

PRESBYTERY OF NORFOLK  
Bayside Presbyterian Church  
1400 Ewell Road  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455

CHURCH HISTORY  
January 1, 1983 through December 31, 1983

January found the people of Bayside Presbyterian Church continuing to grow in their faith and reaching out in ministry and mission here and around the world under the leadership of our pastor, the Reverend Richard J. Keever, as he begins his fifth month with us.

We answered the call of the Virginia Beach Social Services for food the first week of this new year.

We welcomed Fenton Wicker, Counselor, Tidewater Pastoral Counseling Center, as he led us in a series of special studies on "Adolescents." The four week series began on Sunday evening, January 16. Some of the topics included, "How to Live With Your Adolescent and Survive" and "Generation Gap: Fact or Fiction."

The January Adult Fellowship event, "Crazy Cards and Dessert," was enjoyed by all of those who attended.

Odina Dahlman served as coordinator for the meetings of senior citizens in the Bayside area meeting in our building. A special program was planned once a month.

Work began on paneling and carpeting the pastor's study and the church offices. Dr. Keever's study was relocated next to the church library. Speakers were installed in the church nursery to enable workers to share in the morning worship service. One hundred and seventy-five copies of "The Hymnbook" were rebound for use in the sanctuary.

Margaret Bobst and Steve Walls were representatives along with the pastor to the winter meeting of Norfolk Presbytery at the Kings Grant Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Carolyn Walsh and Isabel Pflueger joined other women from Norfolk Presbytery for an overnight bus trip to New Windsor, Maryland for an on-the-spot observation of the shipping procedures for the Assembly's White Cross program. Lessie Mae Gimbert, White Cross representative for the Women of the Presbytery, visited the Bayside Women's Council and explained the quota assigned to our Presbytery and our church. She also brought interesting information about the program. The White Cross supplies will be sent this year to Bibanga Hospital in Mbuji-Mayi, Zaire. Our women gave one hundred and forty dollars in addition to fulfilling our assigned quota.

Reactivation of our Young Women's Circle was one of the exciting and outstanding highlights for the Women of the Church. Volunteers from other circles served as babysitters for these young mothers.

Approximately one hundred persons attended the seven-week Lenten Enrichment Program which began on February 16. Following a dinner with meat and vegetables catered and salads and desserts furnished by the circles, the adults and youth studied the Gospel of Mark under the leadership of the pastor. The children participated in music and games led by Diane Garrison and Michelle Phillips.

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Income tax help was made available to those sixty years old or over at no charge. The program was sponsored by the National Retired Teacher's Association and the American Association of Retired Persons using trained volunteers and was open to the public.

Four students from Union Theological Seminary shared their faith and themselves during their visit to our church, February 19-20. The seminary students participated in a covered dish dinner on Saturday and in the Church School and Worship Service on Sunday. The Ministry Team members were: Ed McLeod, Harriet Hilley Durham, Roger L. Durham and John Brearly.

A Church School Teacher Recognition Day was held when an open house was held and parents invited to visit their children's classes.

The president and five other Women of the Church members attended the Annual Meeting of the Women of the Presbytery in the Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church in March.

Margaret Green, Birthday Interpreter, presented the 1983 Birthday Objective in a delightful and informative skit, using puppets, at the General Meeting of the Women of the Church in April. The following officers were elected: Vice-President, Margaret Harrell; Treasurer, Dot Jones; Chairman of Leadership and Resources, Grace Guthrie; and Circle Chairmen, Lois Moore, Bernice Damuth and Jean Felts.

At a congregational meeting called for the purpose of electing church officers the following persons were elected to serve in the Class of 1986: R. K. Stewart Cole, Edna Etheridge, Jack Gove, James B. Haugh, Robert L. Kays, Sylvia Maume, Thomas A. Moore, Doris Neil, Isabel Pflueger, and J. Douglas Sorensen.

The Young Adult Church School Class had a great time at a Roller Skating Party.

The Church School carpeted two classrooms; made curtains for eight classrooms; and had classroom signs made for the entire church.

Congressman G. William Whitehurst spoke on problems associated with aging to the Adult Division during the church school hour.

