



A HISTORY OF CLARKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1832 - 2025

DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF CLARKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**WHO HAVE COME BEFORE US AND LAID THE FOUNDATION
OF THE CHURCH WE LOVE TODAY**

“For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!”

Text by William Walsham How, 1864

Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Linda Pulliam, Editor

With assistance from Brenda Mould, Carol Henderson, Rich Henderson, Robert Thaxton, Dottie Thaxton, Richard Pulliam, Saree O’Brien, Jim O’Brien, Donna Pool, Jessie Ruff, Frank Ruff, and Terry Denton.

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HISTORY OF THE CLARKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In the year 1726, a group of twelve Presbyterian families arrived in the United States from Scotland and settled in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. In the group were John and Margaret Caldwell who settled at Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, and petitioned Governor Gooch of Virginia, on behalf of himself and others who were about to settle in the back parts of Virginia, for the right to worship in a way “agreeable to the principles of their education.” Governor Gooch gave his assurance that there would be no interference with any church or minister who conformed to the Acts of Tolerance.

With this assurance, the Caldwells and their group purchased land in Brunswick County, Virginia. This land became part of Lunenburg County in 1746, and later part of Charlotte County. Here they established a settlement near the Staunton River on Cub Creek and Louise Creek. It was here in 1751 that the Cub Creek Church, as it was referred to in the original Session minutes, was located. It is now known as Village Presbyterian Church of Charlotte Court House.

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY – 1832-1909

It was from this church that several members traveled forty miles south to help organize our Clarksville Presbyterian Church on July 12, 1832. In 1834, Rev. Dr. Samuel Lyle Graham, who held a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Union College in New York, became the first pastor of Clarksville Presbyterian, sharing pastorship with Shiloh Presbyterian in Granville County and serving as a delegate to the General Assembly from the Orange Presbytery.

Faithful Presbyterians from other nearby Presbyterian churches came to help form our church; in particular, from Grassy Creek Church, built in 1761, and later moved to its present location in Stovall, North Carolina; from the Bluestone Church, today located at the intersection of Highways 15 and 49, and from the Shiloh Church located near Stovall. Clarksville Presbyterian was initially assigned to the Orange Presbytery and in 1887 moved to the Roanoke Presbytery.

At first, worship services were held in the homes of members. Clark Royster, for whom Clarksville was named, was an early member of our church, baptized as an adult in 1840, and

then serving as an Elder from 1842 to 1847. His grave is purportedly located on private property under the parking lot behind our first church building at what is now Second Baptist Church at 209 Fourth Street. The land for the church was purchased from Silas and Elizabeth Harris for \$470 on April 5, 1861. The building is thought to have been constructed at a cost of \$4,670. (*This information, obtained from Session minutes, differs from that in the National Historical Record which dates the building to 1832.*) On May 9, 1908, the church and property were sold for \$1,000 to J. B. Somerville. The explanation for the much lower sale price was that the building was constructed using Confederate money and was sold using legal federal tender, thus the discrepancy in price. Mr. Somerville and his wife Nonnie owned the church and property on Fourth Street for three years and were responsible for organizing the new Second Baptist congregation on July 12, 1908. On July 7, 1911, Nannie I. Somerville, executrix of J.B. Somerville's estate, sold the building to two Trustees of the Second Baptist Church, A. D. Williamson and Frank Watkins. The church building was dedicated on May 31, 1920, as Second Baptist Church, documented on the present cornerstone, and continues to be used for worship by that congregation.

During the construction of the new Clarksville Presbyterian church building on Virginia Avenue, from 1908-1909, the Charles Russell family gave the congregation permission to use Russell Hall for their meeting place. It is thought to have been located over what was later Russell Furniture Store. The Methodist and Baptist Churches of Clarksville also opened their doors so that we might worship in their sanctuaries while ours was under construction.

In 1909, the congregation moved into the new church building on Virginia Avenue next to the Russell Furniture Store. At that time, it consisted of the sanctuary, the pastor's study, and a Sunday School assembly room. According to records, the total cost of construction was \$11,941.71.

MINISTERS AND CHURCH HISTORY – 1834 – 1978

From the beginning, our church has been blessed by God with capable ministers. Our first minister, **Rev. Dr. Samuel Lyle Graham**, served Clarksville Presbyterian from 1834 until 1838. He had been instrumental in the founding of Union Theological Seminary (1812) at Hampden-

Sydney College and also founded the Presbyterian Church in Farmville. He departed Clarksville when he was called to a Professorship at Union Theological Seminary, located in Farmville, Virginia. Union Theological Seminary moved to Richmond, VA, in 1896, and is now named Union Presbyterian Seminary. Rev. Dr. Graham died in 1851 and is buried on the campus of Hampden-Sydney College. His son, Samuel Lyle Graham II, is buried in the cemetery of Nutbush Presbyterian Church in Townsville, North Carolina. **Rev. Daniel Doak** then served from 1840-1847.

Rev. William V. Wilson served from 1847-1852. In 1852, **Rev. F.N. Whaley** was installed. He served our church for 40 years until April 17, 1892. The large stained-glass window on the south side of the building was dedicated to Rev. Whaley who served the longest term of any of our ministers.

Under the faithful leadership of **Dr. Thomas Drew** who followed in 1892, the original church on Fourth Street was sold, and a new church was constructed between 1907-1909. Dr. Drew's service continued until 1917. **Rev. M.A. Bosch** served during 1918, but was soon called into the service of our country, and in December of 1919, **Dr. F.M. Allen** was installed as minister, serving faithfully until 1946.

In October of 1946, **Rev. Arnold Poole** was called to serve us. He labored faithfully for seven years. It was during his pastorate, in order to meet the needs of a growing church, that a building improvement program was inaugurated with a large addition completed about 1953.

