

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA  
1964

CHURCH HISTORY

Pastor: John E. Johnson

Ruling Elders: Roy M. Harksen, Clerk of Session  
James E. Birdwell, Jr.  
Charles E. Brake  
Robert L. Coleman  
Lee Hamrick  
Donald M. Hanson  
William H. Hiett  
Virgil M. Hopkins  
Charles E. Pond  
Earl S. Sellers  
William N. Stokes

Deacons: Paul W. Edgerton, Chairman  
Earl N. Lewis, Chairman  
David M. Childress, Jr.  
Henry Dunks  
Paul F. Goodman  
Frank W. Hudgins  
Gaston C. Hudgins  
George G. Moore  
James W. Parrett  
H. Melville Rogers  
Frank Sampson  
Jackson L. Tignor

Trustees: John Alvin Holland, Chairman  
E. D. Ney, Secretary  
Robert L. Coleman  
R. H. Boyce  
George L. Guthrie, Jr.

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Church History

The year 1964 has been the greatest year in the history of our church, with continued spiritual and numerical growth and the moving into our new church.

For longer than seven months our congregation met in our old church, while the Gospel Assembly congregation which had purchased the church met there also. Because of the unusual schedule of the Gospel Assembly, both congregations were able to use the same structure without interference. It was remarkable how this worked out for the convenience and benefit of both congregations.

The corner stone of our new church was laid on June 21, 1964, the first Sunday we occupied the new building. "Come and let yourselves be built, as living stones, into a spiritual temple." (I Peter 2:5)

The service of dedication was on July 12, 1964. The sermon, "The Church's Marching Orders," was given by the Rev. Samuel D. McCammon, Jr., Executive Secretary, The Presbytery of Norfolk.

Throughout the year 19 were added upon profession of faith, 67 were added by certificate, 5 were added on reaffirmation of their faith. Total gains 91. Total communicants on roll during the year -- 396. Miss Pearl Roberts was transferred to the Church Triumphant. Sixteen were transferred to the inactive roll; 20 were dismissed to other churches. Net communicants at the end of the year -- 359.

There were three adult baptism and seven infant baptisms.

From the Session's Financial Report are these figures:

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Total to all benevolences        | \$2,582  |
| Current expenses                 | 19,618   |
| Building Fund receipts           | 13,245   |
| Grand total of all contributions | \$35,445 |

On May 3, 1964, Mr. Gaston C. Hudgins and Mr. Henry Dunks were ordained and installed as deacons.

On December 27, the following ruling elders were installed:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Robert H. Boyce     | William Graham, Jr. |
| John C. Ferguson    | John Alvin Holland  |
| Charles P. Fletcher | Douglas S. Murray   |

A "well done" was extended to Ruling Elders Lee Hamrick, Wm. H. Hiatt and Earl S. Sellers upon the expiration of their terms of office. They served faithfully and well.



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For more than four years Mrs. James Armstrong has faithfully kept the books of stewardship for the church, entering each week the amount of the contribution of each member in the offering envelope. Our sincere expression of appreciation rendered to Mrs. Armstrong for this important work. The deacons have asked Mrs. Wm. N. Stokes to take over this duty. Mrs. Stokes has kindly consented.

Tuesday, March 3, 1964, was another big day in the life of our church. The transaction for the sale of the property at Bradford and Parrish Roads was completed on that day by our Chairman of Trustees, Mr. J. A. Holland.

On May 23, 1964, death claimed one of our beloved members -- Miss Pearl E. Roberts. We miss her. At the age of 81 she attended Sunday School and church faithfully each Sunday. We shall always remember her in a very special way. The wonderful example of her faithfulness and cheerfulness endeared her to all.

Special Holy Week Services were held at 6:30 AM, Monday and Wednesday. The leaders were Ruling Elders Charles E. Pond and Donald M. Hanson, respectively. On Good Friday evening at 7:30 a service was held celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, following the meditations on "The Seven Last Words," together with a program of special music.

