregation planned and celebrated the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church in 1839. From the picture below, the celebration is being announced to the community and welcoming them to join in the "On Going Heritage."



The month of August was designated for special events and the celebration. On August 3rd, the history of the church was presented by Bob Simpson to a large and enthusiastic gathering. Introduced by Dr. Forney, Mr. Simpson presented a pictorial history that seemed to be enjoyed by all present. On August 10th, Amy Gillespie presented a history of the Sunday school. The church has a rich and long history of Christian Education within the congregation. On August 17th the history of missions was presented by Nancy and Rich Lutz. Local and foreign mission has always been a priority of the congregation. Several chapels in around Charlottesville provided a local outreach to the community. Sunday and Wednesday evening services were held.

The Grand Celebration took place on August 24th with a combined worship service. Dr. Forney's sermon topic was "Becoming Our Heritage." The scripture lessons were taken from Matthew 16:13-20 and Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8. The 175th anniversary video, produced by Jacob Bear was played, and the 50 year members were recognized.

## 50+ YEAR MEMBERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ethel Boring July 1, 1962	Roberta Hunt November 4, 1962
John Boring July 1, 1962	Beverly Kocotas October 5, 1958
Cary Jean Breeden July 17, 1938	Betty Leake December 9, 1951
Doris Buck November 5, 1961	Nancy Lowry April 13, 1960
Duanne Carter December 16, 1953	Linda Maupin April 12, 1960
Ann Coffey April 7, 1940	Bill McChesney March 22, 1964
Evelyn Conley April 7, 1946	Francis McDowell January 10, 1932
Joanne Conley September 11, 1955	Carol Megahan November 2, 1958
Helen Dickerson October 7, 1956	Renwick Megahan November 2, 1958
Calvin Dodd October 7, 1945	Doris Melton November 7, 1948
Virginia Dodd November 8, 1959	Lucille Melton January 4, 1953
Gracie Dulaney April 7, 1946	Downing Miller March 22, 1964
Alice Easton May 21, 1940	Bobbie Mooney September 7, 1958
Arthur Edwards April 17, 1957	Russell Mooney April 2, 1944
Ralph Feil April 17, 1957	Grace O'Brien June 7, 1964
Mary Felger October 7, 1956	Nancy Oakey February 21, 1954
Ted Felger October 7, 1956	Oran Oakey April 10, 1938
Grace Ford June 4, 1961	Vickie Parr June 7, 1964
Reo Ford June 4, 1961	Caleb Pennock January 16, 1963
Margaret Fowler October 13, 1946	Hollis Proffitt July 3, 1947
Caroyl Gooch March 17, 1940	Juanita Purvis March 1, 1964
Peggy Harbert January 3, 1960	Mary Elizabeth Snoddy December 14, 1958
Julie Howard January 8, 1956	Robert Snoddy December 14, 1958
Kal Howard January 8, 1956	Velma Walton May 7, 1933
Libby Hoyle January 8, 1956	Margaret Wood December 9, 1951



Congregation Picture, August 24, 2014

**Chapter 19**  
**Membership Statistics**  
**1839 - 2009**

Membership is of interest to most keepers of statistics. From a modest beginning in 1839, the membership of the Charlottesville Church reached 100 members in 1844. It was thirty years later, 1878, before the Church had 200 members. In 1866, there was a large loss mainly due to the black members leaving to form their own churches. The membership grew ever so slowly during the first fifty years, and then, through the strong leadership and influence of Dr. Petrie, the membership took an upward trend. From 1878, and over the next fifty years, the membership increased from 202 to 657 members.

The membership remained stable throughout the 1930's and 1940's, then took an upward trend in 1951, and continued for the next thirty years. The membership reached its peak in 1981, at 1682. The general overall decline in membership since 1981 mirrors the general decline experienced in most main line Protestant churches, and on January 1, 2010, the Church had 1342 members. The most significant factor contributing to the decline occurred in 1982 and 1994, when 213 and 282 members respectively were placed on the inactive roll. In 2004, and again in 2008, the primary loss of members was due to dissatisfaction with the direction of the church and church leadership. Purging the membership roll in 2009 was emphasized and also resulted in losses.

Average Statistics Per/Year				
Years	Average Gains	Average Losses	End of Period Membership	Average Baptisms
1840-49	12	7	97	6
1850-59	15	9	156	5
1860-69	12	16	128	6
1870-79	22	13	215	9
1880-89	30	17	349	13
1890-99	37	30	425	14
1900-09	33	25	500	11
1910-19	47	45	512	16
1920-29	71	65	718	29
1930-39	58	52	770	17
1940-49	54	61	708	25
1950-59	76	62	1028	27
1960-69	109	76	1360	31
1970-79	135	105	1661	34
1980-89	85	102	1492	26
1990-99	92	79	1617	29
2000-09	71	99	1571	21

Average Statistics Per/Year

Years	Average Gains	Average Losses	End of Period Membership	Average Baptisms
2010	47	373	1016	9
2011	40	35	1021	15
2012	62	31	1052	13
2013	55	37	1070	7

The PCUSA remains the largest of the Presbyterian denominations, but its membership has been in decline for many years. According to statistics from the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), total membership at the end of 2013 was 1.76 million, down from 2,267,118 in 2006. The number of PCUSA congregations at the end of 2013 was 10038. The General Assembly moderator recently acknowledged that churches were leaving the PCUSA at a rate of five per week. According to the 2012 membership statistics the Presbyterian Church (USA) declined by more than 100,000 in 2012. It is the single largest annual membership decline since the PCUSA was formed in 1983. As a side note, all mainline churches are in decline.