Nine months after Mr. Poole departed, **Rev. Jesse Bratton** was called as pastor. As one history of our church recalls, "Rev. Bratton came, finding a widely scattered flock, but soon rounded up a good congregation". In April, 1956, **Rev. Millard G. Stimpson**, our first full-time minister, joined us. Under his leadership, the church celebrated its 125th Anniversary in 1957.

In April of 1962, Rev. Stimpson departed and was succeeded by **Rev. William B. McSwain** in February, 1963. He served until September of 1964.

The year 1965 was rich and full for our church. A call was extended to **Rev. Ronald Glover** to be our pastor. During that year, the nursery was refurbished, and the church grounds were

improved. A milestone was reached in 1969 when Mrs. Margaret English was elected the first woman to serve the church as a Deacon.

Rev. Glover was succeeded by **Rev. Dwight O. Christenbury** in January of 1970. Under his leadership, air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary, and work was done in the church fellowship hall which was in the basement where present classrooms are located. In 1972, Mrs. Hazel Wimbish was elected and installed as the first woman Elder. Church membership was 76.

In 1974, Rev. Christenbury resigned as pastor. He was succeeded two years later by **Rev. Gary Aven** who served us faithfully until 1978.

RECENT CHURCH HISTORY – 1979-2022

Rev. Ronald L. Obenchain was called to the Clarksville Presbyterian Church in July of 1979. Rev. Obenchain established a prison ministry and worked with neighboring churches in ecumenical efforts. The church undertook the sponsorship of the Pham family in 1979-80, refugees from Viet Nam, through the Refugee Resettlement Program. This entailed arranging housing, food, and other assistance during the three months that the family remained in Clarksville. With an emphasis on the nurturing of programs for children and youth, the youth ministry program was expanded, there was a Children's Choir, a very active Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and a 26-week confirmation class with fourteen participants. "Kids of the Kingdom" met weekly, and the Obenchain family held open houses at Christmas and Easter. The manse was sold in 1980, and the church began including a housing allowance for ministers rather than being encumbered with maintenance of a manse. The election of Deacons at Clarksville Presbyterian was eliminated. In 1983 there was a merger of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, whose churches were located in the Southern and border states, with the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America whose congregations could be found in every state. Clarksville Presbyterian became part of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, PC(USA), at this time. The Presbyterian Women were organized into two circles, and the "Tables of Eight" fellowship program was inaugurated. The Ecumenical Palm Sunday walk on Virginia Avenue began. The YMCA operated an Early Learning Center in the church basement during 1987-1988. In 1993, the YMCA leased the Balmer Building for gymnastics classes which

continued through 2017. Clarksville Presbyterian held its 150th Anniversary with a celebration on July 11, 1982. Rev. Dwight Christenbury returned as the guest speaker.

In 1993, Rev. Obenchain departed after fourteen years, and **Rev. William B. Young** served as an Interim Pastor, helping us through the transition period.

Rev. Eric T. Myers was installed in 1995 and served until August of 2001. It was during this time that the church built the most recent addition. This vision for the future evolved from a desire to serve both the community and the church. Average age of the congregation was 44 in 2000. In 2002, Rich Henderson was sponsored to begin his study to become a Certified Lay Pastor. Family and youth events continued with Advent Workshops, Terrific Tuesdays fellowship, and Christmas plays. The ecumenical Vacation Bible School, in cooperation with the Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, and Episcopal churches, began meeting in the evenings. The church hosted “Nails and Sails”, a mission program from Camp Hanover. Campers were based at Presbyterian Point Camp for projects and sailing, but returned to spend the nights in the Balmer Building and were hosted for dinner by church families. Hat Creek Retreats were initiated for families, continuing until 2019. During Holy Week, the Maundy Thursday service included foot washing, and Great Easter Vigil was celebrated on Saturday night.

Rev. Frank Abrams Erwin was a well-loved Retired Minister who from approximately 1995-2001. His daughter, Terry Denton, is a local Clarksville artist and remains a close friend of the church.

Rev. Benjamin Williams served as an Interim Pastor from June through October, 2003. He was energetic, played the guitar, and continued the momentum for the youth activities.

In November of 2003, **Rev. Dorothy S. Finn** was installed as the church’s first female pastor and brought a welcoming atmosphere to the congregation. In the community, the number of families dwindled with the closing of Burlington Industries and the Russell Stover factory. The youth combined with the Methodist youth, calling themselves “JUMPY”, and for a short time with the Episcopal youth, “JUMPEY”. Rev. Finn initiated a regular lunch program for single and widowed women of the church and community. Membership was 137 with average attendance

of 65 (25 members were under the age of 25, and 30 were over the age of 65.) The new church sign was installed and dedicated in 2006. Sadly, in 2006, Rev. Finn was diagnosed with cancer and died in 2008. During those difficult two years, the congregation responded lovingly by providing transportation, home care, assistance with medical expenses, and great understanding during this difficult time. The Presbytery provided assistance through the Christmas Joy Offering.

Rev. Judy Stanley served as an Interim Pastor during and immediately after Rev. Finn's death, followed by **Rev. Kim Steinhorst**, also an Interim Pastor.

In 2010, **Rev. James Moss** was installed as pastor, serving through 2016. His family included two young boys. The number of families moving into Clarksville continued to decline, but the JUMPY youth group held regular meetings and programs on Sunday evenings. Rev. Moss played the guitar and was instrumental in the formation of an ecumenical singing group, called One A-Chord which performed at local churches. Under his direction, the aging congregation held together. When Rev. Moss was called to start a new church in South Carolina, **Rev. Jonathan Barker** served as an Interim Pastor from 2017-2018. He kept the church together by continuing existing programs and helping with our Search Committee process.

Annette Eckerd Goard was ordained as a Teaching Elder, Minister of Word and Sacrament, at Clarksville Presbyterian Church on September 23, 2018, and was installed as Pastor. She was a second-career minister, having completed her Divinity degree from Duke University in 2016. Under her leadership, membership grew from 89 when she arrived to 108 with average Worship attendance of 60 at the end of 2024. This was particularly notable during the Pandemic closure of the church building.

