

## 1902

Records show evidence of a building fund formed by a small group attending [Ballston Presbyterian Church](#) (the full name was First Presbyterian Church of Ballston which has since become First Presbyterian Church of Arlington located at the northwest corner of Wilson Boulevard and Glebe Road). The fund later helps establish Arlington Presbyterian Church about two miles south.

## 1905

### [Miles Cleveland Munson](#)

Ballston's Session minutes show elder [Miles Cleveland Munson](#) missing all Sunday morning Session meetings because he is teaching Sunday School for "Columbia" area children at his home near where APC is today.

## 1906

June: Rev. Jasper Young, pastor at Ballston Presbyterian Church, establishes a "mission" church in the Columbia area. Services are held on Sunday afternoon in the Methodist church on Columbia Pike, just east of Walter Reed Drive.

## 1908

### [Rev. Dr. James H. DePue](#) and wife Susan

After two years as a mission church, Washington Presbytery appoints a [committee](#) to examine the merits of establishing Arlington Presbyterian Church as an independent congregation.

April 21: APC is established with 21 charter members who immediately form a building committee to find a site and develop building plans.

April 28: APC Session elects [Rev. Dr. James H. DePue](#) as part-time pastor for \$300 per year.

May 12: Dr. DePue is installed as a part-time minister for APC. We host a reception in honor of the new minister and his wife, Susan. He remains APC's minister for four years.

## 1909

Mrs. Mary F. Gray

Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Gaddis.

June 17: County records show APC received the deed to a 150 X 165 ft tract of land on the north side of Columbia Pike about 200 feet west of Monroe Street and a "manse" donated by neighbors Mrs. Mary F. Gray and Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Gaddis. APC's first church is built here facing east in late 1909. It costs \$2,700 and serves APC's needs for ten years.

## 1910

March: Records show that Session meetings are being held at the "manse." Miles Munson is listed as ruling elder.

March: Session minutes record the examination of a married couple wishing to join APC but the couple is not able to attend the Session meeting. Session begins community outreach by going to them. Session pronounces them qualified, then returns to church to continue their meeting.

March 26: Walter K. Handy joins APC. He becomes Sunday School Superintendent. Church School enrolls 85.

## 1912

Junior Missionary Band Officers”

President is Mrs. Robert Robinson

Vice-President Miss. Evangeline Munson; the

Secretary is Miss Ruth Corbett, and the

Treasurer is Miss Margaret DeLashmutt

May 3: Rev. DePue completes his call with APC.

June 5: Session elects Rev. Robert Robinson as a part-time pastor for \$1100 per year for three years.

Sunday School started at 10:00 am. Sunday Worship service or "preaching" is held at 11:00 am and 8:00 pm. A Song Service is held at 7:30 pm. APC holds Wednesday prayer meetings at 8:00 pm, according to the Alexandria County Directory for 1912.

The Superintendent of Sunday School is Walter K. Handy. The Secretary is Stanley Potter, the Treasurer is Robert Bullen, and the Librarian is Earl Bailey. Elders are Henry C. Corbett, Thomas R. Gray, Thomas J. DeLashmutt, T. T. Burke, and Stephen P. Wright.

APC has a Junior Missionary Band. The President is Mrs. Robert Robinson, the minister's wife. The Vice-President is Miss. Evangeline Munson; the Secretary is Miss Ruth Corbett, and the Treasurer is Miss Margaret DeLashmutt.

The Church Club meets monthly. The President and Secretary is Mrs. Thomas R. Gray, the Treasurer is Mrs. Thomas J. DeLashmutt, the Secretary of Literature is Mrs. Stephen P. Wright.

Our Deacon is Walter K. Handy.

Our Trustees are F. L. Hale, William C. Wibert, Eugene Bush, Lloyd F. Ward, and **S. Munson Corbett.**

## 1913

December 31: For the first time, APC finds itself financially solvent

## 1914

Miles Munson dies. Thomas DeLashmutt becomes Ruling Elder and Walter Handy becomes and Charles Howell become Elders Mr. Handy would become Church School Superintendent and Mr. Howell would serve as Clerk of Session for 20 years.

## 1915

January 1: Rev. Robinson ends his call with APC. APC will be served for the next eight years by various "supply pastors."

## **1916**

June 11: The Rev. J. C. Hicks hosts a special service at 3:00 this afternoon on the lawn of the church to burn the mortgage which has just been paid in full, according to the Washington Post. Speakers included Rev. Dr. John C. Palmer, pastor of the Washington Heights Presbyterian Church and moderator of the Presbytery of Washington, D.C., the Rev. Dr. James T. Marshall, pastor of West Street Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Titus E. Davis, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

## **1919**

APC grows too big for its original building. A 30 x 40 ft. addition with a bell tower is built directly south of the original building and is connected to the first little building by double doors. The addition consists of one room with pews seating about 80 with an organ and a large stained glass window facing the road. The older section remains in use as the Church School. A two-story frame manse is also built and is used as the pastor's residence and for meetings and Sunday School classes.

## **1920**

April 7: Clerk of Session records that "no regular Session meetings were held during the fiscal year since church business was taken care of by informal get-togethers." Another Presbyterian church scolds APC saying: "Business of the church may not be transacted in informal get-togethers." The Session quorum of DeLashmutt, Handy, and Howell move church business get-togethers from their offices or the Cosmos Club to the "manse" APC records 36 members.

## **1924**

Rev. Edwin L. Shelling becomes APC's part-time pastor, sharing his time with Clarendon Presbyterian Church. From the Presbytery's "Stated Supply," he will serve APC for three years at \$900 annual salary.

December 20: APC's church is destroyed by fire. Sunday service is conducted as usual, but after the congregation disperses for Sunday dinner, passers-by notice smoke. The bell falls from the burning tower, nearly pinning a volunteer firefighter beneath it. Passersby manage to rescue the bell and some pews and carry them across the Pike to a slope. The pews provide ringside seats as firemen pump water from the pond across the pike. A bucket brigade saves the manse. Irreplaceable church records and photographs help fuel the fire and the church is burned to the ground. Services (including Christmas Service) are held in the Arlington Methodist Episcopal Church.

## **1925**

February: A building committee is named. The committee consists of three trustees, two Session members and, after much discussion, one woman.

May 1: APC acquires the property at the corner of Columbia Pike and Lincoln Street in "Alcova Heights."

July 5: The congregation votes to approve the offer of the Washington City Presbytery of a "prefabricated wooden chapel building." The "Little Chapel" is in use by the end of the year and serves APC until 1950.

November: APC begins its building fund drive for a permanent building. In five years, APC raises \$7500. The "Little Chapel" is used for worship and Church School until the Fall of 1930.

Church School enrolls 110.

### **1927**

April: Rev. J. R. Duffield serves APC part-time from the Presbytery's "stated supply" until 1930.

### **1930**

May 20: Rev. Walter F. Wolf is installed as APC's minister. He and his wife, Blanche, begin 19 years with APC. Rev. Wolf continues to hold the record for longevity in APC pastoral service.

