

Clifton Presbyterian Church

Celebrating Fifteen (15) Decades of Service and Gratitude



Celebrating the 1990's

The relatively peaceful and prosperous 1990's . . .

The Hubble Telescope is Launched and the World Wide Web Debuts!

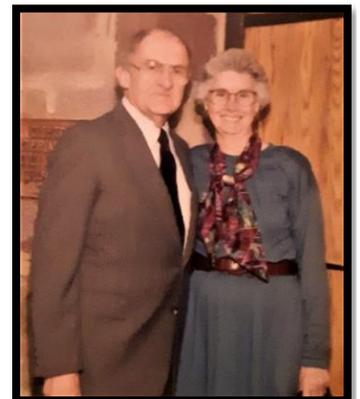
The Soviet Union dissolves! The COLD WAR ends! Y2K Looms!

CPC Celebrates 125 years! Installs Air Conditioning!

And calls its First Female Pastor!



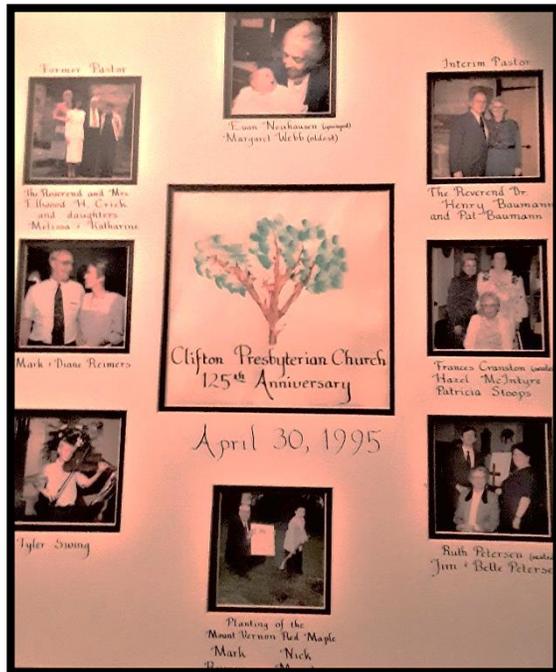
Rev. and Mrs. Robert von Oeyen had served Clifton Presbyterian Church for over 8 years when they were called as missionaries to South Korea. Much had been accomplished during their tenure. Membership had grown to 230. Mission work was strong. The preschool enrollment was at capacity with 94 children and staff numbered 6, including the preschool/church secretary, Susan Flesher. Sandra Reynolds had taken over from Barbara Brown as the preschool director in late 1989, and it continued to be a valuable asset both to the church and the community. Margaret Webb's 90th birthday had been celebrated with great joy in the Liddell annex in 1992. The first children's Christmas pageant was organized and produced by Candy LoPresti in 1993, and the children's choir continued to "look and sing like little angels," still under the direction of Sherry von Oeyen. Members expressed how much they would miss the von Oeyens at the annual Congregational meeting in January, 1994, grateful for their leadership and musical talents!



The new Interim Pastor, Henry Baumann, preached the “first of many wonderful sermons” in April of that year. The following year, he wrote a beautiful prayer for the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of CPC, held on April 30, 1995. In addition to a tree planting, and a printed

Church history, Mark Reimers and Jim Petersen – among others – spoke of the church when they first joined. Many old friends of the church, returning for the celebration, were welcomed at a reception following the service. Relatively new member, Lynne Coyle, was an integral part of the planning committee which the Session commended for this outstanding event. (Lynne shares in her memories of the 1990’s why she was warmly welcomed twice!) The Pastor Nominating committee, selected in June, 1994, had been working tirelessly for over a year.

An excellent candidate emerged, and was approved by the congregation on August 6, 1995. The Reverend



Dr. Henry Baumann and his wife, Pat, were thanked for their dedicated leadership to CPC during this time of transition, and Clifton Presbyterian Church’s newly called minister, the Reverend Lynn Stanton-Hoyle, preached her first sermon on Sept. 3, 1995 and was installed on October 1.