PANDEMIC, 2020 – 2021

On March 13, 2020, at the recommendation of the Presbytery, the Session voted to suspend in-person worship and all other meetings and activities through April 5. At the time, it was thought that the closure would be for only a few weeks, but incrementally, the suspension was extended by vote of the Session. Rev. Goard was adamant in proclaiming that the church was

not closed, only the building. “The people are the church,” she assured us. She reminded the congregation that they should meet their commitments to keep the church mission going and made every effort to support and encourage the faith community.

In spite of the closure and restrictions, virtual Worship services continued every Sunday, with an audio service posted on the website. After several weeks, with the talent and persistence of Carol Henderson and Donna Pool, an abbreviated YouTube service was also posted weekly. On May 20, Rev. Goard began recording a short evening devotion five nights each week which was posted on the church website. These were particularly well-received by the congregation and were remembered years later as significant to our members mental and spiritual health. On Ash Wednesday, a socially-distanced service was held around the outdoor fire pit, a tradition that has continued in the years following the pandemic. The congregation adapted to the use of Zoom technology for Adult Sunday School, Men’s Bible Study, meetings of church committees, and Session meetings, enabling the important organizational activities of the church to flourish. By action of the Session, virtual Communion was instituted monthly during Sunday virtual Worship.

On April 9, the Session approved the application for a government loan through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The legislation provided support to churches, nonprofits and small businesses in response to the economic distress of the Pandemic. The loan was based on a formula of 2.5 times the average payroll from 2019.

To keep in close contact families of the congregation were assigned to Session members for regular communications, and most were able to return to in-person worship when restrictions were lifted. Working under Covid restraints, members continued to be involved with the Clarksville Food Pantry and Backpack buddies, and all of our local, national, and international missions were served. Of special note, during the nearly two years of the Pandemic, fifteen new members were received into the church, and contributions continued to exceed expenses and pledges for 2021 exceeded 2020.

The congregation was encouraged to receive vaccinations when they became available in January-February of 2021, and the majority complied. Gradually, with prayer and work of the Session, a plan was approved to return to in-person worship on March 21, 2021, with pre-registration, required masks and social distancing, air purifiers, hand sanitizing stations, and other adaptations. Initially, there was no singing in the services. Palm Sunday and Easter of 2021 were glorious occasions when we met in the sanctuary for the first time in a year. Audio tracks of Sunday Worship continued, but video of the services ceased after in-person worship returned.

CHURCH POLICIES

Incorporation

In 2021, Clarksville Presbyterian completed documents to become incorporated by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and ownership of the five deeds were renamed as “Clarksville Presbyterian Church, Inc.” The Deeds were filed by Attorney Thomson Lipscomb with the Circuit Court of Mecklenburg County, and copies are kept in a safety deposit box at Benchmark Bank.

Safety and Security

At the recommendation of the Presbytery, a Safety Committee was organized in 2020 under the chairmanship of Linda Pulliam, a ruling Elder. In 2020 and 2021, these policies and procedures were developed by the committee and approved by the Session: Sexual Misconduct, Child and Youth Abuse Prevention, Social and Digital Media Code of Conduct, Building Usage Policy, and Church Emergency Procedures. The Finance Committee developed and approved a Memorial Policy.

After two incidents of breaking and entering, the Property Committee and Safety Committee worked together to design and implement a church security system which was purchased from First Security Company. Keys were issued to Elders and others in leadership positions, and a coded keypad was installed. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was purchased and installed in the hallway near the Pastor’s office in 2019, and an additional AED was placed in the

Fellowship Hall in 2023. CPR training classes were held for the congregation in 2021 and 2024. A five -hour course on handling outside intruders, based on materials and videos from Church Mutual Insurance, was held for about twenty members in 2021. Subsequent security training was offered virtually in 2024. A class on administering Narcan was held in 2023, and Narcan is available in the Pastor's office. An exterior camera was installed on the Sixth Street entrance in 2025.

MISSIONS AND SERVICE

Clarksville Presbyterian Church has, throughout our history, had a heart for missions and Christian service -- local, national, and worldwide. In 1996, the church was the grateful recipient of a significant endowment from the Trust of Lillian Hooker. The Fund, which is strategically invested for growth, is earmarked for mission and outreach, preferably for hands-on service, and the endowment continues to grow to continue missions in the future. The Mission Committee carefully considers the allocations each year from the Hooker Fund, and Session approval is required for distribution.

Hunger Action

Historically, the church has participated in community efforts to provide clothing, food, assistance with rent and utility bills, gleaning, and home repairs for local families in need. In the 1990s, Project Care-For was formed by a group of churches and incorporated as a separate 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Eventually, funding became scarce, and services were reduced to a room in the Community Center called the "Food Pantry" which provided access to used clothing and a small allocation of non-perishable food for needy families. In 2016, the Food Pantry was reorganized by several community leaders who were able to access funding sources and to enable it to grow into a highly successful organization, still under the auspices of Project Care-For. Through the generosity of local churches and donors, and in partnership with Virginia FeedMore, Food Lion, and Dollar General, the Pantry recorded 2,321 visits in 2021. Dozens of local volunteers serve in various capacities to keep the Pantry open two mornings each week to meet the needs of families in western Mecklenburg County. The current President, Jessie Ruff, and Past President, Robert Thaxton, are members of Clarksville

Presbyterian, and many other church members provide leadership and service to the organization. In 2024, the Pantry provided 81 tons of food for community members.