It is impossible to tell whether the general overall decline in membership of the PCUSA has had any effect on the decline in membership of the First Presbyterian Church, but the possibility is present.

The major benefactors of the decline have been the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), a denomination established in 1981. They currently have 500 congregations and approximately 145,000 members in 11 presbyteries. Also, the newest Presbyterian denomination, A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) is also seeing growth as it moves along in its second year of existence. ECO was formed in January 2012, and currently has 146 congregations.



## **Chapter 20**

### **I CHOOSE....**

**I CHOOSE LOVE....**No occasion justifies hatred; No injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

**I CHOOSE JOY....**I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

**I CHOOSE PEACE....**I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

**I CHOOSE PATIENCE....**I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

**I CHOOSE KINDNESS....**I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

**I CHOOSE GOODNESS....**I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will boast. I will confess before I will accuse. I choose goodness.

**I CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS....**Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

**I CHOOSE GENTLENESS....**Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

**I CHOOSE SELF-CONTROL....**I am a spiritual being...After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will not, rule the eternal. I choose self control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek his grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest.

Max Lucado  
When God Whispers Your Name

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In the holiday classic “It’s A Wonderful Life,” the protagonist, George Bailey, has bestowed upon him a great gift: The chance to see what the world would be like had he never been born. Suddenly, the people who once knew him well are strangers. All that was once dear to him is swept away as this poignant fantasy unfolds.

Eventually, after much tribulation and convincing, his guardian angel, Clarence, informs George that he did indeed have a wonderful life. He did not realize that his life had touched the lives of so many others. It is a very simple message, but very true. The ripple effect caused by the existence of this kind and selfless man was profound for him and his community.

How many lives have been touched by the life of Jesus Christ? His abiding presence keeps watch over not only the people of Charlottesville, but also those who have known and loved Him and call upon Him as Lord, the Great Sheppard of the sheep. Most of the members of First Presbyterian Church are average men and women who believe deeply in God, and that we must reach out daily to meet the needs of others. As we look to the future of the First Presbyterian Church, we must do so praising God for all those like the holiday classic who have had a wonderful life and have made a profound difference in the lives of others in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The history of First Presbyterian Church like the study of Luke’s Gospel gives us an opportunity of becoming acquainted with our Lord Jesus Christ through the eyes and ears of others. How these people, just like you and me, responded to Christ with faith and obedience. It has been said, that faith is an inward transformation, a turning away from self-sufficiency and embracing the saving power of God. It has also been said, that obedience is that outward and visible result of a faith experience. Peter grew slowly into his faith, stumbling and faltering along the way. Paul’s faith appears to have occurred in a dramatic moment. Unfortunately, some are unable or unwilling to make the leap of faith. The rich man did not follow Jesus, but turned away in sadness.

You and I, as members of the First Presbyterian Church, will be challenged over the next several years, may our faith in Christ transform us, and may our obedience as a community of faith be visible to ourselves and others and that God’s name might be praised.

As a Christian community let us constantly glance toward the past, but as a congregation let us keep looking to the future. Time moves in only one direction, toward the future. History is unimportant excepting what we may learn from the lessons of the past. The history that is important is the history that we make today. We make history by the things we do today, by the things we think today, and by the faith in which we live our lives. Every member of the First Presbyterian Church is part of the history being written today. What kind of history will it be? The invitation to follow Christ is available today. May our individual faith experience continue to transform this community of faith, as we live as a faithful community of Christian stewards committed to the joyful service of God...through worship, education, evangelism, and ministry? Friends, it is indeed a “Wonderful Life!”

**Keep your fork; the best is yet to come!**



Memorial Garden and Chapel



Confessional Banners of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

The Nicene Creed, (4<sup>th</sup> Century); The Apostles Creed; The Scots Confession (Scotland, 1560);  
 The Heidelberg Catechism (Germany, 1563); The Second Helvetic Confession (Switzerland,  
 1566); The Westminster Confession and the Shorter Catechism (England, 1646); the Theological  
 Declaration of Barmen (Germany, 1934); The Confession of 1967 (USA); and Brief Statement of  
 Faith