Coordinators for the Prayer Chain were appointed at their March meeting. Edna Etheridge will chair the morning chain and Mildred Sellers will chair the evening chain. Approximately 20 persons are involved in the prayer ministry.

The Handbell Choir continues its ministry in music and have recently purchased a C-3 Bell in honor of Billie and Ike Booker. Some of their invitations include the Annual Community Prayer Breakfast at the Kings Grant Presbyterian Church, two performances at Westminster-Canterbury of Virginia Beach, Haygood United Methodist Church, Women of the Church Luncheon at the First Presbyterian Church, the Kings Daughter's Hospital Benefit at the Cavalier Hotel and the Suburban Women's Club meeting in our church.

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The Young Adult Church School Class enjoyed a "Sundae Pigout" on Saturday, March 19, at the home of Sally and Herb Hause. An evening of games, fellowship and fun was concluded with everyone making their own ice cream sundae.

Brum Tefft and Fletcher Manning, representatives, and Dick Keever, a member of the court, attended the Spring Meeting of Norfolk Presbytery in a joint meeting with New Castle Presbytery in the Manokin Presbyterian Church, Princess Anne, Maryland. The meeting honored the life and witness of Francis Makemie.

The four-week Career and Personal Guidance Program was led by Dot Jones. The program is one that benefits sophomore and junior highs as well as seniors in helping them to clarify their career skills and interests. At the conclusion they attended the Synod's Career and Personal Guidance Center at Waynesboro for two days of intensive testing and counseling.

The Strengthening of the Church sponsored Bayside's first Spring Get-Away at Makemie Woods. It provided an excellent opportunity for families and individuals to get away in a rustic setting to commune with nature, play games, worship God, and to get to know themselves and each other in an unhurried, relaxed atmosphere. Martha and Doug Sorensen were responsible for the program and making reservations for the event.

Our church served as host for the Gobb Youth Chorale on tour from Marietta, Georgia. The group presented a special music program following a pot luck dinner. This was a delightful and enriching experience.

Margaret Shanks, church secretary, and Linda Perry, our COE student, attended the Fourteenth Annual Employer-Employee Appreciation Night Banquet sponsored by Cooperative Office Program of the Virginia Beach Schools. This is the fifth year that Bayside has participated in this event.

At a congregational meeting on March 20, Cary Stone and Benjamin Hamilton were elected to serve as two additional trustees for Bayside Presbyterian Church.

The women of Bayside were hosts for the May Fellowship Day sponsored by Church Women United. The speaker was Doris Robinson Griffith, mother of Max Robinson, ABC Newscaster. The theme for the meeting, "There Is A Balm In Gilead," was beautifully presented in music and the spoken word. Following the program in the sanctuary, a finger food lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall.

The Women of the Church also hosted the Annual Birthday Party of the women of the Assembly. The offering this year makes available a permanent fund, the interest of which will insure that White Cross supplies are transported from the Church World Service in New Windsor, Maryland, to designated hospitals and clinics when officially requested. Our total birthday offering was \$845.50.

Carolyn Walsh, president of the Women of the Church attended the Women's Enrichment Conference at Massanetta Springs. Our pastor, Dick Keever, served as a member of the leadership team for the conference.

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During "Lock-In" time the Senior High Youth Group made a large, attractive sign for the Southeastern Virginia Food Bank to use at their new location. Many thanks to the Witness Committee who furnished the cedar for the sign as well as the other funds necessary for the project.

A real old fashioned picnic was enjoyed by the members of the Young Adult Church School class at the home of Marianne Barrett.

Diane Cooke, a rising senior at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, was called to serve as our ten week summer intern. Diane endeared herself to the congregation and very ably filled the pulpit while the pastor was on vacation.

Adult Fellowship members had a great time at a Pool Party and Cookout at the home of Louise and Duane Wombolt.

Seven members of the Handbell Choir attended a Handbell Workshop sponsored by the American Guild of English Handbells at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

One of the best Vacation Church Schools ever was held for pre-school and elementary children, June 22-29. The leaders for the event were Nancy Lowery, Beth Rudell and Diane Cooke.

