

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY  
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA  
1963

CHURCH HISTORY

Pastor: John E. Johnson

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

Deacons: C. E. Brake  
David M. Childress  
B. Jesse Davenport  
William L. Dentler  
Paul W. Edgerton, Chairman  
Paul F. Goodman  
Frank W. Hudgins  
George G. Moore  
James W. Parrett  
H. Melville Rogers  
Earl N. Lewis  
Frank Sampson  
Jackson L. Tignor  
Robert L. Motyca

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

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The year 1963 has been a year of continued spiritual growth and the beginning of the building of our new church.

The groundbreaking ceremonies took place after the regular eleven o'clock service, August 18, 1963. Members of the congregation went from the old church to the new building site to participate in the ritual. Mrs. William Graham, Jr., President of the Women of the Church was given the honor of turning the first spadeful of earth.

Throughout the year fourteen members were added on profession of faith, fifteen were added on certificate. Total communicants on the roll -- 322. Two were transferred to the Church Triumphant. Fifteen were dismissed to other churches. Net communicants at the end of the year -- 305.

There were three adult baptisms and three infant baptisms.

From the financial report are these figures:

Total to all benevolences	\$3,172.70
Current expenses	17,587.38
Building Fund receipts	8,180.64
Grand total of all contributions	\$28,940.72

On March 23, 1963, death claimed one of our beloved members, Mr. B. Jesse Davenport, a deacon, who was in his place each Sunday morning to greet people with a friendly smile. He has been missed.

On April 17, another of our beloved members, Helen Ney, died very suddenly. We miss her warm personality and good humor which endeared her to all in a very special way.

During the year we were able to sell our present church property for \$30,000 to the Gospel Assembly Church of Norfolk, the completion of the sale <sup>took</sup> place early in 1964.

Two significant decisions were made at our congregational meeting, Tuesday, February 3, 1963: approval of the master plan of our new church and approval of the first unit at a cost of \$225,000, estimated.

The contract for the new building was approved at the congregational meeting, Sunday morning, August 18.

The deacons elected Ruling Elder Wm. H. Hiatt as Treasurer of the Church to relieve Dr. R. L. Motyca, January 1, 1964. Dr. Motyca served faithfully as Treasurer for almost five years.

Mr. C. E. Brake and Mr. Robert L. Coleman were elected Ruling Elders by the congregation for terms of three years, beginning January 1, 1964.

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On June 2, six new deacons were ordained and installed:

David M. Childress	William L. Dentler	Paul F. Goodman
Frank W. Hudgins	Earl N. Lewis	H. Melville Rogers

On May 21, 1963, Merwyn S. Johnson, a member of this church, graduated cum laude from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He was selected to receive the Shepherd R. Cooke Memorial Scholarship of \$700.00 to enable him to study for his master's degree in theology. On June 2, he gave the sermon at the regular service of worship. Soon afterward he departed to join his brother, Thomas, exchange student at Montpellier, France. Together they toured Europe for the summer, returning to Norfolk in September, and to the seminary in Richmond to continue their studies.

The year has been exciting and challenging for our church. Our labors have been blessed. Our prayer is that God will keep us everlastingly striving to make the most of the days that are ours and that He will grant us a sense of the eternal in all that we do.

*Lila T. Johnson*

Lila T. Johnson,  
Historian, 1963