The Session asked Ruling Elder Donald M. Hanson to lead the regular worship service on May 17 to enable the Pastor to attend the Baccalaureate Service of the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, where on May 19 his two sons, Thomas and Merwyn received their degrees: Thomas, a BD; Merwyn, a ThM.

Members and friends of the congregation were invited to the marriage of Miss Beverly Neale to Mr. Merwyn S. Johnson on Saturday, July 25, at 2 P.M., at Saint Giles Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Va., and to the reception afterward.

On August 23, Dr. and Mrs. Johnson were present at the ordination services of their sons, Thomas L. and Merwyn S. Johnson. Dr. Johnson assisted in both services. The Rev. Merwyn S. Johnson was ordained at 11:00 AM in the First Church, Staunton, Va. where he is assistant minister. The Rev. Thomas L. Johnson was ordained at 7:30 PM at the Elkton Church where he is minister.



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On September 20, 1964, we welcomed Mrs. David R. Corley as our new organist.

During our World Mission Season, on February 2, we welcomed to our pulpit the Rev. Wm. S. Metzger, missionary to the Congo since 1955.

On April 20, Miss Helen Tannehill, a missionary to Mexico, visited our church. She went into each department of the Church School and told the children something of her mission in Mexico. At 11:00 AM, she spoke to the congregation. It was one of the most inspiring and challenging events of our church year.

On November 6 the Princess Anne Council of Church Women of which our own Mrs. L. Dow Ledbetter is President, called all church women to join in the job of peace building. The World Community Day Service was held at the First Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Va.

October 30, 1964, was the date of our Loyalty Dinner Program. Two hundred and sixty were present. Mr. R. H. Boyce was General Chairman. The following "Presentations" were given:

"Our Heritage" -- Ruling Elder Wm. H. Hiatt  
"Youth and Stewardship" -- Wilfrey F. Grant, Jr.  
"Our Present, our Future Goals" -- Ruling Elder Wm. N. Stokes  
"The Camp Program" -- Mr. John C. Ferguson  
"My Place in the Plan" -- Captain Graham W. Wood, U.S.A.  
"Our Pattern of Giving" -- Mrs. Hugh Jones  
Dedication of Workers -- J. E. Johnson

Our family Christmas carol service was held on Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 PM., followed by a coffee.

The children's program was at 7:30 PM, December 23, followed by refreshments in the Social Hall.

All were invited to come to the church on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, for silent prayer and meditation. Appropriate music was played on a hi-fi loaned for the occasions by Ruling Elder Roy M. Harksen.

This has been the year of years for our church; we have been so richly blessed.

We praise and thank Thee, Almighty God, for the gift of life and for all the blessings of Thy love and providential care. We love our church; by our gifts and faithful service may we prove our love to Thee. By the ministry of this church and the power of the gospel may we serve the people of this community and of the world community. Grant us wisdom and strength for the task. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Lila T. Johnson*  
Mrs. Lila T. Johnson,  
Historian, 1964

Bayside Presbyterian Church  
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Church School History

Officers: Mr. Virgil M. Hopkins, Superintendent  
Mrs. Virgil M. Hopkins, Secretary  
Mr. John W. Gaut, Treasurer  
Mrs. J. R. Harrell, Chairman of Christian Education

This has been a rewarding and exciting year, getting settled in our new church. We moved June 16-20.

The Covenant Life Curriculum has been received enthusiastically. It has enriched our spiritual development.

Total enrollment in the Church School -- 358.

Vacation Church School

Director: Mrs. Charles E. Pond  
Co-Director: Mrs. Donald V. Maxwell

The Vacation Church School was carried out under able leadership. The average attendance was 155, with a variation of not more than 7. Sessions were held for two and a half hours each morning for eight week-days, beginning June 22.

The offering was designated for a pew in the new church.

A large number of parents and friends was present for commencement exercises.

*Lila T. Johnson*

Lila T. Johnson,  
Historian, 1964