The Eagle Court of Honor, Boy Scouts of America, honored Chris A. Bruno, Troop #364. Chris is the son of Captain and Mrs. M. J. Bruno. Chris supervised the painting of two classrooms for his Eagle project.

High School, College and University Seniors were recognized on Sunday, June 12, during the morning worship service. They were invited to sit in a body and to wear the cap and gown of their respective schools.

The Sunday Church School began a regular music program the first fifteen minutes of the church school hour each Sunday for Nursery Two through Grade Six.

Ten of our women attended the District Conference for Elizabeth River, District One at the First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk, Virginia. Our pastor, Dick Keever, conducted the Workshop for Moderators of Circle Bible Lessons at the conference.

Jean Reid and Louise Robinson attended the Summer Meeting of Norfolk Presbytery at the Hilton Presbyterian Church. Dianne Cooke also attended as well as some members of the Associate Pastor Search Committee. Our own, Helen Ledbetter's son, "Boots," elder from the Denbigh Presbyterian Church, Newport News, Virginia was elected Moderator and presided over the proceedings.

The Adult Division of the Church was privileged to view and discuss a 13-week film series, "Love and Marriage," as its summer program.

Norfolk Presbytery elected Pat Kays as a commissioner to the General Assembly meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. This historic meeting reunited the Northern and Southern branches of the Presbyterian Church.

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The Adult Choir was honored by the Commitment Committee as they were treated to a delicious Adult Choir Appreciation Dinner preceding the last choir rehearsal before summer break.

James (Jamie) Phillip Ashmore joined Bayside's staff as Associate on August 15, having been duly called at a congregational meeting on July 3rd. Jamie, his wife, Ginny, and nine-month-old daughter, Claire, were welcomed at a reception following the morning worship service on September 11. A Commission of Norfolk Presbytery conducted the Ordination and Installation Service on September 18. Members of the commission were: Don Hammond, Pastor of Calvin Presbyterian Church, preached the sermon; Anne Treichler, elder, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, gave the prayer of ordination and installation; Katherine Achtemeier, pastor of Groves Memorial Presbyterian, Gloucester, Virginia, charged the pastor; Lena Clausell, Presbytery's Executive for Nurture and Witness, charged the congregation; Thomas H. Williamson, Jr., elder, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina, led in the prayer of commitment; Richard J. Keever, pastor, Bayside Presbyterian Church, presided and asked the constitutional questions; other members of the commission were Lawrence O. Conner, elder, Bayside and member of Search Committee; and Charles D. Ashmore, elder, First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Jamie is a 1983 graduate of Union Theological Seminary with a M.Div. degree. His home church is the First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina. We eagerly anticipate his ministry with us as he serves in the Christian Education, Nurture and Outreach of the Bayside congregation.

Mary Hutcheson attended the Parish Visitation Skills Lab I at Princeton Seminary in mid-July. A program for caring and calling--as a member of the Church Growth and Evangelism Committee of Norfolk Presbytery.

The Young Adults joined with Calvin and Wycliffe Presbyterian Churches for a fall series of suppers and programs hosted alternately by the three churches.

Dr. Keever installed the officers of the Women of the Church at their Annual Meeting in September.

Dick and Jamie led a mid-week study on the Letter to the Ephesians for Adults and Youth over a five-week period.

The Brentons hosted a "Beach Party" for the Adult Fellowship at their home and plans were made for a "Scavenger Hunt" at the home of Oz and Aundrea Edwards the following month.

A Task Force on the Mission and Organization of Bayside Presbyterian Church began the process of discovering why we exist, what we do, and how we will do it.

A children's choir, under the leadership of Diane Garrison and Lib Conner, was organized and meets weekly for practices.

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A "Teacher Orientation and Dessert" was held for all teachers in the 1983-84 Church School Year. Rally Day was observed with a brunch as a kick-off for the new Sunday Church School program. All audio visual equipment was inventoried.

A new innovative curriculum, "Journeys," was introduced to the Junior and Senior Highs. An evaluation by the teachers was conducted concerning church school performance and appraisal of curriculum.

