

Berryville Presbyterian Church

A History

1853 – 2003



Acknowledgments

Several people have provided me with help and information as I wrote this history. Clara Barthel loaned me her store of history and pictures, Bob Brown and Chris Rosen helped with the pictures, Camilla Welsh supplied information on Stone's Chapel, and gave me their 100-year history, Vivien Milleson looked up the service records of World War II, and Tom Jones helped me with information about the cannon ball that hit Berryville Presbyterian Church during the Civil War.

Jonathan Bunker gave me good advice. Chris Kennicott did all the of the typing and figured out how to put the history in book form.

And my husband, Douglas, helped with pictures and proof-reading, and put up with the dining room table being covered with books and papers for at least six weeks.

For all this help, I am grateful.



150-Year History of the Berryville Presbyterian Church

1853-2003

One hundred fifty years ago, on June 10, 1853, Berryville was a small village. A few Presbyterians met in the Methodist Church with a commission of the Winchester Presbytery to organize the Berryville Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Harriet Milton had urged the few Presbyterians here to ask Presbytery to organize a church. They had been climbing into their buggies and driving their horses all the way to Winchester, Bullskin (near Summit point), or to Smithfield.

Dr. James Graham, Pastor of the Kent Street Church in Winchester, preached the sermon. With him were the Rev. W. B. Dutton from the Charlestown Presbyterian Church and Elder John Bell from the Kent Street Church, which later merged with the Winchester Presbyterian Church. General Stonewall Jackson, in 1861, joined the Kent Street Church and became a close friend of Dr. Graham. Officers elected that day were Elders Lewis F. Glass and John W. Luke and the deacon was J. M. Lupton.

The next morning, Saturday, June 11, 1853, the following were received into membership: Lewis F. Glass, Mary Glass, J. M. Lupton, E. Lupton, Harriet Milton, Caroline Maddox, Betsy Thompson, Matilda Bradfield, Susan Smith, John W. Luke, and Elizabeth David. Seven of the eleven members were said to have been members of the Kent Street Church.

By July 27, 1854, the new church building had been built and was dedicated at what was then the outskirts of Berryville. It had no tower, but had a vestibule inside the front door with two doors leading into the two aisles of the sanctuary. The pews were white with cherry ends. The pulpit was elevated with a session room to the right. There also was a gallery.

On July 28, the Rev. Charles White was ordained and installed as pastor. Serving 22 years, until 1875, his was the longest pastorate of the church. During this time, the membership grew to 85.

Franklin Pierce was President of the United States from 1853 to 1857. Growing signs of unrest over the issue of slavery were manifested in Kansas, which was a battle ground for rival factions. Neither Pierce or James Buchanan, his successor, confronted the issue and in 1859, John Brown raided Harper's Ferry.

By 1861, when Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated, seven states had already seceded from the Union. After the South fired on Ft. Sumter, the war began. In 1864, there was a skirmish called "The Battle of Cool Spring". General Jubal Early was pushed west through Berryville to Grindstone Hill, about where Cooley School is today. Apparently, a cannon ball was fired by Early's men, which struck the Berryville Presbyterian Church on the northwest corner, just above the first window. At that time, the church was painted white and, according to Elder Tom Jones whose father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were all elders, someone painted a black circle over the window after the damage was repaired. One of the stained glass windows on the west side of the sanctuary is in memory of great-grandfather, Thomas Jones, who was ordained in 1874.

In 1861, the Presbyterian Church split over the issue of slavery into the Presbyterian Church in USA (PCUSA) and the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America (PCCSA). One of the first things the PCCSA did was to adopt a platform for foreign missions and soon dispatched missionaries to China.

From 1875 to 1898, five ministers served the Berryville Presbyterian Church. The railroad came to Berryville in 1880. The little village became a town. A new subdivision was developed and streets were extended. As the town grew, so did the church and 177 members were received between 1875-1900.

In 1886, Stone's Chapel was organized with 15 members, 11 of whom were from Berryville Presbyterian Church. The name comes from the owner of the land, Jacob Stein (later anglicized to Stone). The original building was wood. In 1848, the present building was erected, after the Lutherans, who shared the building, erected a church in Middleway. Since the Civil War, the church shared a pastor with Berryville Presbyterian Church until 2000.

Minniewood Chapel was erected in 1888, and Berryville Presbyterian Church conducted outpost services there until 1945, when it was sold.

