

NORFOLK PRESBYTERY
BAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA
1966

CHURCH HISTORY

Pastor: John E. Johnson

Ruling Elders: D. W. Fischer, Clerk of Session
R. H. Boyce
C. E. Brake
J. C. Ferguson
C. P. Fletcher
Wm. Graham, Jr.
Lee Hamrick
Wm. H. Hiatt
J. A. Holland
D. S. Murray

Deacons: Earl N. Lewis, Chairman
Henry Dunks
P. F. Goodman
F. W. Hudgins
G. C. Hudgins
D. R. Humphrey
F. A. Manning
H. M. Rogers
J. D. Smith

Trustees: J. A. Holland, Chairman
R. H. Boyce
G. L. Guthrie
E. D. Ney

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President of the Women of the Church: Mrs. R. M. Harksen

President of the Men of the Church: Wm. N. Stokes

Organists: Mrs. James M. Trent
D. W. Fischer

Choir Directors: Mrs. John E. Johnson
Mrs. D. W. Fischer

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

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The year 1966 has been another great year for our church, with continued spiritual and numerical growth.

According to the report from the General Assembly headquarters in Atlanta, which was published in 1966, our church ranked third in total growth among the 96 churches throughout our denomination, having a membership of between 400 - 449.

We started the year 1966 with 420 communicant members. Twenty-six were added on profession of faith, nine were added on reaffirmation of faith, 33 were added on letters or certificates from other churches. Total number of new members received during the year - 68.

One was transferred to the Church Triumphant - Mrs. Davenport. Six were transferred to the inactive roll by order of Session; 17 were transferred to other churches. Total losses during the year - 24. Net gain for the year - 44. Membership at the close of the year - 464.

In the past twelve years, more than 700 new members have been received - an average better than 59 per year.

There were 8 adult baptisms and 6 infant baptisms in 1966.

From the Session's Financial Report are these figures:

Total of all benevolences	\$ 1,490
Current expenses for the year 1966	15,234
Total paid for Building Fund	<u>21,364</u>
Grand total of all contributions	\$38,088

Four ruling elders were installed the last Sunday of December, 1966:

J. E. Birdwell, Jr.	V. M. Hopkins
E. S. Sellers	Wm. N. Stokes

Six deacons were ordained and installed in May, 1966:

R. K. Ander	J. D. Hill
D. A. Dahlman	G. O. Tyner
M. A. Glass	J. R. Roughton

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On March 6, 1966, we welcomed to our pulpit, The Rev. James L. Mays, PhD., Professor of Biblical Interpretation, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Mays represented the Seminary Advance Program. The Seminary Cavalcade came into this Presbytery for a visit to all churches. "The Circle of Commitment which joins education and service is a great strength for us as Presbyterians, U.S. Our church is people, our advance is people - laymen and ministers alike, - working for the Seminary Advance."

We have had other outstanding ministers during the year. The Rev. Sam McCannon, Executive Secretary of the Presbytery and Chaplain Harold McNeil, Senior Chaplain at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia, have been invited to conduct the services in our church during the year.

Special Holy Week services were held in the church. At 6:30 to 7:00 a.m., April 4 and 6. At 7:30 p.m., April 8; a Good Friday Communion service was held. Both choirs sang.

The church sponsors several Girl Scout and Brownie Troops, and is being used for many other civic and church groups continually.

Our Youth choir was organized in the fall, with Mrs. Martha Brake as pianist and Mrs. J. E. Johnson as Youth choir director. The Youth choir was ready with Christmas selections to sing with the Senior choir on December 18, 1966, for our annual family Christmas service. It was an inspiring service with the manger scene and appropriate music as the birth story unfolded in action as recorded in the book of Luke.

On December 23, 1966, the children of the Church School had their annual Christmas program. An effective candle-light service was directed by Mrs. Vivian Carbaugh, Mrs. Barbara Maxwell and Mrs. Vesta Cruser.

We have had many delightful church night suppers with delicious food and good programs. Cdr. and Mrs. Sands spoke on Korea and narrated as they showed us slides of the country. They also gave the church a very unusual gift - a picture of Christ made with the writings of the old and New Testaments. It is quite remarkable and we hope to have it framed soon for all to see.

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One of the sad events that shocked us all was the sudden death of Mrs. Kitty Davenport on October 31, 1966 after a very short illness. Kitty loved the church as had her husband, Jesse. Kitty did a fine job of whatever she was asked to do - flower chairman and telephone chairman for the Women of the Church. Jesse and Kitty had agreed that at their deaths, the Church would inherit their house and all its furnishings, and a fourth of the remainder of their estate. Our church is deeply grateful for these wonderful gifts. The house will probably be used as the Manse. It is in Thoroughgood and conveniently located to the Church.

Another great loss in which our Church shared was the death of Mrs. S. K. Emurian, who had an important part with The Rev. Emurian, in organizing this Church.

We are happy that Mrs. Sallie E. Clark, who is a dedicated member of our Church and beloved by all was the designer of the "Symbol" for the City of Virginia Beach. Her design and letter suggesting the use of the historic Cape Henry Light House was accepted as the Virginia Beach Symbol. Her inspiration will be a lasting memento for Virginia Beach.

This has been another year filled with many wonderful experiences of spiritual and numerical growth. We are thankful for all our blessings and pray that we may be worthy of God's love and grace as we turn the page of history into another New Year. In His Name,

Lila T. Johnson
Lila T. Johnson,
Historian, 1966