In 2013, Dottie Thaxton, along with Deacon Everett Burwell of Wharton Memorial Baptist Church spearheaded the launch of a Backpack Buddies program to provide bags of non-perishable food each weekend for children at Clarksville Elementary, designated by the guidance counselor as food insecure. This program grew to be an ecumenical community ministry involving ten churches and organizations and serving up to 120 elementary and 50 middle school students each week throughout the year. A room of the Balmer Building is equipped with shelves for the food items and serves as the packing center for three churches. Leadership for Backpack Buddies has continued to be provided by Clarksville Presbyterian with Linda Messier as chair.

Clarksville Presbyterian became a Certified Hunger Action Congregation in 2018, covenanted with other congregations in the PCUSA Presbyterian Hunger Program to help alleviate hunger and eliminate its underlying causes. The church was featured in “Backpack Buddies to Living Wages,” published by PC(USA), June 24, 2019.

Yahve Jire Haiti Mission

A special interest in the country of Haiti began in 1997 when Jeff Kackley was sent on a research trip. In 1999, Conrad Bowlin, Michael Bowlin, Ann Smith, Tim and Judy Hooker, and Jeff Kackley made the first mission trip to Haiti. In 2016, another mission team consisting of Jessie Ruff, Robert Thaxton, Kate Peters, Jean Pagerie, and Marty Bowlin, traveled back to Haiti to work at the Yahve-Jire Children's Foundation Orphanage. The close relationship that developed between our church and the Yahve Jire orphanage under the directorship of Chedlin Justinvil has grown deeper each year as we have provided financial support and welcomed Chedlin for visits when he travels to the US. A gift of \$15,000 from the Lillian Hooker Fund was provided to Yahve Jire in 2022 for the construction of a small apartment building for young men who had graduated from high school and were learning trades in order to return to the orphanage. The infrastructure was completed, but the influx of criminal gangs necessitated moving the children to the north of the country. The criminals took over the Yahve Jire grounds and stripped it of

equipment. At this time, a few locals are continuing construction in hopes that the Lillian and Tim Hooker Residence Hall will become a reality when the children and staff are able to safely re-housed at Yahve Jire.

Thailand Mission

For many years, Clarksville Presbyterian has maintained a covenant relationship with our Interserve missionaries in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Andy and Ellen Collins. The Collins family is partnered with the country's largest Protestant church, the Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT). They have worked with the CCT's Christian Communications Institute, a ministry that shares the Christian message through Thai music, dance, and drama. During the Pandemic, they returned to North Carolina to work with refugee resettlement at Welcome House in Chapel Hill. In 2024, they were able to develop a "hybrid" program that enabled them to return to Thailand for six months and serve at Welcome House for six months.

Becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation

In early 2023, the Session approved the church's application to become a Matthew 25 Congregation and adopting the pillar of "Eradicating Systemic Poverty." Under the direction of Elder for Missions, Linda Pulliam, the congregation eagerly embraced the challenges before us. Members of the church undertook a study of our "Blind Spots" to look at what services were currently being provided in our county to support those living in poverty and to assess where we might best serve. In May of 2023, the church was asked to join with Mecklenburg Social Services and Patrick Henry Family Services (now called FIVE Eighteen) to meet the needs of families in crisis through CarePortal. Over the next two years, the church assisted more than twenty CarePortal families and an additional fourteen Matthew 25 individuals and families. Projects included such needs as providing beds, household supplies, appliances, and clothing, building a wheelchair ramp, assisting a family to move into new housing after a fire, gleaning a garden after a tragedy, providing Christmas presents, Thanksgiving and Easter meals. With each contact, the children were given age-appropriate Bible story books. In many cases, the church has maintained an ongoing, positive relationship with the families. The congregation

generously gave their time and service to these efforts, and two restricted funds for CarePortal projects and other Matthew 25 projects enabled the church to make a significant impact.

In 2024, a Mission Room was established in a former classroom to collect blankets, sheets, towels, mattress pads, hygiene supplies, and a few beds and mattresses in order to have the resources necessary to respond quickly to the requests from the community. At the beginning of 2025, the committee also began to develop partnerships with other churches, businesses, and organizations to expand into other community services such as providing smoke detectors.

Other Mission and Outreach Projects

Throughout the history of Clarksville Presbyterian, the congregation has continued to participate in CWS Blanket Sunday and Health Kits, Two Cents a Meal, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Joy Gift Offering. Vacation Bible School has continued until the Pandemic and then resumed in 2023 with ecumenical participation. In the summer of 2019, a one-week day camp, Camp Peaks, was offered to community children. Other missions have included Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets for needy families, Operation Christmas Child, Christmas gift collections for local families, services for migrant workers, prison ministries, AA, and other refugee services. In 2021, the church, through the Hooker Fund, made a large gift to Massanetta Springs Conference Center to support resettlement efforts for Afghan refugees through Church World Service.

Over the last decade, the church has maintained a strong connection to Clarksville Elementary School and Bluestone Middle School. Under the auspices of the Mission Committee, the church regularly collects school supplies, snacks, and personal hygiene products for distribution to needy students through the guidance counselors. Annual contributions are provided to the Middle School for Secret Santa to buy basic clothes for needy kids at Christmas. Literacy has been a major focus with the church providing a picnic at a local park for accelerated readers at Clarksville Elementary and with financial contributions for books for Book Harvest and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. In March of 2022, the men of the church initiated “Storytime”, a weekly program of reading with pre-school children. The program has continued with the men reading weekly to two Pre-K classes at Clarksville Elementary

MISSION TRIPS

Youth Mission Trips to Covington, VA

In the summer of 2003, Jessie Ruff led the first group of youth to Covington, Virginia, to participate with other church youth groups in making home repairs in the area. After that three-day experience, the mission trips expanded to full week trips to Covington in the summers of 2004, 2005, and 2006, led by Rich Henderson, Robert Thaxton, Dottie Thaxton, Rev. Dorothy Finn, Nancy Heath, and Frank Ruff. The project was led by Rev. Gary Marshall and his wife, Lisa, who had been classmates with Rev. Finn at Union Theological Seminary in the 1990s. Youth and chaperones were housed at the Episcopal Boys Home; meals were provided by area churches; and there were programs of worship and fellowship with other workers.