The manse next to the church was built in 1881-82. The original manse was the house at 214 West Main Street. Although there is no record, local historians think the tower of the church was erected in the 1880's or during 1900-09, about the time of the removal of the gallery and the original vestibule.

The Sunday School was under union auspices until 1881. Enrollment was 20 in 1860, and when the session took charge in 1881, it was 40. By 1890, it was 55.

The first organization for women was in 1883 called the Ladies Church Improvement Society. Since then, the name has changed a number of times. The last name was Women of the Church (WOC). These societies had their own budgets and helped support our missionaries.

This last quarter century was a spiritually fruitful period. There were 177 additions to the membership of which 120 were on profession of faith.

The New Century 1900-1920

The U.S. Census reports for the 1900-1920 show a decrease in population of Clarke County and some variations in the population of Berryville. The records of the Berryville Presbyterian Church reflect no increase in membership. Although there were 114 new members, 82 of which were on profession of faith, only 83 remained on the active membership list by 1920. During the second decade of the period, the country was engaged in World War I. Wars usually increase church memberships. On the other hand, after Dr. Scanlon's departure, the next three ministers had pastorates of only 2-3 years with the usual gaps while the pulpit committees sought new pastors.

Five elders were ordained and installed during this period, but no deacons were elected between 1900 and 1920. Four deacons served the entire period.

In the early days of the twentieth century, there was a depression called the "Panic of 1901". Later, the country was enjoying the rousing music of John Philip Sousa; and the Wright brothers flew the first airplane if only for a few minutes.

What effect the "Panic" had on Berryville Presbyterian Church is not evident. Giving increased and by 1916 a pipe organ was installed. Miss Pattie Luke was the organist and the choir, appointed by the Session, consisted of Mrs. Florence Hardesty, Director; Mrs. William Stolle, Miss Ada Drake, Mrs. E. A. Marshall Macomb, William F. Stolle, Clayton Young, C. R. Jones, Enos Stolle, Charles Putman, and A. B. Windham.



Between the Two World Wars 1920-1940

Economically this period might be called the decade of boom and the decade of bust – the “Roaring Twenties” and “The Great Depression.” Presidents Harding and Coolidge held office during the boom, while the unfortunate Mr. Hoover presided over the bust.

Berryville, meanwhile, was out of the mainstream. Folks here didn’t play the market, nor engage in risky financial ventures in the Twenties. In the Thirties, there was more civic improvement and progress in Berryville than in any decade since its beginning – the sewer system, paved streets in the entire town, and many new business buildings erected on Main Street. The silk mill and the basket factory developed into thriving small industries.

During this period Berryville Presbyterian Church doubled its membership and tripled its giving. The Sunday School building was added and the sanctuary refloored and repainted.

The Rev. Lewis Harper was pastor from 1920-1927. Dr. James M. Carr was installed in 1928, after he graduated from Union Theological Seminary, and remained 9 ½ years. Berryville Presbyterian Church celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1928.

After the departure of Dr. Carr, Dr. Elwood Vaughn became pastor in June of 1938. Franklin Roosevelt was president, having taken office in 1933, with his top hat, radiant smile and cigarette holder. He is famous for the Social Security Act and Works Progress Administration (WPA), which, if it didn’t pull us out of the depression, at least, gave the unemployed work to do. “Happy Days Are Here Again” was his theme song. The Thirties began a musical era with the advent of Benny Goodman’s swing music, of the Musical Comedy, Cole Porter, and Bing Crosby.

At the same time, war clouds were over Europe, Spain was engaged in Civil War, and Hitler was tightening his grip in Europe. In 1939, his troops marched into Poland. World War II was launched.



The War Years and Post War 1940-1969

Fighting in Europe intensified, then Italy and Japan joined the Axis. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked and sank our ships in Pearl Harbor. The following morning President Roosevelt declared war on Japan, Germany, and Italy. According to service records of World War II in Clarke County, Virginia, 46 members and friends of Berryville Presbyterian Church served in the Armed Forces, only one of whom died in the war. Camille Wisecarver served in the Red Cross Motor Corps and Elsie Nettles was an Army nurse.

Franklin Roosevelt died in 1945, without seeing the end of the war and left his Vice President, Harry Truman, to order the first nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima and to oversee the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe. General Marshall addressed a Victory Rally at Berryville High School to promote bond sales on November 11, 1945.