A record 24 inch snowfall greeted the Stanton-Hoyles their first January at CPC. Certainly, their young children LOVED it, as did all the youth! Having a young family themselves, they appreciated the importance of a vibrant youth program. In 1996, Julie Hodges was hired as Youth Director. There were 62 children enrolled in Sunday school that year, (20 in adult classes) with a church membership of 221 – church membership numbers fluctuated slightly over the decade – the Sunday school numbers increased. (80 children in 1998 and 25 adults!) In addition to Sunday school and Junior Church, summer camp for the young ones was offered by the preschool, and VBS was well attended. The youth group (grades 5th to 12th) enjoyed many fun activities – favorites were lock-ins and ski trips, and several young people joined in the summer mission trips as well. Mission was still a priority. The Reimers had traveled to Nairobi, Kenya for a one year mission trip in the early part of the decade and CPC began supporting their work by donating to the school in Kibwezi, Kenya with which they were involved. The CPC Preschool also sent funds to their “sister preschool” in Kibwezi as did the Presbyterian Women (PW). Local mission work was also emphasized throughout the decade and the funds raised from the Harvest of Love Sale, Clifton Day, annual spaghetti dinner/clothes drive, the Birthday fund, and sales of the cookbook published by the PW in

1993, among other activities, helped to support the many worthwhile projects including mission trips to Kenya and Puentes de Cristo Mission in Mexico.



As the preschool and congregation grew, so did the staff. In 1994, Qui Nguyen was hired to clean the preschool. Along with the Youth Director, a Junior Choir Director, Nursery worker, new preschool/office secretary (Gretchen Reamy, 1995), organist (Ellen Thatcher, 1997), and Intern, Lisa Kenkeremath (1998) were also hired. As the end of the decade neared, Ruth Petersen was named Choir Director Emeritus, and Ellen Thatcher had the title of Music Director. Both were grateful for

the “new” (to CPC) organ installed in 1998 and the new choir robes celebrating Ruth’s contributions to the music program over many decades . . . **“COME, SING O CHURCH IN JOY. COME, JOIN, O CHURCH IN SONG. . . .”**



Each of the 3 ministers that led Clifton Presbyterian Church during the 1990’s brought fresh ideas and unique gifts to the pulpit. CPC prospered from these leaders and is grateful for all that was accomplished throughout the decade. A lending library had been established by Marla Hembree early in the decade. PW reached out to women of all churches, inviting them to a tea in March. It was hoped that Tables of Eight, initiated during Rev. Baumann’s time at CPC, would help our members become better acquainted. The Evangelism Committee suggested a photo directory, an outreach to the Fairfax Nursing Home, and a time and talent survey to help new members especially, become involved in the life of the church. A new men’s music group immersed – Pastor Lynn’s family was also musical.

The manse, no longer needed for the minister’s housing, was renovated, new windows were installed, and it was approved by Session for use as much needed office space, to include Pastor Lynn’s office and the updated “Bride’s Room.” CPC is also grateful for the generous gifts that were given: the Orlick family donated and installed a music system in the bell tower, a fund was started for the historic preservation of church artifacts, funds were donated for Kerry candles to eliminate dripping wax, and the Helen Pierce Memorial Advent Wreath, donated by the Petersen’s in memory of Bette’s mother was dedicated on Nov. 11, 1999. And, as Y2K loomed, Marge Fare put together a sample Web page for CPC and the construction of a web site began – CPC GOES TECH! – (Not quite HIGH TECH . . . yet!)



CPC's wishes for the coming decade . . . to hire a church secretary and a full time Associate Pastor with emphasis on youth and Christian Education! Will they come true?

As we learned in the 1980's, Clifton was on the map and on the National Register of Historic Places. Clifton was also home to talented artists like Jeff Arch, who wrote the screenplay for "*Sleepless in Seattle*," while living in the Buckley House on Main Street – and like local artist, Ellen Jones, who early in the decade, designed a "refreshing" new bulletin cover for CPC and donated her original work! There was also a talented group known as the Clifton Village Square Quilters, to which CPC member Brenda Ference belonged. By the 1990's most of Clifton's old homes had been restored, retail shops opened, and the two restaurants debuting in the 80's, contributed to the town's (and CPC's) popularity as wedding venues...

The town of Clifton was prospering, but sadly lost one of its prominent citizens with the death of Margaret Webb on Sept. 21, 1996. Following her death, the Webb family donated their land on Chestnut Street to the Audubon Society. The area is known as the Webb Audubon Preserve. As she was also a beloved member of our church, her son donated to CPC the original slatted doors and the oil lamp hanging fixtures from her early years in the church. What a blessing she and General Webb had been to the town of Clifton and to Clifton Presbyterian Church for so many years. CPC strove to be a good neighbor to the town, and the Pastor's occasional meetings with the Mayor, kept each current on activities and items of common interest. The lawn of the Manse was used by the town on Clifton Day for Civil War reenactments. Thanksgiving services rotated among the churches in town; the number of Christmas Eve and Easter services increased; the Easter Sunrise Service continued to be observed on the lawn; and CPC continued to serve the Clifton community.