Adult Mission Trips to Haiti

The Haiti Mission trips of 1999 and 2016 led to a long-term commitment to Yahve Jire, as described above, with hopes to return someday. Sadly, Haiti became too unsafe to consider returning, and then came the pandemic which further delayed out-of-country travel. Several members of the congregation, notably Robert and Dottie Thaxton, participated in other organized mission trips to serve on the gulf coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Adult Work Trip to Red Bird Mission, Beverly Kentucky

Interest in an organized work trip regained momentum, and in May, 2023, a group of 13 were commissioned by the congregation to go to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky. Serving in an isolated area of Appalachia was impactful as the group worked on the home of a local resident, painted in the outreach center, and helped with sorting clothing in the Community Store. The members returned as a cohesive team with many stories of the rewarding week.

Adult Work Trip to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Site, New Bern, NC

The next year a new opportunity became available nearer to home, and another group of 13 traveled to New Hope Village in New Bern, NC, in October of 2024. The Presbyterian Disaster site worked in alliance with Craven County Disaster Assistance, to serve two homeowners who

had lost their homes in Hurricanes Michael and Florence. The week was spent doing extensive home repairs, and at the end of the week, Rev. Goard joined the group for a house blessing service. Members of the group elected to stay in the New Hope Village Lodge, camping at Flanners Beach, a nearby State Park, or in a local hotel. Mornings began with devotions and ended with an evening vespers program. The pastor, Rev. Annette Goard, led a House Blessing service at one of the work sites.

SENDING FORTH INTO THE MISSION FIELD

We are especially thankful for those who have been sent forth from Clarksville Presbyterian to serve the church. Rich Henderson is currently serving as a Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Presbytery of the Peaks. Jeff Kackley, a former member of Clarksville Presbyterian, graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2003 and now serves as Pastor at Dorchester Presbyterian Church in Summerville, SC. Katie O'Brien Broome served in the mission field in Australia and the Czech Republic. In addition, the 1982 church history noted that these "children of the church" had joined the ministry: James A. Marrow, Jr., Robert Vaughan, George Moore, and Donald Morrison.

As we reflect on nearly two centuries of ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank God for calling us together and using us to proclaim the Gospel and to be living witnesses for Christ in the community, the country, and the world.

FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER TRADITIONS

From the earliest Session minutes and notes of the Women's Auxiliary, there are descriptions of potluck dinners, picnics, women's teas, and Sunday School parties, demonstrating that Christian fellowship has always been an important part of our community of faith. In the 1980s and early 90s, there were glowing reports of Terrific Tuesdays, youth retreats and mission trips, and the initial Family Retreats at Camp Hat Creek, a tradition that endured until the Pandemic. An active Fellowship Committee in more recent years has organized monthly lunches or dinners with themes of Beans and Jeans, St. Patrick's Day, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers, and Cinco de Mayo as well as church picnics at least twice a year. "Tables of Eight" and "Divine Dining"

were opportunities for small groups to gather in members' homes for special meals. Ecumenical gatherings for Palm Sunday Processionals, Easter Sunrise Services, Wednesday services with light lunch for Lent and Advent, World Day of Prayer, vigils, and other cooperative projects and services have brought us together spiritually as a community.

Fellowship was most missed by our congregation during the two-year period of the Pandemic where we were unable to gather or were required to keep distances. After lingering restrictions on eating in a group and in close settings, the congregation has returned to weekly Coffee Fellowship, bi-annual picnics, theme lunches and dinners, Lenten soup suppers and many other opportunities to break bread together.

Hat Creek Retreats

Begun by Rev. Eric Myers in the early 1990s, the tradition of Family Retreats at Hat Creek Camp continued through 2019 when the pandemic prevented gathering in groups. In 2023, the tradition was revamped to become Adult Retreats and presented an opportunity for members and friends to get away and focus on a themed retreat for three days or even one day. For the next three years, 2023-2025, Rev. Myers and his wife Lisa returned to serve as retreat leaders creatively facilitating us for get-acquainted activities, music, vespers, discussions, and communion. Meal preparation, outdoor recreation, crafts, jigsaw puzzles, campfires, and walks offered the opportunity to interact or simply to take a nap or a solitary hike.

MUSIC

Instruments

Music has played a fundamental role in the life of Clarksville Presbyterian throughout the past two centuries. Previous historical notes indicate that there was a small pump organ in the sanctuary, perhaps from the time of construction in 1909. The Session discussed in 1970 the disposal of that old pump organ, which was not resolved, so it remained on the property for an indeterminate time.

A Steinway Model K-54" upright grand piano is currently in the Fellowship Hall, dated at approximately 1913. It was possibly the original piano in the church which was completed in

1909. If it was in good condition, it would be extremely valuable. Unfortunately, the piano has been neglected over the years, and the cost of renovating would be excessive.

In 1946, a new Hammond organ was purchased, and Mrs. Poole, the minister's wife, served as one of the organists. It was replaced in 1985 by an Allen 2010 organ at a cost of \$15,500. At the organ dedication on November 3, 1985, a concert was presented by Ralph Schwarz, Margie Miller, and Margie Spence. It was projected that the replacement cost in thirty years was likely to be as much as \$30,000, but the 2022 organ cost was many times that figure! The old organ was donated to Union Chapel Baptist.

In 1973, a new Kimball piano was purchased from a fund established in memory of Mrs. W.C. Daniel. In 2019, it was donated to the Ruritans and replaced by a Story & Clark piano donated by Camille Lambe of Cary, NC. On Nov. 14, 1999, the Yamaha piano currently in use in the sanctuary was donated by Martha Fitzgerald in memory of her husband, Walter. The purchase price was \$8,100.