## Chapter 21

### Elders and Deacons

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#### Elders

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Acker, H. S.	1941-44	Brownlee, Richard	1999-01
Allen, William H.	1848-	Brunton, Laurence Alec	1939-47, 1949-55, 1957-63, 1965-70, 1972-78, 1981-83, 1991-93
Ammons, Bea	2001-03	Burgess, Cathy	2004-06
Andrews, James C.	1959-62, 1967-68	Burgess, William	2011
Arnold, William K.	1955-61, 1965-70	Burnet, Beth	1978-82
Awad, Alias M.	1990-92, 2003-05	Burnet, Robert S.	1931-49, 1951-57
Bailey, C. Bernard	1951-57, 1959-64,1967-66,1971-72	Burnley,, Nat	1937-40
Ball, Steven	2004-06	Burnley, Seth	1934-41
Barrick, Richard H.	1965-70, 1973-78,1980-82,1985-87	Burris, J. Michael	1996-98
Barron, Gayle	1999-01	Cadwallader, Cecil K.	1993-95
Barton, Thomas	2009-11	Cadwallader, Janice	1988-90, 1999-00
Baylor, Tom	2005-07	Campbell, Samuel	1836-
Bear, David	2013-15	Carr, David W.	1986-88, 1991-93
Beckwith, Rodney F.	2004-06 2008-10	Carr, James Overton	1830-59
Bibb, Albert Pendelton	1871-77	Carswell, Jean	1999-01
Bishop, Early L.	1965-70, 1973-78, 1983-85	Carswell, William	2008-10
Bishop, Sandy	2001-03	Carter, Duanne	1989-91
Blaeser, Robert L.	1961-66	Carter, Tuck	1996-98, 2003-05
Blackford, Tory	2013-15	Chronister, Jay L.	1980-82
Blakey, Angus Rucker	1866-96	Coakley, Alice Lee	1967-72, 1975-90, 1982-84
Blauvelt, Howard W.	1987-89	Coldwell, John M.	1945-51, 1955-61, 1962-66
Bock, Gary	2001-03	Comey, Lyman R.	1980-82
Bolick, Woodrow Wilson	1971-76, 1989-91	Craft, Patricia	1990-92, 1999-01
Bolton, Shirley	1987-89	Critzler, Ronald	2012-14
Bosselman, Brooke	2003	Daniel, Frank Dunnington	1937-45
Bowden, Charles	2001-03	Daniel, Thomas H.	1922-64
Bradley, Robert J. Jr.	1985-87	Davis, Edward W.	1990-92 2009-11
Brewer, George J.	1989-91	Davis, Pat	2000-02
Brewer, James E.	1981-83	Davis, Robert M.	1951-57, 1959-64
Brickhouse, Robert L.	1987-89	Davison, John P.	1960-82
Brown, Frederick L.	1934-39	Deacon, Ralph L.	1987-89
Brown, Howard	1977-79	Dean, Christine	2009-11
Brown, Sue	1990-92 2009-11		
Brown, Travis D.	1982-84		
Brown, William E.	1947-53		

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Dimberg, Ronald G.	1979-81, 1983-85, 1986-88, 1993-95, 2000-02, 2005-07
Dinwiddie, Edgar Evans	1912-42
Dinwiddie, Edward G.	1978-80
Dinwiddie, Harmon Anderson	1939-47
Disque, Fred C.	1934-39
Doane, Frank Howard	1979
Doane, Janet E.	1983-85
Doby, Kathy	2008-10
Dodd, John K.	1967-72, 1977-80, 1984-86
Doby, Kathy	2008-10
Donnally, Jesse P.	1955-61
Dougald, Karen	2011-13
Downer, Robert H. Jr.	1989-91, 2001-02
Doyle, Tom	2011-13
Drinkard, Suzanne	1993-95
Drinkard, G. Lawson, III	1982-84, 1989-91
Dunnington, Frank P.	1884-44
Early, Fred Roy	1937-45
Farmer, James	1995-97
Feil, Ralph W.	1967-72, 1974-80, 1985-86
Felger, Mary	1981-83, 1988-90
Fewell, Jack A.	1949-55, 1957-63, 1965-70
Fitch, J. Samuel, Jr.	1947-53
Fitzhugh, Glasser Slaughter	1953-59
Flint, Roger B.	1967-72, 1975-80, 1989-91, 1995-97
Flora, Frank E.	1969-74
Forbes, Terry	2001-03, 2010
Ford, Reo F.	1947-56, 1963-68, 1971-76, 1984-86, 1988-90
Forloines, Glenn	2005-06
Foster, Fred	1997-99, 2003, 2004-06
Franklin, Jane	2003-05
Fry, William O.	1878-89
Fuller, Susannah	2014-16
Fulton, Roger	2001-03
Fulton, Sue	2004-06
Garth, James W.	1953-59
Garnett, Robert	1992-94, 2009-11
Gatewood, Edwin E. Jr.	1985-86, 2010-12

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Gatewood, Elizabeth	2_004-06, 2008-10
Gaylord, Charles N.	1953-59, 1961-66, 1969-74, 1979-81
Gibson, Clarence C.	1955-59, 1962-66
Gibson, W. A.	1934-39
Gillespie, Amy	2011-13
Gillum, Roy T.	1947-53
Gilmer, Thomas W.	1836-37
Glenn, H. Wilson	1941-42
Goodwin, David N.	2000-02
Granneman, Ruth	1969-74
Grattan, Marty	1984-86, 1996-98
Grattan, George G.	1979-81, 1988-90,
Graybill, Blair	2003
Greene, Gary	1996-98, 2004-06
Griggs, L. D.	1955-61, 1963-68
Grimes, Nancy	1988-90
Grimes, Russell N.	1979-81, 1984-86, 1999-01
Grosh, Harriet	2004-06
Hall, Robert Edward, Jr.	1955-58, 1961-66
Halpin, Jeannette	2012-14
Halsey, Franklin M.	2012-14
Hamer, Lynn	1985-87
Hammaker, Paul M.	1973-78, 1980-82, 1988-90
Hartman, Frank E.	1945-51
Hathaway, Ralph	1992-94
Hedges, Halstead Shipman	1912-68
Hemphill, W. Edwin	1947-53
Henderson, William U.	1990-92
Hendryx, Charles W.	1959-64
Herath, Richard A.	2003-06
Hess, J. Claude	1959-64, 1969-74, 1977-79, 1982-84
Heyne, Donald G.	1959-64
Higgins, Ronald L.	1985-87
Higgins, Trish	1992-94
Hitt, Linda	2012-14
Holladay, Albert S.	1871-77
Holstead, B. Woodley	1957-63
Howard-Smith, Richard	2001-03
Howard, Kal W.	1965-70, 1973-78
Hubbard, James	2000-02, 2010-12

