

Bayside Presbyterian Church will mark 25th anniversary

The 25th anniversary of Bayside Presbyterian Church will be observed Sunday with the first pastor, Dr. J.E. Johnson, taking part in the 10:30 a.m. service.

Located at Ewell Road and Independence Boulevard, Bayside Church is known affectionately in the community as "the church with the blue windows." It is also known for the doors it opens to many educational and community programs.

Besides a full schedule of Christian activities, the church also houses the STOP (Southeastern Tidewater Opportunities Project), the cerebral palsy school, scouting, Alcoholics Anonymous, YWCA programs, civic league, senior citizens, choral groups, embroidery guilds and garden clubs.

Bayside Presbyterian was organized with 74 charter members in 1953. The work was started in 1948 by the East Ocean View Presbyterian Church under the leadership of the Rev. J.

Gorden Riggan and was continued by the Rev. R. Allen Brown.

The small group of worshippers that formed the nucleus of the Bayside Church first met at the Robbins Corner Chapel. From 1951 to 1954, the Rev. S. K. Emurian supplied the church. When Johnson retired from the Navy as a captain in the Chaplains Corps, he became the pastor. The present church building was built during his ministry to fulfill the needs of the growing congregation. During his Navy service, Johnson was also chaplain for the Fifth Naval District.

In 1967, when Johnson retired, the Rev. Fletcher C. Hutcheson became pastor. In 1975, the Rev. John J. Skelly was called to be associate pastor.

Hutcheson, Skelly and Johnson will join in conducting the anniversary service.

At 12 noon, dinner will be served in the social hall.



Hutcheson, left, Skelly and Johnson