

BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1969
CHURCH HISTORY

It was moved and seconded that the following statement be made an official record of Bayside Presbyterian Church and that Dr. John E. Johnson be elected Pastor Emeritus. Motion Prevailed.

"The History of Bayside Presbyterian Church for the year 1955 reads as follows:

'OUR PASTOR'



'John Edward Johnson was born in Dubuque, Iowa on May 2, 1899. When he was five years old the family moved to St. Louis, where his father, Dr. Jerrie Johnson, was Pastor of Winnebago Presbyterian Church for forty-five years. After going through the public schools in St. Louis, he went to Dubuque University for his A. B. Degree then to Princeton Seminary where he received his Degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

After receiving his degree from Princeton he entered the U. S. Navy as a Chaplain. On December 18, 1926 he was married to Miss Lila M. Thomas of Marion, Alabama. They have three children, Carolyn, Thomas, and Merwyn. He has served many ships and stations, including a tour at the U. S. Naval Academy. While on duty at the Great Lakes Illinois Naval Training Station he was given an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Dubuque University. He served his last four years with the Navy as District Chaplain of the Fifth Naval District. He retired from the Navy after 30 years of Active Duty with the rank of Captain. He worked in the Norfolk Presbytery a short time and then accepted a call to the Bayside Presbyterian Church on January 1, 1955. He has been present at the Morning Service every Sunday in the year 1955.'

Also quoting from our Church History, the fly-leaf has the quotation that is found over our country's Archives, "The Heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future." This has proven to be true in the life and development of this congregation.

It would be impossible to cite everything that was accomplished under Dr. Johnson's leadership. His dedication and service to the Lord Jesus Christ was the force that God chose to use as the center of the activities of our church for twelve years, and the people came to love and admire Dr. Johnny as an outstanding Christian leader, Pastor, and friend. The landmarks that tower high would probably be these. That Carolyn, Thomas and Merwyn entered full time Christian service as sons and daughter

BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1969

CHURCH HISTORY

of the Manse and of our Church, under Dr. Johnson's example and love. A congregation was able to uproot itself and move to a new location where they not only built sufficient building to begin a larger witness to the community God had put them in, but they also worked out detailed plans and drawings so that as that congregation grew there would be positive goals and directions for us to attain. The process was set in action through Dr. Johnson's example and suggestion that we were able to move from inadequate Manse space to the very lovely and new Manse that is presently ours.

While these are landmarks of a Ministry, its real value and weight could never be measured because it is involved in the hundreds of lives that Bayside Presbyterian Church had touched during the time Dr. Johnny was their Pastor.

Today as we consider once again taking up the line of action that Dr. Johnson cited for us, we can think of no better way to begin than to pause and look at the past with deep gratitude to God and try to once again express our thanks to Dr. Johnson by officially electing him our Pastor Emeritus.

The Session would recommend to you that this statement, along with the action of the congregation in electing Dr. Johnson Pastor Emeritus, become part of our official record and that all future letterheads, bulletins, etc., carry his name as a symbol of our thanksgiving to God for His use of him and all those who have meant so much to us as God has molded us into this part of the Body of Christ.'

Walter Baker