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Hudson, Jean	2014-16	Marshall, Woody W.	1939-47
Hulvey, Charles N. Jr.	1947-53	McCue, James Cameron	1963-65
Hurst, Ray C. Jr.	1973-78, 1981-83, 1985-87	McDowell, Wallace W.	1963-68
Hunt, Roberta S.	1988-90	McFarland, Nell	1971-76
Hunter, Carl	1999-01	McLaughlin, L. Margaret	1975-80
Irvine, James Estill	1922-48	McMahon, Edward	2000-02
Isaacs, William R.	1977-79, 1985-87	McPhillips, Debbie	2011-13
Jackson, Newton	1941-49	McQueeney, Thomas A.	1983-85
Jarman, Arthur, M.	1947-53, 1955-61, 1963-68	Meador, Daniel J.	1973-78, 1980-82
Johnson, Alva A.	1983-85	Meador, Jan (Mrs. D. J.)	1987-89
Johnson, Brett	2004	Meiburg, Charles O.	1975-80, 1982-84
Jones, A. Meade Jr.	1953-59, 1961-66	Meiburg, Elizabeth	1986-88, 1996-98, 2005-07
Jones, William Roscoe	1959-64, 1963-85	Metz, John R.	1985-87, 2000-02
Kemp, Verbon E.	1934-36	Micklem, Alice	2011-13
Kennedy, William	2013-15	Miller, Downing	1993-95
Kerewich, Jean	1999-01	Miller, Francis Pickens	1949-55, 1957-63
Kienast, Bettie	1989-91, 2010-12	Miller, James H.	2012-14
Kingma, Doug	1999-01	Mizell, Charles T.	1961-66, 1969-74, 1977-79
Knight, Elaine	2009-11	Moore, George	1969-74
Kocotas, Beverly	1992-94, 2004-06	Morris, Luther O.	1981-83
Kunkler, Donald L.	1973-78, 1985-86	Morrison, James G.	1971-76
Kunkler, Joyce	1989-91	Murphy, William S.	1937-39
Laing, Lewis W.	1953-59, 1961-66, 1969-74	Nicholson, Adriana	2008-10
Lake, Carol L.	1987-89, 1991-93	Nicholas, R. C.	1912-28
Lammey, Archibald	1955-59	Nickels, William I., Jr.	1951-57, 1971-76
Lancaster, J. Littlepage	1947-53, 1955-61, 1963-68	Norris, William E.	1894-22
Leake, Lewis L. Sr.	1977-79	Nuttycombe, Alfred H., Sr.	1945-51
Leitch, Lucille	1977-78, 1979-81	O'Donnell, Beth	2009-11
Lewis, Chauncey D.	1951-57, 1959-64	Orr, William	2003-05
Lewis, Cheri	2001-02	Pate, Ellen P.	1983-85, 1992-94
Locher, Preston	1993-95	Pate, Robert H., Jr.	1986-88
Long, George R.	1963-68	Paterson, John	2004-06
Lutz, Nancy	2010-12	Pattersson, Jim	2014-16
Maine, Nancy B.	1991-93	Payne, Ella	1982-84
Maloney, Eleanor	2003-05	Pennock, Caleb	2014-16
Maloney, David	1992-94, 2010-12	Perkins, George	1888-1918
Manahan, John L.	1934-39	Pettit, Carolyn G.	1991-93, 2004-06
Maphis, Charles Gilmore	1922-38	Pettit, David	1995-97, 2000-02, 2010-12
Marshall, Davis S.	1957-63	Peyton, Charles S.	1838-
		Phelps, Tom	2014-16
		Pilkington, Kirk	2003-05
		Pleasants, William V.	1971-76, 1979-81, 1986-88