In 2019, Carol and Rich Henderson donated a Charles H. Stein, Model S- 5'2" grand piano for the Fellowship Hall. It was made in Chicago in approximately 1924-1925 and located in the home of Elsa and Carl Becker, Carol's grandparents.

By 2021, it became obvious that the old 1985 Allen organ was outmoded and that repairs with rebuilt parts could not last much longer. Computer technology had grown exponentially, and the decision was made to launch a capital campaign in 2022, branded as "New Sounds – Growing in God's Grace" for the purchase of a new organ and a full-function sound system with individual personal hearing devices. The campaign was run successfully, and the new Allen GX350 Organ with Apex Technology arrived in mid-summer, 2022.

Vocal Music

Choirs and hymns sung during worship are frequently mentioned in Session minutes and other records. Throughout the years, accompanists were usually volunteers, and finding consistent organists, pianists, and choir directors has sometimes been challenging for a small church.

During the tenure of Ron Obenchain (1979-93), there were many children in the congregation, and, in addition to the adult choir, there was an active Children's Choir. In 1982, fifteen youth, grades 4-12, sang in the Youth Choir. Jim Moss, pastor from 2010-2016, played guitar and helped to organize a music group with members from Clarksville Presbyterian and Jamieson United Methodist called One A-Chord which performed in various churches in the community.

Rebecca Camblos, a local Special Education elementary school teacher, was the church music director and organist for over 25 years. She planned worship music and played the organ and piano on Sundays. Rebecca retired in 2018 to be closer to her daughter in Richmond.

Church music reached a new level when Carol J. Henderson joined us in 2019 as the Minister of Music and Organist. She had begun studying piano at a very young age, continued her studies, and received her Bachelor of Music and Masters of Music degrees in Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Working closely with our Pastor, Annette, worship services blend liturgies and music with the readings of the day. Improvements in worship participation and choral singing are a positive result of Carol's musical experience and knowledge of church music. A short congregational campaign in 2019 resulted in the purchase of new "Glory to God" hymnals. In 2024, the choir received new green robes with gold and white stoles. The size of the choir grew to more than twenty talented voices, and it was necessary to move out of the choir loft into the front, south-side pews. Anthems during worship, occasional instrumentalist guests, Sunday afternoon recitals and concerts, were all directed and accompanied by the talented Carol Henderson.

PROPERTY

Early Church Property

The congregation of Clarksville Presbyterian met in the homes of members from the time of organization in 1832 until Henry Wood, Esq., offered a resolution in a Session meeting in 1861 to build a house of worship for the congregation. The Session approved a motion that a site be purchased at a cost not to exceed \$4000. The land for the church on Fourth Street was purchased from Silas and Elizabeth Harris for \$470 on April 5, 1861. The building was constructed at a cost

of \$4,670 Confederate dollars, approximately \$167,500 in 2025 value.

According to the Mecklenburg Deed Book 39, page 394, on August 1, 1873, the Church Trustees, N. Talley Sr., WH Gee, & WH Morton Sr., sold two half acre lots of the property to RB Chaffin and EM Moon for \$600. These lots were numbered 53 and 32, fronting on Main Street, a distance of 420 feet back to Market Street.

In 1907, Judge Henry Wood, an Elder of the church and son of Henry Wood, Esq., was appointed as a “committee of one” to sell the church on Fourth Street, sell the parsonage on Beauty Street, and purchase property for a new church. On May 9, 1908, it was sold for \$1,000 US currency to J. B. Somerville (approximately \$33,500 in 2025 value). The explanation for the much lower sale price was that the building had been constructed using Confederate money and was sold using legal tender, thus the discrepancy in price. Mr. Somerville and his wife Nonnie owned the church and property on Fourth Street for three years and were responsible for organizing the new Second Baptist congregation on July 12, 1908. On July 7, 1911, Nannie I. Somerville, executrix of J.B. Somerville’s estate, sold the building to two Trustees of the Second Baptist Church, A. D. Williamson and Frank Watkins

Virginia Avenue Church Construction

Judge Wood made arrangements to purchase a lot for the new church at a cost of \$350, paid for by the Misses Carrington of Sunnyside (Agnes, Emily, Isabella, and Mildred) and referred to as the Ben Brown lot on Beauty Street (Fifth Street). It was located approximately where 202 Fifth Street is today. It was almost immediately determined that the lot would be too small for the new church. In exchange for a larger parcel which was located adjacent and west of the Russell Furniture Store, Mr. Charles H. Russell, who was also a church member, accepted the Ben Brown lot and \$1000.00 from the congregation. Judge Wood also sold the manse and lot, located at the corner of Commerce and Beauty Street, for \$1500. That house still stands at 311 Fifth Street. With those sales, there was \$4179.95 in the Building Fund for the new church. Members were asked to pledge amounts of \$10.00 - \$100, raising an additional \$1,060. A loan of \$2500 from Charles H. Russell and Virginia Russell was secured by the parcel of land and new church and was repaid with interest on August 1, 1912.

Minutes of the Session and Deacons during those years did not provide much detail, although the cost of pews was noted to be \$570, and furnace, acetylene lights, and sand-finished plastering costs were estimated at \$1394. Roof irons were delayed, but when they arrived at the train depot, the roof was raised and brick work was to be completed in 2-3 weeks. The Ladies' Aid was responsible for carpets, memorial windows, choir chairs, maps for Sunday School, shades, and tables. The pulpit has a brass plaque with the engraving, "A Gift of Love from Sunnyside," one of many gifts of furnishings and financial support from the Sisters Carrington of Sunnyside (Agnes, Emily, Isabella, and Mildred).