The 1990's was said to be a decade of relative peace . . . The Soviet Union had collapsed and the Cold War had come to an end. Yet, the decade began with Operation Desert Shield and the shock and awe of Desert Storm. In 1992 there were the LA riots over the treatment of Rodney King. In 1993, a truck bomb at the World Trade Center killed 6 and injured over 1000; and 80 people died in a standoff in Waco, TX between the FBI and the Branch Davidians led by David Koresh. In 1995 the Oklahoma City Bombing killed 168 and injured 800 and was the worst domestic terrorist incident in US history. In 1996 Khobar Towers was bombed in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 US Servicemen; and one died and 111 were injured in the bombing at the summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. In 1998 into '99 we endured the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal and the impeachment and acquittal of our President. And in 1999 the nation wept over the tragedy of the Columbine Shooting and the deliberate crash of Egypt Air flight 990 by the first officer off the coast of Massachusetts, killing 217 . . .

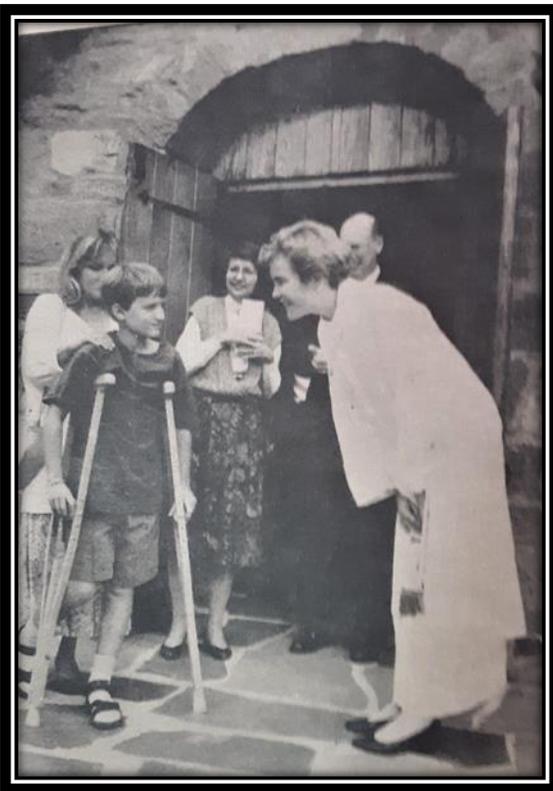
. . . And it was said to be a decade of relative prosperity, yet J.K. Rowling was living in her car while writing *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. "You go, girl!" And then there was the \$25 billion in damages caused by Hurricane Andrew in 1992, and property lost and 300 people killed in The Storm of the Century that hit the eastern seaboard in March, 1993.

Also, in 1993 massive flooding in the Midwest caused over \$15 billion in damages and 50 lives were lost. In 1994, another devastating earthquake hit, this time in Northridge, CA, killing 72 and injuring 9000.

And there was the 1995-96 budget crisis (shortly after Pastor Lynn was installed) where the government shut down for 5 days and then for 21 days – over Christmas and New Year’s. In 1997 the Dow plummeted 7.18% to 7,161 caused by the global economic crisis scare . . . But then, Google was launched in 1998 and on March 29, 1999 the Dow closed above 10,000!

Lord, we are grateful for the contributions CPC makes to those in need – to the victims of hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes in our country and around the world. We are grateful for the fun had in dancing the Macarena, (long gone was the Hokey Pokey!) and the fact that Retired General Colin Powell accepted the invitation of a young girl to join in the dance . . .

“If Vice President Gore can do it, I can,” he said, amid cheers and applause of over 400 children! Some may be grateful for Beanie Babies, backwards baseball caps, parachute pants . . . and the overuse of “slang” . . . “Not!” But we are all grateful for our church members.



In addition to Lynne Coyle, Lara Baldauf Campbell, Charlene Baldwin, Matt Brooks, Rachel Cooke, Kimberly Davis, the Fields, the Hatchers, Donna Henry, the Hensle family including Jessica and Chris, Laura Kehoe, Sam Ference Kinzer, the Landrys, the Maestris, the McCaws, the Meros, Barbara Murphy, Anne Pearson, the Staples, Bill Watts, the Willises, Joanne Woodward, the Wrights, Wrightsons, and others no longer with us were welcomed into the CPC family in the relatively peaceful and prosperous 1990’s. . . . **“FOR CHRIST THE LORD HAS LED US THROUGH THE AGES LONG.”**



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