

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY

BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA
1967

CHURCH HISTORY

Pastor: Fletcher C. Hutcheson

Ruling Elders: D. W. Fischer, Clerk of Session
J. E. Birdwell, Jr.
R. H. Boyce
J. C. Ferguson
Paul F. Goodman
Wm. Graham, Jr.
Lee Hamrick
Wm. H. Hiatt
J. A. Holland
V. M. Hopkins
D. S. Murray
E. S. Sellers
Wm. N. Stokes

Deacons: M. A. Glass, Chairman
R. K. Ander
L. M. Cruser, Jr.
D. A. Dahlman
J. D. Hill
Loren R. Humphrey
F. A. Manning
T. A. Moore
J. R. Roughton, Jr.
J. D. Smith
Geo. O. Tyner

Trustees: J. A. Holland, Chairman
R. H. Boyce
G. L. Guthrie, Jr.

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Presidents of the Women of the Church: Mrs. R. M. Harksen
Mrs. J. W. Parrett

Presidents of the Men of the Church: Wm. N. Stokes
Wm. H. Welch

Organists: D. W. Fischer
Mrs. C. E. Brake

Choir Directors: Mrs. D. W. Fischer
Mrs. G. A. Babe

Church School: Lee Hamrick, Superintendent
F. H. Tubbs, Secretary

Interim Minister: J. E. Johnson

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Our congregation here at Bayside saw a great many changes in the past year, 1967---changes in leadership, changes in numbers, changes in spiritual development, changes in physical equipment.

Our changes in leadership began on Sunday morning, the 15th of January when Dr. Johnson read to the Congregational Meeting his letter to Presbytery announcing his request for retirement. This had been approved by the Session, and was approved by Presbytery. The Session and Presbytery agreed that Dr. Johnson would serve as our interim minister until a replacement could be found. A "Pulpit Committee", consisting of 3 elders, 2 deacons, 2 women, a youth and a member-at-large, were appointed and given the arduous task of finding a leader for our flock. They began work immediately.

At the same meeting the pertinent part of the will of our late member, Kitty Davenport, was read, in which she left her home on Hermitage Road to our church to be used as a manse. We are grateful indeed for this love gift.

On February 5 the congregation authorized the Trustees and representatives from the Session and the Diaconate to proceed with the sale of the Manse on Parsons Lane. This sale was consummated, and the change in physical equipment became a matter of fact.

On May 7 another Congregational Meeting wrought some changes. Mr. Lawrence Crusier was elected to the Diaconate to replace Gaston C. Hudgins, whose term had expired.

The "Pulpit Committee", with Wm. Stokes as Chairman, made their recommendations. The terms of the call to Rev. Fletcher C. Hutcheson, of St. Petersburg, Fla., were read, and the call was approved unanimously.

On July 2 a reception was held for Dr. & Mrs. Johnson, honoring them for their 12 years of hard and consecrated work with us. It was indeed a warm and touching farewell after such tender association.

On July 6 the Hutcheson Family was welcomed at the Church with a Coffee, a gay and happy occasion. The Women of the Church are to be complimented on their taste and toil in preparing for this event.

On July 30, in the evening, a Commission from Norfolk Presbytery met with us to officially install Rev. Hutcheson as our Pastor. The service was well attended and truly inspiring. It was, indeed, a stroke of good fortune that the Chairman of the Commission was the brother of our new pastor, Rev. Jesse R. Hutcheson of Northampton Church.

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On Sept. 24. we tried a new approach to "Rally Day". In the early afternoon we had games and varied recreation, in the dusk we had a picnic supper, and in the evening we had vesper services. It was well received by all who attended and started the new Sunday School year well.

The end of October was a busy time, posing for pictures. An independent photographic concern made available to us, without cost, a picture directory of our membership, and we made use of their offer. A new thing in our lives, but something we have needed.

On Oct. 22 a Congregational Meeting finalized our system of elections and service for our officers on the Session and the Diaconate. In the future we will maintain 3 classes of 4 men each on the rotary system, serving calendar years, not partial years.

At about this time our Pastor started Orientation Classes for those who wish to unite with us in service. After refreshing their devotion and their beliefs, they meet with representatives of the various church groups in a time of fellowship ---truly a warm way to become a member of a loving family.

On Nov. 23 our people shared in a joint Thanksgiving Service with fellow Christians in this area. Although the weather was bad, the attendance was good; and it was a most thoughtful time when we thanked God for all the blessings he pours upon us.

Our Nov. 26 Congregational Meeting marked two major changes in our leadership. Two women, Mrs. Vivian Carbaugh and Mrs. Helen LedBetter, were elected to the office of Deacon. This is a first in our history and a great step forward. Two of our members, Mr. Wm. Graham, Sr., and Mr. Robert L. Coleman, were elected Elders Emeritus, another first in our history. Both of these "firsts" represent a fulfillment of our need to recognize the devotion and service of our members.

Our Christmas season was a busy one. Various children of our church family took active parts in the four advent Sunday services---praying, reading scripture, and lighting the candles on our advent wreath. It was heart-warming to see their participation. Our Children's Choir presented a service of Christmas Music, our Youth Fellowship led a night of caroling, the Adult Choir brought us our morning message in song, and we had a beautiful evening candlelight service. We thank them all for their devotion.

Statistically, it was a banner year for Bayside. We had 10 adult and 7 infant baptisms, and a net gain in membership

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of 61. We began the year with 464 communicants, added 27 by profession of faith, 8 by reaffirmation, 53 by certificate, and one restored from the inactive roll. We dismissed 24 to other churches, removed 3 from our rolls, and had only one leave us to ascend to her heavenly home. This left us with a net enrollment of 525 at the end of the year. Our contribution continued to grow, too, with \$2,319 given to benevolences, \$21,958 for current expenses, and \$20,911 to the building fund, a total of \$45,188.

Changes in leadership, numbers, equipment---yes. But also a change in our outlook on our responsibility to serve God and Christ as best we can. Not just every Sunday morning, but every minute of every day in our lives. We are not stable and staid yet. There is a great future for us in this community and we must rise to face it and do our best for the Kingdom.

William Graham, Jr.
William Graham, Jr.,
Historian, 1967