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Pollock, James K. 1945-51	1934-39,	Speight, William	1992-94
Powell, Michael	1996-98	Spence, Anne	1986-88
Pritchett, Norton S.	1937-39	Spence, George D. 1967-72	1959-64,
Railey, Lilburn R.	1836-90	Spencer, Hugh M.	1961-66
Raileanu, Suzanne	2001-03	Stark, Peter, A.	1981-83
Ramsey, Charlotte	1986-88	Starns, Deborah	2004-06
Ramsey, Robert E. 1982-84	1975-80,	Starnes, Ora Lee	1967-72
Ramsey, Robert H. 1999-00	1996-98,	Stauffer, George W. 1960-64	1947-63,
Rathburn, David	2008-10	Stevens, C. B.	1906-22
Rathburn, Jane	2012-14	Stevens, Charles Elmo	1937-45
Ray, Sara	2004-06	Stocker, Arthur F. 1981-83, 1988-90	1977-79,
Redinger, Daniel	2004-06	Stone, Jim	2013-15
Reynolds, David	2004-06	Stoudt, Barbara	1993-95
Reynolds, Phillip	2000-02	Swett, Betsy	1993-95
Rex, George L. Jr.	1986-88	Tatum, Robert W.	1963-68
Richardson, Boyd S.	1991-93	Taylor, Alton L. 1995-97	1981-83,
Rivers, Thomas D., Jr.	1967-72	Thach, Presley	2014-16
Robey, E. F.	1934-39	Thompson, Lorin A. 1957-61, 1963-68, 1977-79	1949-55,
Roche, James	2000-02	Thompson, W. McIlwaine 1996-98, 2013-15	1991-93,
Roche, Nancy	1995-97	Treacle, James E.	1991-93
Rogers, John Jr.	1836-	Tull, Herbert B., III	1984
Rosser, Thomas L.	1922-40	Turner, Pam	2011-13
Rowan, William W.	1941-49	Turner, Wayne	2005-07
Sampson, John R.	1894-07	Unger, Phil	1999-01
Savides, Nancy 2000-02	1992-94,	Valentine, Robert P.	1888-28
Schauer, Jocelyn	2008-10	VanWagenen, D.	1934-35
Schmidt, David	2005-07	Venable, Charles S.	1878-00
Schmidt, Diane	2008-10	Vest, George W.	1922-35
Schneider, Carol	1999	Waddell, Lyttelton	1884-86
Schwab, Robert	1993-95	Waddell, Lyttelton	1939-45
Sheffield, Sylvia	1995-97	Walker, Hannah	2013-15
Shields, L. Ray	1965-70	Warren, John A.	2003-05
Shields, W. Wallace 1957-63	1949-55,	Warren, Katherine	1987-89
Simpson, Robert C.	2003-05	Watson, Egbert R.	1861-87
Simpson, Robert E.	1984-89	Watson, Frederick L., Sr. 1953-59	1941-49,
Singleton, W. Ralph 1967-72	1957-63,	Watson, Thomas	1971-76
Smith, C. Alphonso	1912-18	Wells, Louise N. 1977-79	1965-70,
Smith, Owen M.	1975-80	Wertenbaker, William	1844-82
Smith, Judy 2001-03	1995-97,	Wessel, Robert E.	1982-84
Smith, Margaret 2007-09	2003-05	West, Gweneth	2012-14
Snead, Vicki	2014-16	Whitten, J. Bruce	1979-81
Snead, James	2010-12	Wilkinson, Henry J.	1953-55
Sneed, John Price	1941-49	Williamson, Jan	1995-97
Snoddy, Mary E. 2000-02	1985-87,	Williamson, John F. Jr.	1990-92
		Williamson, Susan	1999-01

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YEARS</b>
Wilson, Robert	1999
Wilson, Sam	1957-63
Wilson, Susan	2013-15
Winn John J.	1844-50
Witherow, Lee	
Wood, Drury	1861-01
Wood, James Burnley	1930-38
Wood,, Lyttelton W.	1945-51
Wood, Patricia	2005-07
Wood, Robert H.	1894-28
Woods, T. K.	1969-74
Woodson, Thomas	1838-62
Worrell, Barbara	2004-06
Wright, Harry A.	1951-57,
1961-66	
Youel, John K.	1980-82,
1986-88, 1990-92	
Young, C. E.	1894-97
Zimmerman, Donald T.	1971-76,
1979-81, 1983-85	



## Deacons

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Acree, J. W.	1954-60	Brownlee, Diane	1996-98
Adair, Jane	2000-02		2011-13
Adams, James F.	1986-88	Brownlee, Richard	1992
Adams, William H.	1969-74	Bruner, Robert	1990-92
Agop, Victoria	2013-15	Brunton, Laura S.	1965-70
Albert, Sharon	2009-11	Brunton, Laurence A.	1937-39
Alberts, Paula	2011-13	Buchanan, David C.	1967-72
Allen, Ralph O.	1980-82	Burke, Pam	2008-10
Ambruster, David	1992-94	Burkhard, Julie	1988-90
Ammons, Bea	1996-98	Burnet, James H.	1947-53, 1956-62
Ammons, Wes	2014-16	Burnet, Robert G.	1922-31
Anderson, Mark	2000-02	Burnley, Nat	1922-37
Anthony, J. B.	1934-39, 1941-47	Burnley, Ruth B.	1967-72
Antrim, E. M., Sr.	1878-	Burnley, Seth	1941-47
Archer, Vincent W.	1926-	Burris, Gordon C.	1975-80, 1983-85
Arnold, William K.	1947-53	Burris, J. Michael	1990-93
Authers, Donna	2005-07	Burris, Jennifer	2003
Awad, Elias M.	1985-87	Burruss, Elmer E., Jr.	1965-70
Bagwell, Charles C.	1967-72	Bushanan, David C.	1967-72
Bailey, C. Bernard	1945-51	Cadwallader, Cecil K., Jr.	1971-76
Ball, Margaret	2009-11	Cadwaller, Janice W.	1979-81
Ball, Norman A.	1945-51	Campbell, Brian	2013-14
Ball Steven	1999-01	Campbell, Nancy	2009-11
Barnett, Willie T., Jr.	1960-66	Capone, Colette	1993-95
Barrick, Richard H.	1959-64	Carswell, Bill	2000-02
Baylor, Lois	2006-07	Carter, Christopher M.	1989-91
Bear, Jacob	2012	Carter, Jeanne	1985-87
Beckham, T. A.	1965-70	Carter, Margaret	1984
Beddow, T. Frank	1947-53, 1963-68	Carwile, Karen	1999-01
Beistel, Bud B.	1969-74	Chamberlain, Mary M.	1983-85
Bibb, Eugene E.	1953-59	Chambers, Bryan	2004-06
Bishop, Sandy	1993-95	Chambers, Jackson E.	1982-84
Blaeser, Robert L.	1954-60	Chase, Johanna	1990-92
Blanton, Lindsay C.	1947-53	Chronister, Jay L.	1973-78
Blanton, Nathan W.	1953-59, 1963-68	Clark, Marlee	2003-05
Blattman, Walter C.	1979-81	Clark Sam S., Sr.	1951-57
Bolick, Woodrow W.	1954-60, 1963-68	Clarke, Stephen M.	1986-88
Bolton, Shirley W.	1983-85	Clarry, Kenneth C.	1993-95
Bawling, W. P.	1956-62	Clarry, Sally	2003-05,
Bosselman, Bruce	1996-98		2010-12
Bradley, Robert J., Jr.	1981-83	Colcock, Daniel D.	1939-51
Brennan, Jane	1999-01	Coleman, Ashley J.	1945-51
Brewer, George J.	1984-86	Coleman, Phyllis	2005-07
Brewer, James E.	1973-78	Comey, Sue L.	1991-93
Brewer, Nancy	1986-87	Compton, R. F.	1912-
Brower, Harry W.	1983-85	Conley, Eugene W.	1985
Brown, Joseph F., Jr.	1977-79	Cox, Tina	1987-89
Brown, Robert	1990-91	Craft, Courtney S.	1981-83
Brown, Sue	1985-87	Craft, Patricia	1986-88
Brown, Travis D.	1975-80		