The Rev. William Brumberry Abbot was pastor of Berryville Presbyterian Church in 1952 and the Sunday School was remodeled to provide larger classrooms for the growing church. By 1953, the church membership numbered 219, with a budget of \$9,113. Religious community services began in Berryville, in which Berryville Presbyterian Church participated, as well as sponsoring a scout troop. Clara Barthel was church secretary.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the decision on Brown versus the Board of Education. The General Assembly of PCUS followed suit by pronouncing that persons be admitted to membership regardless of race. Perhaps a bit prematurely, since no one of another race had sought membership, Mr. Abbot pressed the matter with the Session, who accepted the pronouncement in principle, but felt the timing was premature. Mr. Abbot then resigned as pastor in 1955. The Clerk of the Session, Loring Kackley, resigned, as well as the Clerk Pro-tem, Garland Williams. Whether the reason the organist and choir resigned at that time was the same, is not stated.

Mr. Abbot was replaced by the Rev. Robert D. Goshorn. At this time, the diaconate was increased to ten members, and the Session to eight. Mrs. Jean Goshorn organized a handbell choir in 1959. In 1956, Mrs. Robert Wright, Dr. Scanlon's daughter, gave a drape that was used to hang on the back wall of the sanctuary, as well as two brass vases, and handbells in memory of her father. By 1958, the church had installed individual hearing devices in some of the pews and loudspeakers for the vestibule and the nursery.

Great changes in the world took place in the first half of the twentieth century. Most of the world was communist, the British Empire was crumbling – India became an independent nation in 1947 – and Israel became a state in 1948. In the U.S., women, not only got the vote, but joined the work force during the war, and many young people had served overseas. Telephone, radios, and television were opening a view of the world to people in their own homes. Conformity had ruled through the Fifties, but that was about to change.

Societal Changes 1960-1979

The membership hit a peak of 251 by 1961. The same year an addition to the Sunday School building was dedicated, which included the fellowship hall, kindergarten classrooms, lounge, and enlargement of the kitchen. This provided space for our growing activities and for use of selected outside groups.

Clarke County had no public kindergarten in 1961. As the new kindergarten space was available weekdays, the Session approved a Presbyterian Kindergarten to start there. Jane Marcus (Mrs. Francis) was the first director. In 1965, Cleo Russell (Mrs. Lloyd) succeeded her and hired Betty Sheetz (Mrs. Don) as another teacher. When the public school added kindergarten, the school became a pre-kindergarten. Cleo and Betty continued to offer a stimulating preparation for public school until the enrollment fell below the optimum in 1998. Our kindergarten operated only in the morning. As many women work all day, care for their children is a necessity. Betty and Cleo decided to retire after 33 years. There was a Litany of Prayers and Thanksgiving for the kindergarten on June 28, 1998.

To say the decade of 1960-70 was eventful is an understatement. In the U.S. President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King were assassinated; Medicare and Medicaid became law; and President Johnson launched his Great Society. NASA put Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon. The Vietnam War escalated. We had flower children, folk singers, and the rise of feminism. In Berryville, Eugene White turned his drugstore into a pharmacy, a "first" in the country.

In Berryville Presbyterian Church, the first women church officers were elected, ordained, and installed as deacons. They were Marian Stolle and Patricia Watson. For the first time, a unified budget was adopted as was the rotation of elders and deacons; and supplemental offerings for groups outside the immediate church family began. The first community Thanksgiving was held. A new Wickes organ was dedicated in January of 1968, replacing the Moller organ of 1916. Berryville Presbyterian Church participated in the Consultation on Church Union, an ecumenical study, beginning with a pulpit exchange. In discussing our community's needs an elder suggested we needed an organization like FISH.

In the 70's, Jane Harrison, an Episcopalian, founded Clarke County's FISH organization. Many volunteers from Berryville Presbyterian Church have served. At present, seven serve. In 1974, Jane Campbell, as Site Supervisor, opened the second Title VII Nutrition Program in the Lord Fairfax Planning District at Berryville Presbyterian Church. This was a three day per week government program for senior citizens, providing a noon meal, and educational and entertaining programs. Eventually, this became the Clarke County Senior Center which operates now four days per week in our social hall. Meals are supplied to the homebound via a handicapped accessible van, which also transports participants to and from the site. Bonnie Dodson is the present supervisor. This is a U.S. Government-supported program involving both state and local funds. The church supplies the space for a contribution. The Rev. Roy Taylor, who succeeded the Rev. Dan Dickinson, was very supportive of the nutrition program, as were the volunteers from this church and other churches in Clarke County.