October 12: Groundbreaking ceremonies are held for APC's new stone building. This building will become the basic structure of our current building.

December 1: The *Washington Star* reports that APC has laid its cornerstone. Rev. Wolf uses the same trowel used by George Washington to lay the cornerstone of the US Capitol. Its use is arranged by Walter Handy, a Past-Master of Potomac Lodge No. 5, owners of the trowel.

APC records 85 members.

### **1931**

April 19: The present church building is dedicated at Sunday service.

### **1934**

October: Rev. Wolf begins teaching a Young People's Sunday School class. Class President is Miss Mimes Darnell who reports to Session that the class membership is 23 and that the class holds monthly business and social meetings at the homes of its members. It meets the second Friday of every month.

### **1938**

Rev. Wolf begins a Men's Sunday School class and holds it at his house or above Bauserman's garage. Army officer Dr. Juan Osuna and Army Chaplain Wayne Hunter also teach the class. Walter Handy eventually takes over teaching duties. Women eventually enroll. The class becomes known as the "Walter K. Handy Bible Class." Today it is known as the Crossroads Class.

### **1939**

October 1: APC welcomes its 100<sup>th</sup> member.

### **1940**

APC records 284 members.

### **1941**

APC elects its first woman elder, Helen Pfeiffer.

In response to the need for organized entertainment of young military personnel during WWII, APC holds supervised dances.

#### **1942**

Enrollment in the Christian Education program is over two hundred. Church School includes a men's class, which eventually will become Crossroads and youth church school.

#### **1944**

A planning committee begins research on church needs and financing possibilities.

#### **1945**

November: APC planning committee hires the architectural firm of McLeod and Ferrara to help develop plans.

#### **1946**

APC records 605 members.

#### **1947**

APC accepts an architectural plan and a special building fund pledge campaign begins.

December 14: APC has 500 members.

#### **1948**

Carl Young become Choir Director.

#### **1949**

Rev. Wolf, APC's longest serving minister ever, resigns to serve a church in Cincinnati. He returns several times to visit and guest preach and interrupts his "retirement" to accept a part-time ministry in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

June 26: Ground breaking ceremonies are held. The "Little Chapel" still used for Church School is moved to 3511 Ninth Street South where it eventually becomes a private residence. While the church is under construction services are temporarily held in Thomas Jefferson School on Walter Reed Drive.

October 14: Rev. Howard F. Gebhart is installed as APC's minister. He serves APC for five years.

The Christian Education Committee is formed to direct Church School activities.

APC records 725 members.

#### **1950**

May 21: Services are held in the remodeled church building.

November 19: The first phase of the new building is dedicated

#### **1952**

Wanda C. Muller becomes Director of Christian Education.

APC gets a new choir director, Jack Cogar, first chair horn player in the US Army Band from Fort Myer. He stays until 1958.

### **1953**

APC records 750 members, 450 are enrolled in Church school with 35 teachers.

### **1954**

March 28: APC has 1000 members.

Rev. Gebhart departs APC.

Army Chaplain Wayne Hunter serves APC from the Presbytery's "stated supply" ministers.

Doris True becomes Church Secretary. She keeps APC running smoothly for eleven years.

### **1955**

July: APC elects Rev. Jay W. Rowen as pastor of APC.

September 18: Rev. Rowan is installed at APC. He serves APC for 12 years.

Marie Moravetz becomes assistant Christian Educator

Louise Bachschmid becomes organist for two years.

Doris True becomes APC's secretary.

Lee Wiggins becomes Sexton. He will be with APC for almost 22 years.

### **1956**

Lyda Veit becomes the liaison between APC and the Presbyterian Home of D.C. She continues through more than 40 years with ten members of APC entering the home during this period.

APC begins serious study of successful fund-raising for a manse.

Rosalind Scott joins Doris True in APC's "secretarial pool."

### **1957**

March: A seven-member general planning committee is appointed to study overall APC building needs with an emphasis on an educational program. Additional land adjacent to APC is purchased and a building fund drive begins.

APC hires a black musician, Mrs. Lucille Herron, as church organist. A congregational meeting is called to deal with a number of protests. Rev. Rowen reminds APC to remember that under God, all are equal. Some members opt to leave APC. Elder Pate Hutchins, a native of Mississippi, states that he "can see no Christian reason that a Negro should not be a member of APC." Mrs. Herron serves as organist for three years, takes a break, then returns in 1963 to serve four more years.

APC records 900 members.

### **1958**

APC's Women's Organization raises money for a prayer room in Arlington Hospital dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Ethel Handy and Mrs. Sullivan.

Rev. Tom Nissley becomes assistant minister to work with APC youth and the Christian Education program.

### **1959**

Bramwell Smith becomes Choir Director. He serves until June 1965.

### **1960**

April: Elder Hutchins' statement is born out when Ronda Gilliam becomes first black member. Debate again rages and some members depart. Rev. Rowen and church officials stand firm. Gilliam later becomes an elder and establishes APC's longest running mission outreach, the "Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank."

September: Construction of the education building begins. During construction, the "Cottage," a house standing on the newly acquired church property and the Seventh Day Adventist Church at 9<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln are used for Sunday School classes.

Nancy Reed serves as organist until 1963.

### **1961**

April: The education building is completed and is in use.

Rev. Nissley resigns and Shirley Willis becomes Director of Christian Education.

APC records 869 members.

### **1962**

April 26: Rev. Wolf returns to preach the Service of Dedication for the remodeled chancel.

APC records 776 members.

### **1963**

Lucille Herron returns to be APC's organist for three more years.

APC records 705 members.

### **1964**

Gail Hayman becomes Director of Christian Education. She helps plan APC's education programs until the end of 1966.

APC records 703 members.

### **1965**

March: Maj. Michael Sophos of the Marine Corps becomes Church School Superintendent.

May 23: The Crossroads Class honors Walter K. Handy in Fellowship Hall.

Frederick "Bart" Hewitt becomes Choir Director. He serves until 1969.

Ella H. Griffith begins seven years as APC's secretary.

The Bridge serves to help keep track of all the young men serving in the Armed Forces.

Names and addresses are sought and occasional greetings are sent from those serving in Viet Nam.

APC records 700 members.

## **1966**

As racial tensions flare in public schools, APC tries to help fill the void created by numerous school event cancellations by hosting dances for senior high school students in Fellowship Hall.

July 23: The 14 members of the Adult Education Committee go on a retreat. They prepare to host three adult classes this fall: the Crossroads class, a class studying poverty and social problems, and the third studying social and Christian ethics.

Roberta Timberlake becomes Director of Christian Education.

Annie Bowman becomes Church School Superintendent. Her assistant is Grady Timberlake.

APC records 686 members.

## **1967**

February 14: APC forms a new group, the Business and Professional Women's Group.

April 2: Rev. Rowen resigns as APC's minister. He leaves to join the staff of the Chesapeake Foundation as Director of Continuing Education.

Ruth Willson become APC's organist and remains until 1973.