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Critzer, Betsy	2009-11	Garnett, Wilson B.	1967-72
Critzer, Shirley	1977-79	Garrett, Ira	1848-
Croll, David B.	1979-81	Garth, James W.	1947-53
Croll, Kathy	1989-91	Gatewood, Edwin E., Jr.	1982-84
Crosby, William S.	1988-90	Gatewood, Sheridan	1990-91
Dabney, Hovey S.	1953-59, 1960-66	Gentry, John S.	1934-39, 1941-51
Daniel, Margaret B.	1975-77	Gianokos, Susan	2014-16
Darrow, Henry A.	1868	Gibson, W. A.	1931-34
Dassance, Charles R.	1981-64	Gilbert, James G.	1984-85
Davis, Edward W.	1982-64	Gillespie, Jim	2013-15
Davis, Robert M., Jr.	1945-51	Gillum, Roy T.	1941-51
Davison, John P.	1963-68	Glick, John	1999-01
Dean, Christine	2004-06	Goodwin, David N.	1980-82,
DeBerandinis, Melanie	2013-15	1985-87, 1993-95	
Dickerson, T. C., III	1967-72	Goodwin, Emily	1990-92
Dinwiddie, Harmon Anderson	1922-39	2006-08	
Doby, Blair	2013	Grant, W. Michaux	1984-86
Dodd, Calvin E.	1963-68	Greer, Louise	1986-88
Dodd, John K.	1960-66	Griesback, R. K.	1963-68
Dougald, Karen	2011-13	Greene, Boo	2005-07
Dougald, Donald E.	1981-83,	Griffith, J. E.	1939-47
2010-12		Grosh, Harriet	2000-02
Downer, Robert H., Jr.	1985-87	Haigh, Jane	1988-90
Doyle, Pat	2011-13	Haigh, Robert W.	1992-94
Doyle, Thomas	2004-06,	Hall, Robert E., Jr.	1941-47, 1949-55
Drinkard, J. Lawson, III	1977-79	Halsey, F. Mack	2001-03
Drinkard, Suzanne	1986-88	Halsey, Robin	1988-90
Duke, R. W.	1884-	Halstead, B. W.	1949-55
Dunnington, Frank P.	1878-84	Hamer, Lynn L.	1981-83
Eades, Ken	1999-01	Hamilton, Brad	2005-07
Early, Fred Roy	1931-37	Hamlin, James T., III	1969-74
Echelberger, Mark	2001-03	Haney Glenn P.	1959-64
Eddins, Joseph C.	1967-72	Harbert, Lucille H.	1979-81
Edwards, Frank J.	1934-39, 1943-49	Hargrave, Douglas	1993-95
Eggleston, C. Carrington	1963-68	Harmon, Daniel Sr.	1868-
Elliott, Erika	2010-12	Harris, Charles P.	1894-
Farmer, James R.	1986-68	Harris, Leonne	1993-95
Feil, Ralph W.	1949-55, 1960-66	Harris, R. F.	1888-
Felger, Mary	1973-78	Hartless, William E.	1975-80
Felger, Ted C.	1960-66	Hartman, Frank E.	1931-45
Felker, Charles	1990-92	Harvey, G. L.	1963-68
Ferguson, Wayne W.	1979-80	Hauenstein, Emily	1995-97
Fitch, J. Samuel, Jr.	1960--66	Hathaway, Ralph L.	1987-89
FitzHugh, G. Slaughter	1947-53	Hayden, Albert H.	1959-64
Forloines, Lesley	2001-03	Hedges, H. S.	1894-12
Foster, Fred	1993-95	Hedrick, R. T.	1960-66
Fowler, Dick	2008-10	Henderson, William U.	1987-89
Fowler, Mary Lou	2003-05	Hendryx, Charles W.	1953-59
Friesema, Doug	2009-11	Herath, Barbara	1990-92,
Fulton, Roger R.	1989-91	2009-11	
Gardner, Darrell C.	1965-70	Herath, Richard A.	1984-86
Garnett, Jan	2012-14	Heyde, Judith	2010-09
Garnett, Robert T.	1988-90	Hibbs, Dean	2005-07