During Mr. Taylor's pastorate, the choir loft was enlarged to accommodate the new organ, and the parking lot was paved. At that time, there were 219 communicants, a reduction since 1961. The Session was reduced from 12 members to 9, one of whom was Marian Stolle, our first woman elder. After the death of Mr. Bob Galloway next door to the manse, Berryville Presbyterian Church bought the property for future use. In 2002, it was used to expand our parking lot, the house being deemed unsafe for use.

In 1978, we had 208 members and three circles. A second handbell choir was organized and Berryville Presbyterian Church celebrated its 125th anniversary. Mr. Taylor was called to a church in Roanoke; and in 1979, we welcomed the Rev. Thomas Holden III.

Meanwhile, in the rest of the U.S., President Nixon was in office until 1974, when he was forced to resign after the Watergate scandal and Vice President Ford became president. The U.S. finally withdrew forces from Vietnam, and in Europe, the Franco Era ended; the Portuguese Empire fell, and Greece returned to democracy and civilian rule. Back in the U.S., we celebrated our Bicentennial in 1976 and enjoyed “All in the Family” and “Roots” on television.

In 1980, President Carter lost to Ronald Reagan, who changed the way we did business in the U.S. Part of the economy boomed, but the gap between rich and poor widened and unemployment soared. This decade saw the beginning of terrorism in the hijacking of planes and kidnappings, though the hostages, taken by Iran during Jimmy Carter’s presidency, were released. Smallpox was eradicated, but AIDS took over. “Columbia” made its first flight, but the “Challenger” exploded after takeoff. In 1989, anti-communist revolutions swept Europe, East German citizens poured into West Germany, and the throngs dismantled the Berlin Wall erected after World War II.

The 1980’s were eventful in the church life also. Under the leadership of Elder Marian Stolle, and with a gift from the children of Dorothy S. Bell, a church library was established. Mrs. Robert Tappan York gave a table used in the Hawthorne Library, whose founder was her mother, Mrs. Alice Tappan. Some old chairs were refinished to use with the table. Miss Jane Barbour’s needlepoint map of the world was hung in the library.

By this time, the choir had 17 members and there were 2 bell choirs. Ronald Johnston was music director. Ardelle McFillan made and installed new benches for the choir loft.

In 1983, we celebrated 130 years of the life of Berryville Presbyterian Church. On June 12, the rev. Roy Taylor was our guest minister. Later the same year, came finally the union of the two largest units of the Presbyterian Church, the PCUSA and the PCUS. A communion service was held in Louisville, Kentucky, to which all Presbyterian churches in our area were invited to participate via satellite at Berryville Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Thomas Holden arranged to borrow a satellite dish from a local dealer. We had bulletins which allowed us to follow the service. We sang the hymns and partook of communion, as well. It was a moving experience.

In 1984, the Fellowship and Service Committee of the deaconate started holding breakfast and East Egg Hunts on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. In later years, the men, who had started having breakfast together one Saturday a month, started cooking the breakfast as they do today. The Women of the Church (WOC) dissolved as a constitutional organization. The functions were preserved by committees of the Session and diaconate. There were two reasons for this action: the membership of the church had fallen, and so many women were working that it became impossible to find officers. Two circles remained active.

Clarke County and Frederick County developed a regional jail system, the women being held in Clarke County Jail. Some of the churches cooperated in hiring a jail chaplain. Berryville Presbyterian Church also contributed fresh fruit for the inmates in our jail once a month.

Other accomplishments in the 1980’s were the addition of a trumpet rank for the organ and the completion of the ramp for the handicapped done in conjunction with the Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging. George Grove drew up the plans. This gave the handicapped access to the Fellowship Hall. In the year 2002, a portable ramp was purchased to give access to the sanctuary. In 1987, air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall; and the parking lot was sealed.

When Tom Holden left us after April 2, 1989, we had 140 members. We had started a Backyard Fellowship during the summer, at which we had a picnic potluck followed by discussion. We had had an Alternative

Christmas Market for Heifer International and followed up with a table for “Heifer” at the Clarke County Fair. The second Handbell Fest, begun by Ron Johnston, was held in May and continued to be held each year until the resignation of Bill Propst in 1992. We discontinued the clothes closet because of lack of demand from Church World Service. FISH has a clothing bank for the local population.

