

Former Pastors of Our Church
Rev. Richard J. Keever
(Served 1982 to 2008)



Rev. Dr. Richard “Dick” Jenkins Keever answered the call on September 19, 1982, replacing Interim Pastor Susan Haugh. He was born in Lincolnton, North Carolina on January 18, 1941. Before coming to Bayside, he served on the administrative staff of Union Theological Seminary (UTS) in Richmond, Virginia. At UTS, Dick was the Director of Seminary Relations, Executive Secretary of the UTS Alumni/ae, and Director of Friends of the Seminary. Dick was ordained in Presbyterian Church, U.S. on September 29, 1968 and received his Doctor of Ministry at UTS in 1980. His wife is the Rev. Evelyn (“Evie”) Keever, a Methodist Minister, whom he met while both were attending Yale Divinity School. Evie was the chaplain at the Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia while Rev. Keever was at Bayside. They have two sons, Daniel and Andrew.

While Rev. Keever was our Pastor, the Presbyterian Church U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church USA were reunited as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and during the time the Norfolk Presbytery changed its name to the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

Dick presided over our church's Vision III building expansion which added an Administrative Wing, a Music Wing, Youth-Activities Wing, new Fellowship Hall, updated Kitchen, an expanded Sanctuary, and several new and renovated classrooms. He saw it through until the pay off of the Vision III debt.

Other items of interest that occurred during Dick's time at Bayside:

- Our newsletter name was changed from "Bayside Moorings" to "Bayside Binnacle."
- Presbyterian Men began their Saturday Breakfast, and started their Men of Faith Award Program.
- Our playground was constructed.
- Presbyterian Women produced two cookbooks.
- The "Sail-On" Contemporary Service began.
- Bayside's Mission Statement was developed and adopted.
- Three strategic plans for Bayside spanning a 24-year period were created.
- The Bayside Endowment Fund was established.
- The Memorial Garden and Columbarium was created.
- Bayside Presbyterian Church was incorporated.
- Bayside raised \$42,000 for a Basic Health Care Clinic in Kinshasa, Zaire, and assisted in funding others.
- Bayside's Preschool was established in 1992, which started in the mid-1980s as a volunteer-led "Mother's Morning Out" program.
- Bayside celebrated its 30th, 40th, and 50th Anniversaries.
- Bayside's web-page and email address was established.

On the occasion of his 25th anniversary at Bayside, the church wanted to honor Dick with a gift and he suggested a scholarship fund at Union Theological Seminary. The church raised approximately \$40,000 to be able to name the fund after Dick.

Dr. Keever left Bayside June 2008 after serving here for 26 years. He served the longest of all our Pastors to date. After his retirement from Bayside, Dick moved on to become the chaplain at Westminster-Canterbury retirement center in Virginia Beach. In 2014, Dick was elected Pastor-Emeritus at Bayside Presbyterian Church.

Dick's greatest legacy was probably the number of pastoral visits he accomplished. He likely visited every member of Bayside at one time or another. Many people came to Bayside as a result of his visit at a hospital when he simply stopped in their room to speak, pray, or get them a glass of water. When he left Bayside he advised us to "Live Simply, Love Generously, Care Deeply, Speak Kindly, and Leave the Rest to God."

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