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Higgins, Patricia	1988-90	Lacy, Andrew	1995-97
Higgins, Ronald L.	1981-83	Laing, Lewis W.	1947-53
Hitt, Linda	2004-06	Lambert, Dorothy	1995-97
Hitt, William R.	1984-86	Landers, Miranda	2012
Holden, Pam	2005-07	Langdon, Brenda	1992-94
Holstead, B. W.	1941-47,1949-55	Lauffenburger, Kaye	1975-80
Hopkins, John, M.	1926-	Lawrence William E.	1965-70
Houser, Gail	1986-88	Leake, Lewis L.	1969-74
Houser, Jimmy G.	1981-83, 2004-06	Lientz, Gerald	2005-07
Howard, Anne	1992-94	Leitch, Lucille	1969-74
Howard, Dennis	1989-91	Lietch,, Thomas S.	1975-78
Howard, Kal W.	1960-64	Lewis, Chauncey D.	1943-49, 1949-51
Howard-Smith, Susan	2010-12	Lewis, Cheryl	1995-97
Hulvey, Charles N.	1939-45	Lindsay, Clarke E.	1947-60
Hunt, Ray C. Jr.	1965-70	Linton, Harry S.	1947-60
Hutchin, Dennis	2003-05	Lowry, John C.	1979-81
Huyett, F. M.	1912	Lovchuk, Marty	1996-98
Inglis, Patricia	2005-07	Luck, Carlton M.	1980-82
Irvine, James E.	1893-22	Luck, Joan	2006-08
Isaacs, Barbara B.	1981-83	Lynch, Herman W.	1971-76
Isaacs, Steve	1993-95	Lytch,, R. Gilbert	1953-59
Isaacs, William R.	1969-74	MacKay, Donald M.	1956-62
Jenkins, Anita	2012-14	Maine, Nancy	1977-79
Jepson, Larry	2003-05	Maine. Reuben E.	1971-76, 1982-84
Jessup, Claude A.	1945-51	Maloney, David M.	1988-90
Jessup, Claude B.	1967-72	Maloney, Eleanor	1995-97
Johnson, Alva A.	1979	Manning, Charles A.	1977-79
Johnson, Barry W.	1991-93	Maphis, Charles S.	1912-22
Johnson, Keith	2000-02	Marshall, Davis S.	1951-57
Jones, Eugene B.	1959-60	Marshall, Robert E.	1947-53
Jones, Jennifer	2012-14	Marshall, Woody W.	1937-45
Jones, Madge	1980-82	Martin, Kevin	2001-03
Jongeneel Dirk	1982-84	Mathias, Jane	1999-01
Jowdy, Yvonne	2003-04	Mathias, Richard	1992-94
Junke, Victor G.	1982-84	McCann, Claudia	2001-03
Katstra, Dirk	2014-16	McChesney, William T., Sr.	1973-78
Keller, Andrew D.	1977-79, 1983-85	McCormick, Fred C.	1956-62
Kelley, Jocelyn	2003-05, 2012-13	McCue, J. Cameron	1953-59
Kemp, Verbon	1931-34	McCue, J. Samuel	1894-
Kennedy, Karen	2008-10	McCutchan, J. Wilson	1943-49
Kerewich, Jane	1995-97	McDowell, Wallace W.	1956-62
Key, Hazel	1973-78	McFarland, James E., Sr.	1959-64
Keyes, Karl E.	1977-79, 1983-85	McIntire, Paul G.	1922-
Kienast, Joseph L.	1973-78	McPhilips, Pat	2013-15
King, Marshall M.	1959-64	McPhilips, Tyler	2010-12
Kirkland, Ann	1987-89	McIntyre, George M.	1848-
Kiser, Arthur	1999-01	McQueeney, Ellyn	1986-87
Knight, Elaine	1992-94	Meaney, Cathy	2013-15
Knott, Frank M.	1956-62	Meiburg, Charles O.	1967-72
Kocotas, Beverly	1987-89	Melton, Ruben M.	1967-72
Kocotas, Louis J.	1965-70	Metz, John R.	1980-82
Krohn, Carol	2008-10	Mickle, Alice	2006-08
Kunkler, Donald L.	1965-70	Miller, Downing	1985-87