Presbyterian Women's Circle #3 is organized as a circle for young mothers.

APC records 619 members.

## **1968**

Enrollment in Church School declines for the first time.

The Pulpit Committee interviews Rev. T. Dennis Walker for position as pastor. As the committee adjourns, its members are shocked to hear that Martin Luther King, Jr. has just been assassinated.

September 8: Rev. T. Dennis Walker is installed as pastor to APC. He will serve nine years.

APC's Sewing Group celebrates its accomplishments. During the year, the women make 32 "johnny coats" for the Potomac TB Association, 420 cancer pads for the local cancer society, 200 rolled bandages, and 17 white shirts for migrant works.

APC records 593 members.

## **1969**

January 26: APC's Couples Club becomes the Mariners. The group does fun things, encouraging fellowship within the church and service to the church and the community.

October 12: APC unanimously approves a unicameral form of church government.

Previously organized with three boards: Trustees, Deacons, and the ruling Session, the Session committees assume responsibility for the functions of the Trustees and Deacons.

Rev. Walker begins a men's fellowship or "koinonia" talk group which meets Tuesday morning in the Geneva Lounge. Discussions over coffee and doughnuts cover Christianity and world events.

Rhea Dola is Church School Superintendent over 120 children with 28 regular and substitute teachers. Annie Bowman, who has worked in the APC Church School for 25 years is her assistant.

The Arlington Adult Development Center for severely retarded adults is organized and occupies much of the lower floor of APC. Frank Veit serves as a member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer.

APC begins participating in F.I.S.H. (For Immediate Sympathetic Help). APC volunteers work on a rotating schedule with other Arlington groups bringing emergency help to people in distress.

APC records 551 members.

## 1970

February 1: APC begins providing clothes to the area's needy. In its first month, it supplies 47 children with 459 pieces of clothing. Ten months later, Mr. Gilliam passes away and APC renames the clothing bank "The Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank" to honor him.

The Christian Education Committee begins an outreach program to visit neighborhood homes and entice non-APC and APC children alike to attend APC's Summer Vacation Bible School. They visit more than 400 homes and enroll 48 children from the community. Choir Director, Bart Hewitt and Ruth Willson, APC's organist takes on the responsibility and serves until 1974.

November 1: APC honors its first 23 members during worship. APC records 496 members.

## 1971

March: Rev. Walker begins a Lenten adult study series based on the book, "Suffering: A Test of Theological Method." The series looks at the source of suffering inflicted by evil men and how this suffering challenges our faith.

June 22-August 28: Rev. Walker uses his vacation time and goes on leave with pay approved by Session to serve as a chaplain-in-training at St. Elizabeth's Hospital where he will learn to minister to the mentally ill.

June 23: APC Women's Association hosts a Mission Fair in Fellowship Hall for APC members to learn about mission projects around the world.

The long-range planning committee issues a report urging APC to "become less concerned with the image of APC and more concerned with its relevance to the needs and interests of the congregation."

Lois Ristau comes the APC secretary. She stays until 1974.

September: Fannie Winter reports in The Bridge that APC has 491 members compared to 1954 when APC rolls reached 1,000. She urges everyone to greet your pew neighbor—they might be a new member, an old hand, or searching for a new church home.

## 1972

APC's adult education opportunities included the Crossroads Class, the Fellowship Class, Contemporary Readings for Christians, the Session Study, the Snoopy Group (a family-based summer Bible study), the Round Table discussion group, Home Meeting discussion groups,

May: *The Bridge* reported that at the first meeting of a study group on racism, Session, unable to answer questions about racism, was tasked to find answers to several questions: what problems do minority groups have in getting jobs, housing or medical treatment; what

local community groups are combating racism; what school programs are in place to ease racial tensions.

August 28: Rev. Walker sends a letter to APC members urging them not to turn away the steady stream of visitors and strangers by protecting themselves from change among old friends. He writes that although many have decided that church is not *the* thing to do, some have chosen to make it *their* thing to do.

September 16: Presbyterian Day Mission Fair is held at Westminster Presbyterian Church. APC's booth include the Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank and the FISH ministry.

September 17: APC dedicates its rear chapel to Walter K. Handy who passed away in 1967 to commemorate his life of service to the church as an Elder and as a member for 75-year.

September: Congregational Care provides nametags to members to give newcomers a hand in knowing who we are.

APC records 471 members.

### **1973**

January 13: APC Pikers cleaned and painted the first, second, fifth, sixth grade classrooms. This group of single young adults had been collecting bottle caps at a half cent each and raised enough money to buy the paint.

January 24: Session unanimously votes to reduce the number of Elders from 24 to 16.

April: Lois Ristau becomes APC's secretary.

August: Barry Epperly, APC member, Associate Director for the Army Band, and Director the U.S. Army Chamber Orchestra takes Ruth Willson's place as Choir Director. He amazes the Choir and the congregation by energizing the choir and quickly expanding it from 15 to 35 singers. His wife, Jane, completes the team by becoming organist.

September: Church School opens with a Rally Day. Rae Ann Litz leads the singing of 60 youth and adults. New this year is the Senior High Group organized by... themselves!

APC records 426 members.

### **1974**

Session increases from 16 to the present number of 18.

APC's Women of the Church present APC with a new four-speaker amplifying system as memorial gift honoring Daisy Robertson. Mrs. Robertson joined the church with her husband Paul in February 1941. She became an Elder nine years later and served the church well until her death in 1971.

Palm Sunday: Church School presents "The Easter Story" a slide show borrowed from the National Gallery of Art which recounts the story of Holy Week through sculptures and paintings of world-renowned artists.

April: APC's Pictorial Directory—perhaps the first—is available for members to take home.

May 12: Session votes to issue the following resolution to the Presbytery: "We recommend to our Commissioner to Presbytery that they support any resolution that might be offered at Presbytery to grant amnesty to those who refused to serve in the armed forces during the Viet Nam War by way of passive resistance to the war."

June 16: Session votes to pave the parking lot. Parking has been a long-standing problem for APC. Sunday churchgoers have been allowed to park at a variety of places,

the Murphy Funeral Home across the Pike, Rosenthal Chevrolet, the bank, and nearby garages.

Summer: At the 186<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the United Presbyterian Church (U.P.U.S..A.) suffers a cut of \$7 million. It issues recommendations to the church to emphasize studying the Bible as a basis for stewardship and Christian responsibility for energy and natural resource shortages, examining life-style patterns and dependence on the automobile and seeking a full disclosure of information from the Energy Department.

October: Work begins on rearranging the Chancel as a memorial to the late Larry Gates. The organ is moved to the front and center, lowered 18 inches and two steps (covered by a trap door) are built down to it. Three risers are built and pews arranged to seat the choir. Joan Bartlett becomes APC secretary and serves for about two years.