Before we had called another minister, Betty Bowman, the church secretary, resigned leaving a rather acute staff shortage; but before the year 1990 was out, we had hired a new secretary, Phyllis Cheshire, and called the Rev. Thomas Biggs, who stayed nine years.

The 1990’s came on with a rush of events worldwide. The breakdown of the USSR under Mr. Gorbachev spawned ethnic clashes in Yugoslavic between Bosnia and Serbia. Germany rushed to reunite. Britain’s Margaret Thatcher stood down, the Labor Party won power, and elected a Scot, Tony Blair. Nelson Mandela was freed and elected in South Africa ending Apartheid. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, President George H. W. Bush gathered a coalition from all over the world and “Operation Desert Storm” ensued. It was a short war with few U.S. casualties. Back in the U.S., we suffered Hurricane Andrew and massive floods in the Midwest. William J. Clinton took office in 1993, holding office for eight years, in spite of impeachment, and presiding over a great economic boom. He also, with NATO, sent troops into Bosnia to drive out the Serbs. At the end of the century, when it was thought that computers would crash in the changeover and many people thought we might be without water and electricity, the 21st century arrived without incident.

Meanwhile at Berryville Presbyterian Church, the 90’s saw many changes. Ron Johnston, our fine Minister of Music, retired and member David Foster filled in until we hired Jason Largent. Bill Propst was hired to direct the Handbell Choir and Suellen Skinner directed the new handchime choir, waiving a salary in favor of another octave of handbells.

Under Tom Biggs’s leadership, a Long Range Planning Committee was appointed to plan for building improvements. Presbytery had asked churches to establish a Bicentennial Fund to take care of its priorities and the Session opted to add a capital fund for Berryville Presbyterian Church to that fund. We paid off Presbytery in one year and later extended our capital fund for three more years. With the latter, we made some structural changes to the chancel – as well as adding cabinets and handrails to the narthex. The kitchen was completely re-outfitted. (Please see yearly histories for details.) We also bought hymn books, pew Bibles, rugs, etc. from memorial funds. A new computer and printer makes office work easier. All this was accomplished with a declining membership. We suffered the loss of a number of older members by death, most notably our first woman elder, Marian Stolle, whom we sorely miss, and we seemed unable to attract new young members, despite the growth in Clarke County.

The Rev. Tom Biggs was responsible for a number of innovations. During his watch we began a community vacation Bible, the monthly men’s breakfast on Saturday, the pulpit exchange, and potluck lunch with several other Berryville churches during the week of Christian Unity, the two Summer Evenings in the Park with other churches, and Vacation Bible School in the evenings, which included a class for adults.

In 1998, the Town of Berryville celebrated its 200th anniversary climaxed on New Year’s Eve with activities all over town. Berryville Presbyterian Church hosted square dancing in our social hall. The same year Berryville Presbyterian Church celebrated its 145th anniversary with a potluck dinner and a program of reminiscence.

Berryville Presbyterian Church wound up the 20th century with the retirement of Tom Biggs. Marie Mawby became organist and choir director as of 1995, and Suellen Skinner was, and is, director of handbells and handchimes.

First Three Years of the 21st Century

While we were searching for a pastor, Dr. Becky Stanley served as our interim pastor. This vivacious, creative woman raised our spirits. We were beginning to fear the Berryville Presbyterian Church would suffer the same fate as Stone's Chapel, which was dissolved by Presbytery in the year 2000. We ended the year 2000 with 88 members.

When the General Assembly met in 2000, there were no white male candidates for Moderator. Syngman Rhee, a refugee from North Korea, was named Moderator. The General Assembly passed a Constitutional Amendment to ban same sex unions. It was ratified. In 2001 when it met, it passed an amendment to ordain homosexuals. It was not ratified.

Elsewhere in the world, the Supreme Court chose our next President, George W. Bush, after a lot of acrimony over a recount of votes. On September 11, Al Qaeda terrorists hijacked four planes, flew two into the twin tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, another into the Pentagon. Thousands were killed. The fourth plane was brought down in a field in Pennsylvania by heroic passengers. All were killed. In December, the first U.S. bomber hit a target in Afghanistan and the war to find Osama bin Laden and oust the Taliban was on. In the fall of the same year, Enron, a large energy corporation, collapsed amid a great accounting scandal. One after another, large corporations followed suit.