During the time of construction, the congregation was displaced and were invited by C.H. Russell to worship in the hall above Russell Furniture next door. Sunday School classes also met weekly in the Russell Furniture Building, and worship was held alternately at Clarksville Baptist and Jamieson Memorial United Methodist sanctuaries. The church was dedicated in 1909. Subsequently, while the Clarksville Baptist Church was building their church, they were invited to share the Presbyterian sanctuary for Worship two Sundays each month.

The current Clarksville Presbyterian Church property is made up of five smaller parcels which were acquired by gift, purchase, and exchange between 1909 and 1992.

Building Additions

From 1940-1959, there were substantial changes and additions to the original church building. Session minutes, church histories compiled by the Women's Auxiliary of the Church, and 1950 blueprints are not clear on exact years of completion of each addition. In about 1940, a small addition was made on the east side of the church to allow an extension for the choir loft behind the pulpit and a small hallway. In 1946, "to meet the needs of a growing congregation" during the tenure of Rev. Arnold Poole (1946-1954), a program of improvement was inaugurated to add a kitchen, classrooms, restrooms, a parlor, and a recreation room. In 1946, the Women's Auxiliary placed a large granite marker outside under the window on Virginia Avenue: "Presbyterian Church, Organized 1832, Rebuilt 1909".

On January 29, 1951, a \$12,000 bond was secured by a lien on the church property, payable at \$1500 per annum at 4% interest. The property at this time was valued at \$27,500. By 1959, three classrooms, a minister's study, a large basement fellowship room, two restrooms, a kitchen, and a new heating system were completed. The Women's Auxiliary equipped the annex, paid for the new Hammond organ, and had the entire interior of the church redecorated.

- Property change #1

On October 30, 1951, Charles and Louise Russell donated a parcel to the Trustees of Clarksville Presbyterian Church located west of the Furniture Store and adjoining the original church property. In addition, R.H. Park and Mary B. Park donated a parcel behind the church which adjoined the Russell property. These transactions provided the property for the new addition which was completed by 1959.

- Property change #2

On March 21, 1969, Maude Roberts, a widow, donated a piece of property and her home, located between Fifth and Sixth Street, bordering on the St. Timothy's Episcopal property, with the provision that she could continue to live there. It was not contiguous with the church property.

In 1967, a consultant from the Presbyterian Church Division of Parish Development evaluated the church's location and programs. Because it was hemmed in by Russell Furniture to the east and a service station on the west, with an alley in the back, it was labeled by the consultant as "none-too-attractive and does not stand out as a live part of the community". It was recommended that the church repair structural defects but "no more at this time" until the impact of Burlington Industries can be determined.

The pace of membership development was projected in 1967 study as "possibly as much as 145-150 by 1970 and 190-210 by the end of the 1970s". In subsequent years, opportunities for purchase of adjacent properties made possible the expansion of the

physical plant and the beautiful facilities that exist today. Membership did increase due to Burlington, but when it closed in the early 2000s, membership plunged and leveled.

In 1970, the church basement was remodeled into a Fellowship Hall. A kitchen was constructed at the far end of the long, narrow room, with stairs leading down from the upstairs hallway.

- Property change #3

On June 5, 1975, Harold and Linda Moore gave Clarksville Presbyterian Church a piece of property which fronted 80 feet on 5th Street and connected the Maude Roberts' property with the main church property. In exchange, Clarksville Presbyterian gave to the Moores a piece of property fronting 70 feet on Fifth Street and extended back 105 feet. This enabled both the church and the Moores to have larger pieces of contiguous properties.

- Property change #4

On June 7, 1992, Harold and Linda Moore sold their parcel (above) and a metal building to Clarksville Presbyterian for the sum of \$60,000, by note. The former service station was demolished. This parcel fronts 109 feet on Virginia Avenue, continues north on 6th Street 247 feet, and east to 5th Street where it runs 89 feet south. In 1993, Martha Balmer donated funds for interior improvements of the metal building on Sixth Street, and on August 25, 1996, the building was formally dedicated as the "George Balmer Building of Clarksville Presbyterian Church" in memory of her husband. It was used as a multi-purpose room and a smaller meeting room with kitchen.

In 1995, under the direction of church member, Michael Bowlin, and with the assistance of volunteers, four classrooms and closets were added in place of the existing Fellowship Hall. At that time, fellowship activities were moved upstairs in the large room, using the smaller kitchen.

In 1999, a Capital Campaign was begun under the banner of “Pass the Vision”. Ground was broken in 2000 for an addition, extending west from the main church, which included a new Fellowship Hall kitchen, classrooms, and restrooms and storage rooms. The kitchen was donated by Conrad and Peggy Bowlin and Family; Classroom #1 was donated by the Youch Family; Classroom #2 was donated by Milton and Betsy Reid and Family; and the buffet and mirror in the entry way was in memory of Greer McDowell Jones by Virginia Hager Jones. The building was dedicated on June 10, 2001. The mortgage was burned in March, 2005.

In 2006, three parcels of property in Prestwoud were sold which had been previously donated to the church by the Yellman family. These funds were used to remodel the upstairs fellowship hall. The Evangelism Committee, chaired by Robert Thaxton, developed a plan to make the upstairs area adjacent to the sanctuary a welcoming area that would showcase the many facets of the church’s outreach and missions. A committee chaired by Sandy Ruble purchased audio-visual equipment, display kiosks, cocktail tables for fellowship, and hanging banners which carried the design of the sanctuary windows. The kitchen, nursery, choir room, pastor’s office, secretary’s office, restrooms, and hallways also received a facelift. At that time, the room adjacent to the sanctuary which was part of the original 1907 church building was renamed “The Upper Room”. The outdoor sign was also dedicated in 2006.

- Property change #5

On April 14, 2016, Clarksville Presbyterian sold to St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church a parcel of .19 acres, with 70 feet fronting on 5th Street and extending diagonally toward the Clarksville Presbyterian parking lot. This enabled St. Timothy’s to have a back entrance on 5th Street.