December: APC echoes the financial problems of the Church as a whole. Session realizes that falling rolls will not enable pledges to fund continuing programs at APC—between 1967 and 1972, APC has lost an average of 75 members per year and gained only 30. Session refuses to prepare a budget for 1975—it is short by \$7,000-\$10,000 for APC to continue to carry out all its normal projects. The Elders led, by Lloyd Olden, present the problem to the congregation at its December meeting. Session members ask all Elders present to stand with them and voice their fears to the raucous congregation that APC could not survive as it now was functioning. They asked APC members what programs they wanted cut. Rev. Walker would later write that on that day, he saw the congregation become “energized” and its commitment renewed.

APC records 345 members.

## **1975**

January 19: Session holds "Pledge 'Renewal' Sunday" in an effort to raise enough money for this year's budget.

March 16: Rev. Walker and his wife, Sue, benefiting from their summer vacation last year at the Marriage Enrichment Conference at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, offer a 10-week course for married couples. They focus on how to improve communication, how to fight fair, and problem solving skills.

Rhea Dola "retires" from six years as Church School Superintendent.

June 1: The Larry M. Gates Chancel is dedicated to the glory of God during the choir's concert.

Session approves the use Harriett Phelan's monetary gift the church in honor of her sister, Laura Simpson, to redecorate the Pastor's study.

A gift from Muriel Heflin in honor of her husband William is used to start a fund for a new church organ. The organ in use was purchased in 1956 and repair bills surpassed \$700 last year. The choir has already begun fund-raising activities.

Caroline Cagle opens her home to two Vietnamese refugees who spend a week with her. *The\_Bridge* calls on APC members to similarly open their hearts and homes to what is expected to be a steady flow of Vietnamese refugees.

September 14: Congregation responds to a questionnaire on priorities for worship, mission, Christian education, and congregational care are discussed at a series of church planning events. A "walk through Sunday" is planned to encourage people to visit displays representing church activities, chat with an Elder, and learn what APC is doing and what it plans.

December 6: The Choir cuts a record, "Messiah." This is the warm up for the next day's Second Annual Performance of Handel's best-known work.

APC records 333 members.

## 1976

January: Rumors of a new "Pentagon City" development cause increased concerns about traffic and congestion. Elder John Marr, active in the Arlington Ridge Civic Association keeps APC informed.

The Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank provides clothes to many Vietnamese refugee families. These families are in desperate need of even basic needs. Most come from refugee camps and have nothing. Decades later, one such Vietnamese family, now fully established and leading production lives as American citizens, will return to APC bringing clothes, donations, and grateful thanks, saying, "You helped us when we first came to this country, so we wanted to return the favor. Thank you so much."

February: Susan R. DuPue, wife of APC's very first minister Rev. James H. DePue passes away.

July 4: APC celebrates our nation's Bicentennial. The worship service is styled after the Presbyterians of 1776. A "tithing man" is present with his feather and stick for any whose attention strays. Many come in the dress of the 1770's to church.

Thelma Valentine makes and donates a quilt to the church to celebrate the Bicentennial. After periodic display within the church, the Arlington Historical Society asks to borrow it in 1978 for display in their museum.

July 6: Janett Yederlinic becomes church secretary until 1978.

August 18: APC is broken into and robbed of \$55 in petty cash. Four doors are seriously damaged.

Jane Epperley becomes Director of the Youth Choir.

John and Linda Bingham share music duties as Director of Music and organist.

Tim Green becomes Education Coordinator for about two years.

APC records 337 members.

## 1977

March: Women of the Church invite members to submit favorite recipes for inclusion in the APC Cookbook.

April: Barry and Jane Epperly announce that Barry is stepping down as Music Director, and leaving the army, and that they will be moving to Tulsa Oklahoma where Barry has accepted a teaching position at the Oral Roberts University.

June 5: Rev. Walker announces that he has accepted a call to serve in Staunton, Virginia.

September: Suy Hoang becomes APC sexton. In 1975, Suy and his family came to the U.S. from Viet Nam where he served as an officer in the police force.

October: The clothing bank undergoes refurbishment with new shelves, fresh paint, a supply of sturdy storage boxes, and rods to hang dresses and coats.

December 8: Rev. Joan M. Salmon-Campbell becomes interim minister until July 30, 1978. APC overcomes some "old think" and welcomes her as both our first woman and first African-American pastor. She resigns after accepting a call from a church in Kansas

City, Missouri. Later she becomes Vice-Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, and in 1989, the Moderator.

APC forms the Emergency Committee to give aid and comfort to members of friends of APC in times of crisis. The group calls people, makes food, provides transportation, and even emergency baby-sitting services.

Tim Green is hired as Christian Education Coordinator.

Linda Raymond begins five years with APC as Director of Music and church organist.

APC records 350 members

## **1978**

April: The Choir presents three concerts featuring outstanding area musicians as part of the Organ Dedication.

July: Linda Bingham is hired as APC's Director of Music and organist.

July 23: The Christianship Committee—a summer union of the Worship and Education Committee—hosts an alternate evening worship service at Potomac Overlook Park.

September 1: Rev. George B. Bretz becomes interim minister until April 1, 1979.

Jane Campbell becomes Education Coordinator.

Ann Aiken briefly takes on the secretarial reins.

Suy Hoang becomes sexton.

APC records 305 members.

## **1979**

February 4: The Choir dons its new bright blue choir robes and white stoles—a gift from the late Mary Bostwick—to welcome guest preacher, Rev. Robert Harris from Syracuse, New York. The Congregation votes to accept him as pastor. He begins his APC service on April 2. He and his wife, Mary Helen, and two sons Doug and Ben, will be with APC for 13 years.

February: Session votes to sponsor Sexton, Suy Hoang's brother-in-law, Nguyen Van Sinh, who has fled Viet Nam and is now one of the "boat people" languishing off the coast of Malaysia.

February: The Pikers celebrate 10 years together. Amid fun and fellowship, they have worked diligently painting, cleaning, and sparkling up APC. Lucy Wise has been the major mover and shaker behind the group.

May 12: APC holds an Attic Clearance Sale to help pay for a new piano.

May 27: The 191<sup>st</sup> General Assembly is broadcast for the first time via cable to Arlingtonians.

June: Session votes to endorse a boycott against Nestle products. Nestle is accused of violating the World Health Organization International Code for Marketing. Nestle claims it is not their problem if the product is misused—they just sell it.

October 20: APC members begin support for and participate in the CROP walk (originally the Christian Rural Overseas Program founded in 1947) for the Community Hunger Appeal of Church World Service. Money raised by sponsored walkers is used for emergency food for victims of war or poverty and disaster throughout the world.

November 4: APC's Planning Committee hosts the first in a series of intergenerational activities aimed at mixing youth with age. They plan movies, discussions, and craft making.

December: In *The Bridge* Rev. Harris addresses American fears for the American hostages held in Iran. He acknowledges that "It is for many people a very dark time" and urges APC to regain our spiritual perspective through the Advent light of Christ.

December: APC installs new red carpeting in Handy Chapel.

Linda Raymond becomes Music Director for three years and Joe Inman becomes the accompanist.

Carol Graham begins three years as APC's secretary.

APC records 298 members.