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Miller, James H. II	1996-98	Rex, George L. Jr.	1951-57, 1969-74
Miller, Horace G.	1967-72	Reynolds, David	1996-98
Miller, Stauffer	2012-14	Richards, Nelson	1945-51
Mizell, Charles T.	1954-60	Richardson, Amy	2012-14
Moon, Leigh	1992-94	Richardson, Boyd S.	1984-86
Moore, Nelson L.	1975-80	Riechman, Meg	2006-08
Morris, Luther G.	1977-79, 2012	Ripley, David	1996-98
Morton, Frederick S., III	1959-64	Rivers, Thomas D., Jr.	1960-66
Mueller, Martha	2004-06	Roberson, Mark	2009-11
Mullinnix, Ted L.	1960-66	Robey, E. F.	1912-34
Murphy, J. M.	1884-	Roche, Nancy	1990-92
Myers, Richard	2011-13	Rogers, Mary Evelyn	2009-11
Netemeyer, Susan	2008-10	Rowan, W. W.	1939-47
Nickels, William I., Jr.	1945-51	Ruggles, Marta	2014-16
Nootbaar, Robert	1995-97	Sackson, Mark	2010-12
Norman, Thomas T.	1893-	Sadler, Ellen	1993-95
Norris, William E.	1884-94	Sadler, Michael	1990-92
Nuttycombe, A. H.	1937-45	Savides, John F.	1981-83
O'Donnell, Mark	2008-10	Savides, Nancy	1978-89
Ordell, Arthur W., Jr.	1969-74	Schauer, Ashley	2004-06
Orr, Elizabeth	1990-92	Schmidt, David	2001-03
Park, Susan	2005-07	Schoolcraft, Charles A.	1989-91
Parks, Karen	2003-05	Schwilk, Kenneth A.	1982
Pate, Ellen P.	1979-81	Searson, Charles D.	1959-64
Parrish, Dorman	2010-12	Seiders, Adam Z.	1934-39, 1941-47
Pate, Robert H., Jr.	1971-76	Sesler, Jeff	2003-05
Patterson, James	2001-03	Shelton, Brandon Luther	1969-74
Patterson, Julia	2012-14	Shields, Ray L.	1949-55, 1956-62
Patterson, Pauline G.	1979-81	Showalter, S. J., II	1956-62
Payne, Ella S.	1975-80	Sieg, Heather	2014-16
Pearson, Ted	2008-10	Simmons, Robert	2004-06
Pennock, Charles M., Jr.	1971-76	Simpson, Marilyn	1999-01
Pettit, Carolyn	1984-86	Simpson, Pamela M.	1996-98
Phelps, Holly	2001-03	Sjolinder, Per	2003
Phelps, Thomas	1996-98	Slawski, Alex	2011-13
Phillippe, Megan	2014-16	Sloop, Anne	2000-02
Phillips, Farrell,	1973-78	Smith, Francis W.	1951-57
Phillips, Fred H.	1965-70	Smith, G. William, Jr.	1953-59
Phillips, Mrs. F. H.	1973-78	Smith, Judy	1990-91,
Phillips, Wesley E.	1956-60		2009-11
Pilkington, Annie Lee	2000-02	Smith, William N.	1959-64
Pleasants, William V.	1963-66	Sneed, John Price	1922-41
Poole, Joan H.	1991-93	Snell, Judy	1996
Poole, William B.	1971-76	Snoddy, Joanne B.	1991-93
Powell, Michael	1992-94	Snoddy, Marion H., Jr.	1969-74
Price, Judi	2001-03	Snoddy, Mary Elizabeth	1983-84
Proffitt, Ralph E.	1963-68	Snyder, Earl	1945-49
Railennu, Suzanne	1996-98	Sours, C. C.	1937-45
Rains, Steve	2011-13	Sours, Robert Collins	1956-62
Ramirez, Daniel E.	1980-82	Sparks, Philip	1995-97
Ramsey, Robert E.	1962-66, 1969-72	Spence, George D.	1953-59
Ramsey, Robert H.	1992-94	Spencer, Ellen	1992-94
Ray, Sara	1995-97	Spencer, Gordon L.	1984-86

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Stalfort, Teller	2010-12
Starnes, Doug	2009-11
Stauffer, W. Earl	1965-70
Stegall, Patsy	1999-01
Steward, Larry S.	1980-82
Stewart, Ronald	2011
Stone, Barbara	2012-14
Stone, James R.	1991-93
Stoner, Frank	2000-02
Storey, Girard H., Jr.	1959-64
Stoudt, Barbara	1980-82
Stroh, Robert	1995-97
Swett, Betsy (Mrs. J. T.)	1984-86
Swett, David	2000-02
Swett, Jay T.	1988-90
Tasse, O. A.	1956-62
Tatum, Robert W., Sr.	1953-59
Taylor, Alton L.	1971-76
Taylor, Daniel M.	1947-53
Thach, Presley	2006-08
Thompson, W. Mclwaine, Jr.	1978-89
Tiedeman, Jim	2014-16
Treacle, James E., Jr.	1987-89
Tull, Herbert G., III	1969-74
Turner, Courtney E.	1959-64
Turner, James	1999-01
Turner, Wayne	1990-92
Turner, William R.	1985-87
Tuz, Nancy	2011-13
Vale, Sara	1989-91
Valentine, Robert P.	1878-88
VanDyke, Litz	2008-10
Vest, George W.	1893-22
Via, Warren W.	1941-47
Waddell, Lyttelton	1937-45
Waddell, W. W.	1912-
Wade, Bland M.	1971-76
Wade, Edwin C.	1975-60
Walker, Hannah	2011
Walker, Mac	2013-15
Walp, W. T.	1922-
Washabaugh, Walter,	1937-45
Watson, Egbert R.	1848-61
Watson, Frederick L., Sr.	1926-41
Watson, Thomas	1960-66
Webster, Janet	2000-02
Wehmann, John	2012-14
Walker, Ashley	2014-16
Weller, Gary G.	1977-79
Wells, Fontaine A.	1953-59
West, Gweneth	2008-10
Westbury, Thomas J.	1991-93
Whitcomb, L. Peck	1956-62

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
White, Brinson C.	1989-91
Whitt, Shirley	2020-12
Wild, Diana	1989-91
Williamson, Jan A.	1990-93
Williamson, John F., Jr.	1983-85
Wilson, Robert W.	1991-93,
	2008-10
Wilson, Susan	2008-10
Winnie, Karen	2001-03
Wirthlin, Ralph N.	1956-62
Wood, Courtney	2011-13
Wood, Drury	1848-61
Wood, James B.	1888-30
Wood, James S.	1967-72
Wood, Lyttelton W.	1939-45
Woods, Edgar, Jr.	1906-
Woods, Samuel B.	1884-
Worrell, Ashley	2004-06
Worrell, Barbara A.	1991-93
Worrell, Kenneth	1995-97
Wright, Harry A.	1943-49, 1949-51
Yobs, Robert	2001-03
Youel, John K.	1972-78
Youel, Robbye K.	1983-85
Youell, Charles C., Sr.	1953-59
Zimmerman, Donald T.	1964-68