Shaken as we were by "9/11" and Enron's collapse, we were more than grateful to have our new "shepherd", the Rev. Jonathan Bunker, to sustain us. He was installed in March, but actually began working in February and preached his first sermon February 11, 2001. Jonathan immediately started organizing the youth. His sermons for the children are often hilarious because of his antics and the children's questions and answers. His second summer, he and the Christian Education Committee decided to have Berryville Presbyterian Church's own Vacation Bible School called "Camp Tumbleweed." To advertise it, Jonathan, dressed as an Australian cowboy, galloped around the church on a stick horse to the amusement and bemusement of the congregation. After the Bible School, there was a noticeable increase in young parents and children who, subsequently, joined the church. All in all, this young man and his family are an answer to our prayers. The membership has grown and the congregation, instead of 30 or 40 souls, now numbers 80 or 90.

Soon after we completed work on the sanctuary and manse, the organ began failing. In 2001, we had our first yard sale, headed by Phyllis Shenk, and bazaar, headed by Frances McLaughry, and raised over \$4,500 for the organ repair. With other monies from a musical luncheon and gifts, as well as the Kackley Memorial, the funding reached the goal of \$17,000. The organ repair was completed in 2002.

Other improvements were a portable ramp for the handicapped from the hall to the sanctuary, some large print hymn books, a hearing device, and a play area for children built by a local Boy Scout, David McLaurin, for his Eagle rank.

Now it is 2003, and we begin to celebrate our Sesquicentennial. As we look back over the years and the evolution of Berryville Presbyterian Church, as well as the events in the world, we can consider our church's reaction to events in the country and in the world. How did we influence our community?

Population Growth and the Economy

The advent of the railroad in the early days of the church spiked a growth in the membership. On the other hand, a population surge in Berryville and Clarke County in the 1990's failed to help either Berryville Presbyterian Church or Stone's Chapel. The Methodists larger congregation was able to offer a more dynamic program than we were able to offer. In the 1950's, all mainstream churches saw a rise in membership, and Berryville Presbyterian Church benefited accordingly.

During difficult financial times, our church seemed as able to raise funds for additions to the building, installing organs, or extensive remodeling as times when the U.S. economy was good. In the Great Depression, the membership doubled and giving tripled. During the 1990's when membership declined, we still raised funds.

Changes in Society

Several things happened in World War II. Many women joined the workforce which led to women seeking more leadership roles in society. The Presbyterian Church began ordaining women as deacons, elders, and pastors. Integration of blacks and whites in the Armed Forces led to public school integration and led our General Assembly to pronounce an end to discrimination in the churches.

Berryville Presbyterian Church is not integrated. Black people occasionally visit and are welcomed, but the black community is mostly Baptist except for the small Episcopal congregation. Most of their social activities seem to be centered in their churches; and this author suspects that they do not find our services as emotionally stirring as theirs.

In the early day of Berryville Presbyterian Church, the community was small and people looked after each other. The emphasis of the church then was foreign missions, as well as its own congregation. Community Ecumenical services began in the 1940's. In the 1960's, we began to think of serving the community with the Presbyterian Kindergarten. In the 1970's, we became involved with FISH and our Session approved allowing the Title VII Nutrition Program for senior citizens to use the kitchen and Fellowship Hall. In the 1990's, we began the yearly pulpit exchange and potluck dinners, as well as the Summer Evenings in the Park, and other inter-church activities.

Development of Technology

The first Session minutes, as well as minutes of other organized units, were handwritten in small bound notebooks. In 1945, typed minutes appeared, and the mimeograph did our copying. Now we have a computer and printer that, to the computer illiterate, seem magical. The latest in technology is our own Website, designed by Chris Rosen.

In reviewing the history, we see repeated mention of the church building – the new construction, repairs, renovations, etc. Two of the church's principal functions are to educate and provide space for fellowship; so we must provide facilities for those functions. Beyond that, we serve the community by providing space for the kindergarten, the senior center, Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and other special groups.

There is no doubt that the Berryville Presbyterian Church has been, and is a force for, good in the community and that, where it has seen needs that it is able to fill, it has done so.

