

25TH ANNIVERSARY
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE

When we invite people to join with us in our worship of God and work for the Lord, we can honestly say, "Join us in our Fellowship of Love."

In 1947 Bayside was conceived in the heart and mind of the Reverend J. Gordon Riggan as he responded in Christian love to the Henry Parker family at the time of the father's death. During the next few years Robbins Corner Chapel came into being through his guidance and through the response of East Ocean View Presbyterian Church to the Bayside community which had no church to witness to God's love and concern for its people.

Over the years, piece by piece - dollar by dollar - hour by hour of labor, all coming from responsive hearts of many people, our sanctuary was built and organization formed. For example, death hit Robbins Corner again in the drowning of Alice Temple Greer. The women of the Chapel turned their love into service to the family in their grief and donated the Chapel's first Communion Set as a Memorial.

In 1953 on October 25th at 4:00 p.m. the Chapel bloomed into Bayside Presbyterian Church as Norfolk Presbytery officially organized it. This was the result of the work of Reverend R. Allen Brown, who was also Pastor of East Ocean View, and the Elders and Members of that Church. Later the Reverend S. K. Emurian, empowered as an Evangelist by Norfolk Presbytery, carried on the Chapel work so it could develop to its full potential.

Once we were organized, Dr. John E. Johnson became our Pastor in 1955 and served for twelve years. Formal organization together with our own Pastor signaled for

more work and response to this rapidly growing community. Dr. Johnnie had to do the very difficult task of helping us see that, even though we had built our building in Robbins Corner with much love, we had to give it up and move to a new location and building if we were to offer God's love to all the people coming here.

With reluctance, but in great faith and love for God and His people, 277 of us undertook a \$225,000.00 indebtedness and moved to our present location, given us by Norfolk Presbytery. During these twelve years came new members, new church building, new manse. On and on we grew as Bayside prepared itself for greater ministry.

In 1967 Dr. Johnson retired and the present Pastor, Fletcher C. Hutcheson, moved into the work. His work has been to continue building upon the foundation already laid. This was very obvious as the second phase of the building program was undertaken and completed in 1970-71. This cost \$150,000.00 and added greatly to the usability of the building. It was needed as the ministry of Bayside had taken on new dimensions of service to the community.

The congregation had requested two things of Mr. Hutcheson: 1 - to challenge and enable the membership to enter greater service according to individual and group abilities; and 2 - to guide the congregation in good stewardship of our building facilities as we serve the community.

It has been a great challenge as these two aims are being fulfilled. The following steps have brought Bayside to a beautiful ministry. First, it has become the stated policy of the church to cooperate with any service organization which ministers to the people in keeping with Christ's ministry, this being done by offering the over-all utilization of our facilities. At present, the following organizations are utilizing our facilities: Boy and Girl Scout Troops - Youth

Group - Senior Citizens - STOP Program - Cerebral Palsy - Way of Life - Music Club - Garden Club - and others. The doors are always open and there is much activity every day.

Secondly, to discover further needs for Christ in life and to move to fulfill those needs in His name, we have sought to train and enable the members of the congregation in ministry. Thirdly, we have moved to strengthen the congregation in this ministry through the employment of a stronger and larger professional staff. This was fulfilled when Robert F. Park joined us as Assistant Pastor in June of 1972. Mr. Park left us in 1974 to become full-time Minister in another church. In July, 1975, Dr. John J. Skelly and his wife, Jane, came to us. Now they are three with the birth of their daughter Sarah in 1977. We now have two Pastors - a full-time and a part-time Church Secretary - a Minister of Music - and a full-time Sexton. Fourthly, we continue to examine our organizational set-up in order to make it a more effective tool through which to minister as people of God in action.

It is as we seek to accomplish this ministry of love in Christ's name that we invite each member, and all who come to us, to join together in the lovely and warm fellowship that is the Church and to find our meaning for life in Christ.

The seeds that were planted 25 years ago have sprung into life. The harvest yield is approximately 930 members. With the help of God, the services of vigilant pastors, the support and love of our congregation, His work will continue to prosper. The Lord's presence is a reality among us.

THANK YOU!

To write the history of an organization and not get involved in using many, many names is a very difficult task. Events do not just occur but are part of the intentional life and witness given by people. However, when it comes to writing up all that has happened in limited space and time, it is an impossibility for any one person or group of people to think of everyone who should receive personal credit for the faithfulness of their service and to be held up as an example for us to follow.

We have, therefore, intentionally tried to leave out names and yet give you a sense of the faithfulness and love in which people have lived and followed the Lord Jesus Christ together. We are aware of all of these people as we remember in gratitude the many acts that have been done, and we express to you our personal thanksgiving for your part within the life and work of Bayside Presbyterian Church.