## **1980**

February 1: The Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Its original mission to provide clothing to local school children has expanded. It now provides clothing to the people of Appalachia, migratory workers, flood victims, Montgnard refugees in Vietnam, and Indo-Asian refugees in Arlington.

February: As the Iran Hostage crisis drags on: APC offers an educational series: Understanding Islam with academic experts in sociology, history, and cultural psychology.

March: APC begins supporting a new, private non-profit organization in Arlington, the Food Bank, established to feed the needy, elderly, and the ill.

August 2: Session votes to hire Barbara Whetzel (soon to be Jennings) as Christian Educator.

October 3-5: APC and Trinity Presbyterian jointly sponsor "Christian Faith and Human Sexuality" for youth and their parents. This workshop is intended to provide guidance to parents and advice to youth on how to deal with this sensitive issue.

APC records 292 members.

## **1981**

January 25: APC uses for the first time its new hymnal, *The Pilgrim Hymnal*.

April: Rev. Harris calls on APC to pray for John Hinckley and his family following the attack on President Reagan and James Brady.

April 12: For the second year, APC observes the Jewish celebration of Passover Seder. Besides traditional food, celebrants retell the story of God delivering the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

October 15: Debra Bennetch becomes Youth Music Educator for about three years.

November 16: Rev. Harris begins the first in a series of meetings of the Grief Support Group for those who have lost a loved one and could use a hand getting through the Christmas holidays.

APC records 293 members.

## **1982**

Summer: General Assembly votes to reunite the Presbyterian Church, U.S.

July 6: Kimble Rose becomes Director of Music

September: Mary Ann McGlone joins the APC staff as secretary.

September: Ellen Kiser becomes organist for about two years.  
APC records 293 members.

### **1983**

February 6: Christian Education Committee sponsors several cycles of the Kerygma Bible study program.

April: A new circle for mothers of young children forms.

April 17: APC kicks off its yearlong 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. Rev. Walker returns as guest minister and Steve Tuttle's historic slide-show is a huge hit!

May 8: Rev. Gebhart returns to guest preach to honor APC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

May: Session approves a loan to Gertrude Amoaka to facilitate her immigration processing from Ghana. Leslie Sussan-Parham helps bring Mrs. Amoaka's plight to APC's attention and leads the effort to provide emergency supplies to the Amoaka family throughout the year. Just in time for Thanksgiving, Gertrude's husband and children are reunited here because of APC.

June 26: Chancel Choir present a "Summer Songfest" featuring popular music performed by APC's musicians. Immediately following, attendees enjoy a display of church momentos

October 9: It's Homecoming for APC as our longest-serving minister, Rev. Wolf returns to help lead worship. The choir provides a concert.

November 20: APC welcomes Rev. Rowen as he returns to guest preach.

Patrick Summers becomes APC's organist for about two years.

APC records 298 members.

### **1984**

Lent: Church School youth collect funds for the Heifer Project.

March 4: APC welcomes Rev. Joan Salmon-Campbell, former interim minister, now Vice-Moderator of P.C.U.S., to guest preach.

March 6: APC mourns with the family of Rev. Rowen who passes away unexpectedly following surgery to correct a chronic heart condition.

May 30: Choir hosts an "Afternoon of Songs and Sweets" with a performance of Broadway songs followed by an ice cream sundae extravaganza.

July 8: The Friendship roster is introduced as a tool for identifying and meeting newcomers.

September 14: Crosscurrents comes to APC hosting a pot-luck plus dinner as its kick-off event. It springs from the nucleus of the Young Adults Group that Sandy Pearson launched earlier this year. Crosscurrents promises fun, fellowship, and learning for 20 to 40 year olds and anyone else who is young at heart.

September: Session votes to hire Kimble Rose as Music Educator to replace Debra Bennetch.

October 10: APC offers job sharing. Ricci Waters works one day a week as secretary and Kathe Brown takes on the other four.

APC starts a Single-Again group to provide support and fun for those potentially lonely times following divorce.

December 30: John Seachrist becomes APC's organist for eight years.

APC records 311 members.

### **1985**

Col. Russell Snook takes on the job of writing APC's history to be published with a new church directory.

December 15: Session asks the congregation to approve APC's becoming a support church for the Arlington County emergency shelter plan for the areas homeless. APC provides 25 volunteers to help the project over the winter.

Youth Choir puts on a hit musical: "A Season to Celebrate."

APC gets fans to help cool the sanctuary.

APC records 305 members.

### **1986**

APC hires Kathleen Dullea as part-time church secretary.

March: The Arlington Adult Development Center bids APC farewell. This day program for severely retarded adults has shared our space for decades. APC has enjoyed having the Center in APC. The adults have enjoyed contributing to APC by helping to fold our bulletins and Bridges. They are moving on to new quarters at Woodmont School.

August 22-23: Ten APC families go on a weekend retreat whose theme is "Active Parenting" led by Bill and Louise Winney. Besides learning how to better communicate, attendees discovered a plethora of hidden gifts in each other.

Lyda Veit begins service on the founding board of Trustees for the Westminster retirement community at Lake Ridge, Virginia.

Brownies come to APC. After a long hiatus of girl and boy scouts using the church, Brownie Troop #2472 returns to brighten the church's early evenings.

Linda Raymond rejoins APC as organist. Kimble Rose, however, resigns. Gigi Becker takes over as Director of Music in early October.

Capital Presbyterian Church for Koreans requests to share our building. The church wants to move from the church they share in Washington to Northern Virginia to be closer to where most of its members live.

APC records 315 members.

### **1987**

February: After several church meetings to help members learn who they are, APC approves. The Koran Church immediately helps APC to learn more about Korea, their culture, language, and themselves.

June 21: John Seachrist returns as APC's organist.

APC enters the computer age by using a word processor for The Bridge and putting its records on computer.

APC records 302 members.

### **1988**

February 8: The New Evangelism Committee meets to plan strategy and tactics to provide outreach programs and greet new comers.

Janet Strickland becomes APC's secretary.

Session hires Ann Kulp as APC's Christian Education Coordinator.

Fall: Funshine Preschool begins providing weekday daycare. Annette Reilly led the Day Care Committee to select an appropriate day care provider from among seven applicants. APC fences in the playground, provides play equipment, and puts it all together for the tots.

June: Gigi Becker, Music Director, provided a series of lectures on the history of Western music.

September: APC becomes a non-smoking building.

December 3: Barbara and Mike Lehr host the first of several Family Enrichment Group events at their house. The Saturday morning break gives APC an informal fellowship opportunity.

APC records 293 members.

## 1989

January 30: the Congregational Care Committee reforms to promote fellowship and provide care to APC member's special needs. They will establish neighborhood zones to improve communication, coordinate transportation, and reach out to newcomers living in those areas.

APC buys Bob Morgan's piano financed by funds from a gift of Goldie Hieronymous.

February: The library acquires the Book Cart to highlight books during coffee hour and encourage greater book borrowing. Ann Kulp forms a temporary committee to help reorganize the library.

Spring: Rebecca Aizupitis produces The Lion and the Wardrobe with APC kids and adults as the stars.