Conclusion

Looking at the world today, one would think the Christian Church isn't very influential in it. Wars in many places are tearing apart the fabric of society, leaders are greedy for power and money, while their people die of hunger and disease; our poor stewardship is despoiling our lands; our ignorance of history compels us to repeat our mistakes.

Yet, over the years perhaps we can look back and see that a little leaven raises the whole loaf. The Catholic Church has always been a strong influence on history, not always for the good. Martin Luther tried to remedy the corruption, but ended up founding Protestantism. John Knox had a vision of democracy in the Presbyterian Church with its representative form of government. Presbyterians brought this concept to the colonies in America. The American Revolution was sometimes called "The Presbyterian Rebellion". John Witherspoon was the only theologian to sign the Declaration of Independence. The U.S. Government was founded upon democratic principles. It took about 70 odd years for our government to abolish slavery, and another 100 years to pass a civil rights law. Martin Luther King, a Baptist minister, led the non-violent march to freedom. Since World War II, a number of countries have experimented with democracy. John Muir, in the early 1900's, raised environmental concerns and in the 1970's, we celebrated our first Earth Day. It is always easier to look back and see where we have been than to see clearly in the midst of war, corruption, poverty, and now two diseases for which we have no cure – AIDS and SARS.

May God, "a very present help in time of trouble", guide us to our future.



Pastors of Berryville Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Charles White	July 1854 – May 1875
Charles Scott Lingemfelter	Nov 1875 – 1880
The Rev. A. B. Carrington	Mar 1881 – Dec 1883
The Rev. J. Henry Moore	Nov 1885 – 1890
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Stribling	Jan 1891 – Jan 1897
The Rev. James B. Thomas	July 1898 – Aug 1898 (died)
The Rev. Dr. David H. Scanlon	July 1900 – Dec 1908
The Rev. Samuel Knox Phillips	Oct 1910 – Feb 1912
The Rev. Dudley McIver	June 1913 –
The Rev. Thomas Adair Painter	Aug 1917 – Oct 1919
The Rev. Lewis F. Harper	Apr 1920 – Sept 1927
The Rev. Dr. James M. Carr	May 1928 – Dec 1937
The Rev. Elwood D. Vaughan	June 1938 – Oct 1943
The Rev. Royce K. McDonald	Feb 1944 – Oct 1949
The Rev. James Clyde Mohler	Feb 1950 – Dec 1951
The Rev. William B. Abbot	Oct 1952 – 1955
The Rev. Robert D. Goshorn	1955 – 1962
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Dickenson	1963 – 1969
The Rev. Roy D. Taylor	1970 – 1978
The Rev. Thomas J. Holden II	1978 – 1989
The Rev. Thomas J. Biggs	1990 – 1998
The Rev. Jonathan W. Bunker	Feb 2001 -

Charter Members

Lewis F. Glass	Harriet Milton
Mary Glass	Caroline Maddox
J. M. Lupton	Betsy Thompson
E. Lupton	Matilda Bradfield
Susan Smith	John W. Luke
Elizabeth David	

First Elders

Lewis Glass
John Luke

First Deacons

J. M. Lupton

First Woman Elder

Marian Stolle (1970)

First Women Deacons

Marian Stolle
Patricia Watson
(Mrs. Raleigh)

2003 Church Staff

The Rev. Jonathan W. Bunker	Pastor
Mrs. Marie Mawby	Organist & Choir Director
Ms. Suellen Skinner	Bell & Chime Choir Director
Mrs. Chris Kennicott	Secretary
Mrs. Marilyn Heikes	Treasurer
Mrs. Phyllis Shenk	Treasurer (1973-2003)

2003 Church Officers

Elders

Alan Dunsmore
James Green
Thomas H. Jones
Frances McClaughry
Walter McMann
Philip Shenk

Deacons

Alma Brown
Gerald Dodson
Mary Green
Marian Jones
Chris Rosen
Phyllis Shenk

Clara Barthel, Clerk of Session

Trustees

Jim Barb
Margaret Barthel
Charles Grubbs
Kenneth Shenk

Suellen Skinner Sunday School Superintendent



Bibliography

Former histories written by James M. Carr and Garland Williams
Session Minutes from 1854 to 2003
Berryville Celebrates, 1798 – 1998; Herman Lloyd, Sr., Editor
The Story of America, Readers Digest
The 20th Century; Lorraine Glennon, Editor in Chief