Bayside Presbyterian Church celebrated their thirtieth anniversary with a homecoming and special service followed by a covered dish lunch on October 23. Former ministers and members were invited to share in this very significant event. The "Highlanders" from the Khedive Temple enhanced the program with beautiful Scottish music and tunes.

Our Junior High Fellowship attended an exciting and interesting retreat sponsored by Norfolk Presbytery at Makemie Woods, Presbytery's Retreat Center.

The Yiems, our Cambodian refugee family, arrived on Friday, September 30. The father, Yoeurth (34; mother, Run Reth (33); and children, Nary (13), Born (5), and Nara (2) are a dear sweet family and we have all fallen in love with them as they are settling into a very different life style here in the United States. The congregation has been busy locating housing, providing food, clothing and furniture, enrolling them in school, and finding employment for the father. It is a real joy to have a part in enabling this family to adjust and to become responsible and self-supporting.

An Advent Bible Study, "Images of the Messiah," in the Book of Isaiah was led by the associate pastor, Jamie Ashmore.

Jeff Warden, son of Bill and Sandi Warden, was the only student in Virginia Beach's "Neptune Festival Youth Art Show" to receive two awards--Judge's Choice and a twenty-five dollar cash prize for special merit.

Susan Crispin, new member of the Bayside family, received word that she had passed the bar examination as a lawyer. She is working in the law office of Joan Gibson.

Julie Shields and Andrew Keever were named "Citizen of the Month" at Thoroughgood Elementary School.

The Adult Fellowship enjoyed an evening of delicious Chinese food and beautiful slides with descriptive commentary. The program was presented by Don and Marian Merchant. They had accepted an invitation to go on a three-week trip to China with a group of American Microbiologists with the People-to-People Citizens Ambassador Program.

The Bayside Ecumenical Council again sponsored a Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at the Little Creek Amphibious Base Chapel.

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Following the worship service on Sunday, October 9, a Soup and Sandwich lunch was held to welcome new members and to hear about the exciting stewardship plans and presentation of the 1984 Asking Budget.

The Strengthening of the Church Committee honored the Church School Council, the Church School Teachers and their spouses at a reception at the home of Sandi and Bill Warden.

A short course of five films from the Bauman Bible Series, "God of Our Fathers," provided the basis for the Adult Christian Issues Class as they studied the religious beliefs, practices and intentions of our Founding Fathers as they relate to the basic principles on which our nation rests and the current issues we face today.

The Church School sponsored an advent service, "A Birthday Party For Jesus," consisting of a cantata, "Christ: Emmanuel," presented by the children in Nursery Two through Grade Six and some Junior Highs under the direction of Diane Garrison followed by refreshments and closing with a story time by Doris Neil in the Fellowship Hall.

An Advent Covered Dish Dinner honoring the Handbell Choir was held in the Social Hall. The supper was followed by a program in the sanctuary presented by the Handbell Choir.

Throughout the year the church sponsored the American Red Cross Bloodmobile on a quarterly basis. The beauty of the sanctuary was enhanced as members provided flowers for special services, such as Easter and Christmas, as well as each Sunday. Clean-up Saturdays held in the spring and fall were beneficial in making our physical facilities more attractive and conducive to learning and worship.

The Women of the Church continued their ministry of caring for others as they visited the Shore Drive Convalescent Home, donated magazines to the Camelot Nursing Home, rolled bandages for the Red Cross, supplied Christmas presents for foster children under the care of the Virginia Beach Social Service Department, joined Sunnyside Links and Friends of the Seminary, and participated in many other projects too numerous to mention.

The annual statistical report provided tangible evidence that people are necessary and important to the life of our congregation. One hundred and twenty-two new members were received with a loss of one hundred seven, leaving seven hundred eighty-three as our active membership total at the year's close.

We are grateful for our past history and look forward to the new year with optimism and hope. We pray that with God's guidance we will make the necessary choices to enable Bayside Presbyterian Church become a vital instrument in fulfilling God's will and making Him known in the community, the nation and throughout the world.

*Louise Robinson, Historian  
(Mrs. Raymond C.)*