April: APC surprises Rev. Harris and Mary Helen with a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. And yes, he really was surprised!

May 6: Air conditioners are installed in the classrooms on APC's annual work day

May 21: Presbyterian Bicentennial Celebration is celebrated with a joint service between APC and the Capital Korean Presbyterian Church. Rev. Harris and Rev. Park preach a joint sermon.

July 7: Construction begins to install APC's elevette. Completed in September, it smoothes the trek from the parking lot to the church for a lot of people who have a difficult time with the steps. The bathrooms also are modified to improve handicapped access.

Summer: Barbara Katz begins a wellness ministry program at APC.

September: Rebecca Aizupitis becomes church librarian. John Reppert becomes Sunday School Superintendent.

APC records 294 members.

## 1990

January: Christian Education launches the Bridges to Worship program for younger elementary school children.

April 1: Gigi Becker resigns as Director of Music but gives APC a Christmas gift by announcing in December that she will return.

October 20: Annette and Mark Benbow wed at APC. (Hey, we wrote this thing; if you can't have a little shameless advertising at church, where can you have it?)

December: Session votes to acquire a public address system.  
APC records 285 members.

### **1991**

February: APC members place the names of loved ones in the armed forces involved in the Gulf War on symbolic paper doves in the front of the sanctuary

April 16: Capital Presbytery has its first of many meetings on the role homosexuals may serve in the church. This meeting is spawned because General Assembly will review the issue at the General Assembly and as a result, the Westminster Church of D.C. has reached out to the gay community in what Idylwood Church of Falls Church believes is an inappropriate way. The debate continues to rage for years. Rev Harris and Church Educator Ann Kulp determine to help people understand the issues through educational programs.

September 8: APC's new public affairs system is dedicated to the memory of Clint Holland

October 25: APC order new hymnals. Members have been asked to donate toward them and have each Presbyterian Hymnal dedicated to a loved one.

### **1992**

March 29: APC bids farewell to sexton Suy Hoang as he retires from 15 years service to the church. Isais Saez, Funshine Preschool's custodian, will replace him.

May 1: The Capital Korean Presbyterian Church moves to Providence Presbyterian Church in Fairfax to become the first Korean Presbyterian Church located outside the Beltway.

June 7: The Washington Pentacostal Church begins sharing APC space for its afternoon worship services.

September: APC welcomes Barbara Spanjer replaces Barbara Gargiulo as secretary.

November: Rev. Harris resigns from APC. He is on his way to a new call in Columbus, Ohio. Some years hence, will return to Arlington as Trinity Presbyterian Church's Interim Minister.

APC records 249 members.

### **1993**

January 6: Rev. William P. Campbell begins as interim minister. He will serve until January 2, 1994

May 17: Session hires Halston Jones as sexton.

Session votes to have the brown cloth screen behind the organ replaced by more aesthetically pleasing wooden slats.

APC records 214 members.

### **1994**

January 2: Interim Minister Bill Campbell ends his year with APC and APC hosts a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall to bid him farewell.

January 5: APC's interim pastor Mary Boyd Click begins her time with us. Rev. Click comes to us from El Bethel Presbyterian in Eden, North Carolina where she was pastor for six years. This is only APC's second woman minister.

January 15: Session Elders begin a weekend retreat.

January 30: The Congregation holds its annual meeting in Fellowship Hall followed by a potluck luncheon.

January-February: Tom Hester facilitates the Roundtable class. The class is discussing C. S. Lewis's "Screwtape Letters."

March 3: APC hosts an Easter breakfast in Fellowship hall.

April 9: APC members including families and singles go on a bowling and dinner outing.

April 24: APC's youth lead us in worship on Youth Sunday. The theme this year is "celebrating God's creation."

May 1: Worship Committee presents a beautiful white communion table cloth to APC to celebrate Rev. Click. ministry with us. The Worship Committee expressed our appreciation to Rev. Click with the following note: "Some people come into our lives and quietly go; others stay for a while, leave footprints on your hearts, and we're never the same."

May 8: The APC Chancel Choir presents Mozart's "Great Mass in C Minor" with orchestra and soloists.

May 22: Presbyterian women have their annual spring picnic luncheon with hotdogs, fried chicken, and ice cream as well as salad and other picnic foods provided by the members in Fellowship Hall.

May: Valerie Bullerdick leads an APC effort to visit recent visitors to APC on "courtesy calls" to follow up their recent Sunday visit to APC.

June 4: APC hosts an ice cream social in Fellowship Hall.

June 12: APC and Christian Education Committee hosts Christian Education appreciation Sunday and a luncheon is served in Geneva Lounge. Church School teachers and child caregivers are recognized for their service. Our senior graduating from high school are also recognized.

July 31: Stephen Kuol, a lay preacher from the Presbyterian Church of Sudan is guest preacher today. Today's music and hymns are from the hymnal of the Presbyterian Church in the Sudan. They are sung by the Kuol and Bandan families in the native language of Nuer.

Summer: APC conducts a fund drive to raise money to install air conditioning in the sanctuary.

August 21: The Christian Education Committee hosts a Church School teacher orientation.

September 11: we celebrate the commissioning of Church School Teachers for the coming Church school year during worship service.

September 17: APC's Christian Education and Congregational Care Committees host a church-wide potluck picnic for all members and friends.

September 18: Interim minister Mary Boy Click offers a theological tune-up, a six-week class on Shirley Guthrie's book, "Diversity, Faith, Unity in Christ." It is an opportunity to discover what we mean when we call each other "liberal" or "conservative" Christians. Guthrie articulates a theology that draws from the best of both emphases.

October 2: APC hosts a soup luncheon--a simple meal of soup and bread after the Lord's Supper.

November 13: Rev. Michael P. Rucker is a guest pastor at today's worship service. After worship, APC convenes a Congregational Meeting and elects Rev. Michael P. Rucker as

the new minister. He and his wife, Rev. Dana E. Gold and not too long after, new addition Micaiah, remain with APC until September 30, 1997.

December 11: APC's Chancel Choir presents "The Gloria" by Vivaldi as their Christmas Cantata complete with chorus, orchestra and soloists

December: The Crossroads adult Bible study class offers grapefruit and oranges for the third year in a row to raise money for the Union central Mission to provide Christmas to needy children, to Warren Wilson College general scholarship fund, and for the pastor's discretionary fund. Doug Lehmann and Fred Cook lead this effort.

December 18: APC members and friends go Christmas caroling led by its Chancel Choir. We sing for the homebound APC members and bring them good cheer. After caroling, the group convenes at Joanne and Ted Bayler's house for holiday refreshments.

Margaret Holland donates funds in memory of her husband, Clinton, for our new sign out front enabling us to let people know what time Sunday Worship and Church School are.

## **1995**

January 1: Interim minister Rev. Mary Body Click ends her time with us.

January 8: Our new minister Rev. Michael P. Rucker begins his call with APC.

January 8: APC begins participating in the "2 Cents a Meal Program" to involve children and to raise awareness and funds to fight hunger.

January 22: The Congregational Care Committee and Presbyterian women host a baby shower in Fellowship Hall for Rev. Dana Gold, the wife of our new minister. Rev. Gold thanks everyone for lavishing her with money, restaurant certificates and baby-sitting offers.

January 24: Our new minister Rev. Rucker is received by National Capital Presbytery at the National Presbyterian Church where he gives his statement of faith. He relates later that it was a "knee-shaking" experience but that it was good to have friends in the congregation there.

January 29: APC holds its Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship service. We also have a pot luck luncheon and the Annual Reports are given and the congregation receives the budget for 1995. Joanne Bayler and Pennie Kinsey are in charge of the activities.

January 29: APC's Property and Finance Committee sponsors APC's first recorded Super Bowl party at Margaret Holland's house.

January: Mark and Annette Benbow become APC's co-librarians.

January-February: The adult church school class studies basic beliefs using the Presbyterian curriculum "Celebrate" on the church, the community of the Holy Spirit.

February 5: Newly called elders Valerie Bullerdick, Mark Benbow, and Jan LNU serve communion for the first time. We also honor Jack Brafford, Barbara McCallum, Bob Morgan, Ann Tansill, and Lyda Veit who are no longer able to serve communion.

February 15: Presbyterian Women Circle #4 hosts author Paige Putnam Miller as she discusses her book, "A Claim to New Roles: A History of Presbyterian Women in the Early 19th Century" at their meeting in Westminster Lounge.

February 26: Rev. Rucker leads a six-week adult Bible education class on Sunday evenings using Robert McAfee Brown's book "The Bible Speaks to You."

March 19: Rev. Rucker begins teaching a four-week new member class during the 10:00 Sunday morning Church School time.

April 1: APC has a Spring Clean-Up Day for some indoor and outdoor spring cleaning.

June 11: Rev. Ruckers is installed as Minister of word and Sacrament

June 25: APC hosts a "Hello Summer" party in Geneva Lounge, an indoor cook-out and game night complete with hamburgers, cake, laughs, games and music. Also included in the festivities is a baby shower for Manfred and Prudentienne Soughe.

July: APC's Chancel Choir initiates the Surprise Choir in July. Any one who wants to try being in the choir is invited to warm up with the choir in the morning before worship service and sing with them. It's a surprise because you never know who is going to be in the choir on any given Sunday in July.

July 9: Rev. Rucker and his wife Rev. Dana Gold host Pizza with the Pastor as an opportunity for visitors to meet informally with the them. They talk about the church and its ministries.

July 17: A small youth group from Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA uses APC as its home base while they take part in mission work projects in the D.C. area. Four young adults and two adult leaders--Ed Delair, pastor and Linda George, elder, spent most of the week working with the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless at their Sullivan House Shelter. Still feeling energetic, Ed, Linda and the group painted room 203 for APC. Some touring, including a visit to the Holocaust Museum, rounded out their week.

September 16: APC hosts its Second Annual Picnic outside Geneva Lounge on the grassy area on the Lincoln Street side of the church. Everyone enjoys hot dogs and hamburgers. Joanne Bayler and Pennie Kinsey are in charge of this event.

September 17: The worship Committee hosts a special coffee hour to honor Walter K. Handy and A. Elizabeth Handy who join us for worship service. The Walter Handy Chapel was named for their father who was a charter member of APC. The Handys presented APC with a book entitled: "Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred." This is 23 years to the day that the Walter Handy Chapel was dedicated.

September 24: Christian Education Committee hosts coffee hour after worship service today to honor Ann Kulp who is taking a much deserved break from being our Church Educator. She insists that she is not retiring because other work is calling her.

October 1: APC's annual Peacemaking program, "Peacemaking in a Violent World" took on even more meaning this year since the world witnessed the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City and the ethnic violence in Sarajevo and Rwanda. Together we explore the costs of violence, the sources of violence, what's involved in turning to non-violent approaches, and the meaning of forgiveness.

October 29: Rev. Rucker hosts Dessert with the Pastor for anyone interested in learning more about APC and to hear about others' life journeys, our faith, and the ministry and mission of APC.

November 12: APC's Youth Group goes bowling at Fort Meyer. Barbara Apsehoff organizes this event.

December 2: Christian Education Committee sponsors the "Advent Craft Event" to help prepare for Advent by making decorations, decorating cookies, and sharing a soup supper. Adults, you, and children are all invited. Together they make an advent banner for the sanctuary, make Christmas ornaments to decorate a Christmas tree, decorate sugar cookies, plus create other craft projects.

December 17: APC's Chancel Choir presents Wolfgang Mozart's "Coronation Mass in C Major" as our Christmas Cantata. worship is followed by the Presbyterian Women-hosted

Christmas Luncheon and APC celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank with a fashion show using members as models.

## **1996**

January 7: Judy Walton invites APC knitters and crocheters to help "Warm Up America" by knitting or crocheting afghan squares. Judy sews them all together and gives the afghans to the Red Cross in this nationwide effort.

January 14: APC welcomes a new organist, Gi-Young Kim and choir hosts coffee hour to make her feel at home.

January 14: APC installs and ordains a new class of elders: Wayne Frost, Barbara Katz, Lloyd Olden, Mattie hunter, and Gail Freeman.

January 21: About 30 folks gather in Geneva Lounge to hear stories of people's journeys and how those journeys affected their faith. It was a wonderful evening. Part II is held on March 24. Tom Hester hosts the event and provides a delicious and simple pilgrim's meal.

January 28: APC holds its Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The luncheon is first, followed by the congregational meeting and the annual reports. Joanne Bayler, Bill Jackson and Judy Walton are in charge of this big event.

February: The Evangelism Committee develops door knob flyers to hang on neighborhood doors, creates information pamphlets for greeters to give newcomers, and places ads in local newspaper.

February 18: The Christian Education Committee hosts "No Empty Cups" as a time of sharing and spiritual renewal for all Church School teachers led by Carol Morrison. June O'Dell Porco is in charge of this event.

March 10: Diana Warmann leads an adult Bible class called "Searchers." She shares teaching responsibilities with Tom Hester. The group evolves into a each person choosing a topic relating to religious interpretation or social issue and presenting it to the class. The class meets in room 202 during Sunday morning Church School. They discuss "Counting the Ten Commandments" which asks, how many are there and how do numbering systems differ from the Jewish tradition to Roman catholic to Protestant? Topics this year also include: "How the New Testament Books were Chosen" and "Abraham's Eight Crises: The Bumpy Road to Fulfilling God's Promise of an Heir."

March: APC "Celebrates the Gifts of Women" with Rev. Rucker's wife, also an ordained minister, as guest preacher.

April -May: APC prepares to redecorate the Walter Handy Chapel and offers a choice of colors for APC members and friends to vote on.

May 19: APC hosts a Presbyterian Heritage Worship Service based roughly on the order of worship used by the Reform Church in Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, and Scotland in the 16th century. The original services were heavily penitential after all, our ancestral reformers believed that "we are incapable of any god, and that in our depravity we transgress Thy holy commandments without end or decreasing." Hymns were restricted to the singing of metrical psalms without instrumental accompaniment. Sermons were at least 45 minutes to an hour long, sometime longer.

May 19: Following Sunday service Rev. Rucker offers a discussion time for the church to find out more about the issues surrounding Presbyterian ordination and homosexuality. APC along with the majority in the National Capital Presbytery approved the following: "Any church member in good standing may not be disqualified from ordination to church office because of sexual orientation." Further "A congregation, session, or Presbytery is neither required to ordain nor prohibited from ordaining a homosexual person." Emotions

run high. APC seeks to better understand the issues, the wording, the impetus, and the volatile emotional response.

May: Frank Sanders becomes APC's sexton.

June 2: APC's annual spring cantata performance presents pieces from "The Whittier Service" by John LaMontaine. The text is based on the poetry of John Greenleaf Whittier and will be performed on a guitar, organ, and by a chorus conducted by our Music Director, Giselle Becker.

June 9: APC Presbyterian Women hold their Second Annual Picnic at Margaret Holland's home.

June 23: Susan Walker, the wife of former APC Pastor, Rev. Dennis Walker died after a long illness in Warm Springs, Virginia.

June 29: The Presbyterian General Assembly proposes controversial language calling for an amendment to the church law requiring all those ordained to live in fidelity within marriage covenant of a man or a woman or be repentant. For those who seek to reach out to the homosexual community rather than rebuff them, this wording adds fuel to their fire.

August 19: Metro Painters begin work painting the Sanctuary and other interior spaces of the church. October 20: Sue Berry from the National Capital Presbytery conducts a workshop at APC to teach how to respond to those who are in crisis and help caregivers deal with their own grief. This event follows the death of a young single APC woman, Sue Meeker, who suffered the ravages of cancer. A team of APC women cared for Sue, an accomplished professional, pilot, and handicrafter, virtually around the clock and stood with her as she faced her greatest challenge.

September: Barbara Apseloff hosts a music for children program Sunday mornings from 9:45 until 10:00 with an open music program for infants and kindergartners. They learn some childhood favorites and use rhythm instruments. Parents are also welcome.

September 15: During worship Service, Laurel Ohlson serves as ba'al toke'ah (shofar player). The shofar is one of the oldest musical instruments known and is used during the Jewish New Year celebrations. As our Jewish brethren hold Rosh Hashana services, our use of the shofar signals our celebration with them in spirit.

September 21: APC hosts its 3rd Annual Get Together, an Ice Cream Social, at 6:00 pm in Geneva Lounge. APC kids enjoy a clown performance and the APC Chancel Choir provides special music.

September 29: Rev. Rucker leads a four-session discussion of the recent best selling book, "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Marcus Borg, an active member of the Jesus Seminar Group.

October: Michael Sanders joins the APC staff as our new part time building engineer.

October 20: Geneva Lounge is the site of the Christian Caregiving Workshop after coffee hour. Rev. Sue Berry addresses caregiver questions such as "How can I help someone who is ill or dying?" "What do I say to them?" The workshop helps us be better able to help others.

November 3: APC hosts its first free soup luncheon of the fall season. Four different kinds of soup were consumed by 60 hungry people. Soup makers were: Charlene and Doug Lehmann, Kathi and Joe Thomas, Phyllis Kinsey, and Joanne Bayler.

November 10 and 17: Rev. Rucker holds a series of discussions after Worship service to inform APC about a proposed amendment to the Book of Order. It is in response to overtures to the 1996 General Assembly regarding the ordination of avowed, practicing homosexual people to church office.

November: Eight members of APC move to the Westminster retirement community at Lake Ridge, Virginia which Lyda Veit helped found.

December 14: The Christian Education Committee sponsors its Second Annual Advent Craftmaking Fair from 4:00 to 7:00 as a great break from the shopping mall hassles. Kids and parents made Christmas crafts, helped stitch a Keep Warm America Afghan, design an entry for the APC T-shirt design contest, make an ornaments to take home, eat pizza, relax, and enjoy the company of friends.

December 15: The Presbyterian Women host APC members and friends to the annual Christmas Luncheon after Worship service.

APC records 143 members.

## **1997**

January: Tom Hester, Ellen Marrone, and June O'Dell Porco continue to solicit a few more designs for APC T-Shirts. The theme is "Blessed are the Peacemakers" and the colors will be white on green.

January 26: APC hosts the annual potluck luncheon and annual congregational meeting when the annual report is given. Joanne Bayler is in charge of the volunteers.

APC's pews are being refurbished and cushioned, thanks to a memorial gift from Kay Loutenheiser.

May 12: APC's Session adopts the "Covenant of Dissent" to the soon to be enacted "Chastity Amendment" or "Amendment B."

September 7: APC hosts its "Peacemakers T-Shirt Party" with a pot luck in Geneva Lounge and design contest for new church T-shirts.

September 14: APC hosts a farewell pot luck dinner for Rev. Rucker and his family as they decide to return to Pennsylvania.

September 27: The Evangelism Committee participates in Columbia Pike Restoration Organization Community Day. APC was designated a "Treasure Location" for people to visit and have their treasure card stamped.

September 28: The Susan Meeker Memorial artwork, "The Ascending Spirit," is dedicated in the Walter K. Handy Chapel. The Meeker family, the artists, and the Handy family are present.

October: Work begins on refurbishing clothing bank including adding a wall, new flooring, and new lights.

October 18: APC serves as a rest stop and check point along the CROP walk.

November 15: Rev. Fred C. Lyon becomes interim minister for a year.

Fannie Winter bequeaths her house to the church. The congregation opts not to use it as a manse and it is sold. The proceeds will be invested and fund APC needs for years.

APC records 138 members.

## **1998**

January 17: The Evangelism Committee hosts "Game Night" testing attendees skill with "Chinese Checkers," powers of deduction with "Clue" or aggravation level with "Cards and Marbles" (among many others).

March 28: The Evangelism Committee hosts a Country Line Dance Instruction for fun, exercise, and fellowship.

October: Jane Campbell is hired as a consultant to establish a "Bridges to Worship" curriculum for our younger members.

Session votes to sponsor a Cuban refugee family for entry in the U.S.

December: Rev. Sharon Core becomes APC's first permanent woman minister.

APC records 143 members.

## **1999**

January 16: The Christian Education Committee hosts Ann Kulp in "A Quiet Time," who leads attendees in prayer using Tibetan Singing Bowls.

February: Session votes to participate in the Transforming Congregations Project of National Capital Presbytery, a three-year program to help APC find ways to reach out to our community and make us a more effective church.

February 20: Evangelism Committee hosts "International Night and Pot Luck Supper." Geneva Lounge is filled to bursting as APC indulges in the best selection of international cuisine and enjoys the costumes and an array of international memorabilia.

April 17-18: APC commemorates the end of its 90<sup>th</sup> year with a Saturday Tea, history exhibits, slide show, and a Sunday pot luck luncheon.