- Property change #6

On October 22, 2022, Clarksville Presbyterian sold to Tim and Kathy Sloan a parcel of land located in Fairview Acres, Lot 21, Block 6, Unit 2, approximately 50’ x 90’ for the net

sum of \$1,647. This property had been deeded as a gift by Self-Help Industries Foundation on January 3, 1969, and had never been used by the church.

Manse

The church discontinued maintaining a manse in 1979 and now includes a housing allowance for ministers as part of their terms of call. Information about the early manses owned by Clarksville Presbyterian is incomplete, but this is known about structures that presently exist:

- 310 Fifth Street – It is unknown when this was first purchased as a manse, but it was sold in 1907 for \$1200. It was described as being at the corner of Beauty Street (now 5th Street) and Commerce. The existing house dates to 1830 with many additions over the years. The oldest part still has the original fireplace and chimney.
- 703 Virginia Avenue, Clarksville – This is the present location of Watkins Cooper Lyon Funeral Home and was used as the church's manse between 1919 and 1946.
- 1947 – A new manse was purchased for Rev. Arnold Poole. Unknown location.
- 1954 – Mr. Cooper donated property for a manse for Rev. Bratton, and the congregation constructed the building. Unknown location.
- 1979 – The manse at 102 Dan Circle was sold. This home was built in 1970, but whether it was used as a manse the entire time is unknown.

APPENDIX 1 - MINISTERS

• Samuel Lyle Graham	1834-1838
• Daniel Doak	1840-1847
• William V. Wilson	1847-1852
• F. N. Whaley	1852-1892
• Thomas Drew	1893-1917
• M. A. Bosch	1918
• Francis M. Allen	1919-1946
• Arnold B. Poole	1946-1953
• Jesse M. Bratton, Jr.	1954-1956
• Millard G. Stimpson	1956-1962
• William B. McSwain	1963-1964
• Ronald D. Glover	1965-1969
• Dwight O. Christenbury	1970-1974
• Gary H. Aven	1976-1978
• Ronald L. Obenchain	1979-1993
• William B. Young	Jan.-June, 1995 (Interim)
• Eric T. Myers	1995-2001
• Benjamin Williams	June-Oct., 2003
• Dorothy S. Finn	2003-2008
• Judy Stanley	2008 (Interim)
• Kim Steinhorst	2009 (Interim)
• James Moss	2010-2016
• Jonathan Barker	2017-2018 (Interim)
• Annette Eckerd Goard	2018-present

APPENDIX 2 - CURRENT CHURCH PROPERTY – 2025

117 Sixth Street – 0.7827 of an acre conveyed from Harold and Linda Moore, July 7, 1992, except for 0.19 of an acre which was conveyed to St. Timothy's Episcopal. (Parcels #22305 and 21850)

502 Virginia Avenue – Original lot – north side of Virginia Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Street. Conveyed from Charles H. Russell and Virginia P. Russell, May 29, 1901. (Parcel #25792)

502 Virginia Avenue – 0.224 of an acre, fronting on Fifth Street and abutting Clarksville Presbyterian Church. Conveyed from Harold G. Moore and Linda M. Moore, May 19 1975. (#25786)

502 Virginia Avenue – Lying between Fifth Street and Sixth Street. Conveyed by Maude Roberts on March 21, 1969. (#25787)

Deeds for these parcels are in a safety deposit box at Benchmark Bank and are in the name of Clarksville Presbyterian Church, Inc.

APPENDIX 3 - ARCHITECTURE

From the Virginia Department of Historic Resources:

Clarksville Presbyterian Church: “This Gothic Revival Presbyterian Church is in Clarksville (Mecklenburg County) Virginia. The one-story brick structure was built 1907-1909; the entire complex is dominated by the 3-story entry tower with a steep octagonal cone-shaped roof, the spire culminating in a finial. Corbelled brick detailing is a prominent aspect of the tower along with the lancet and rectangular windows. Buttresses have been incorporated as an ornamental feature; on the tower the buttress element diminishes in size in three stages to the top. Windows and doors both feature the pointed arch of Gothic architecture. A 2-story tower with cross-gable roof is at a rear corner of the structure. Corbelling is also present in this tower. Two large stained-glass windows, displaying the ubiquitous Gothic arch in the panes, are on the front and the left façades. The entrance, two wooden doors with pointed arch, is in the front tower, approached by stone steps. The church is part of Clarksville Historic District, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places June 6, 2002.

Second Baptist Church (current), formerly Clarksville Presbyterian Church. This 2-story, brick church features a front-gable roof that ends in a full, front pediment. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond on the front and in a 5-course, common-bond pattern on the sides and rear. The roof features a square bell tower at the front gable end (*removed in recent years – bell is sitting on the north side of the church*), and the façade is organized around a centered, double-leaf, paneled wood door. Two double-hung, 12-over-12 sash windows flank the main entry, and three 8-over-8 windows pierce the façade’s second story. Details include a simple water table and wood window lintels and sills. A series of vent holes pierce the foundation perimeter.

This is the only surviving building associated with the early Presbyterian church in Mecklenburg County. It is an excellent example of Greek Revival-style church architecture from the early 19th century. Organized in 1832, the Clarksville Presbyterian Church built this church in 1861. (*Note: The entry in the Historic Record shows 1832, which is incorrect. CPC Session Minutes document that it was 1861.*) The first pastor, Rev. Graham, came to Clarksville in 1834. Between 1907

and 1909, the building was sold to a Baptist congregation, and a new Presbyterian church was built on at 502 Virginia Avenue. The old church became the current Second Baptist Church. The Second Baptist Church was organized by an African-American congregation in 1908 and was dedicated in 1920. The first pastor was Rev. Howerton.

The grave of the town founder, Clark Royster, reputedly rests on private land behind the church.”

APPENDIX 4 - STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

HISTORY AND PRESERVATION OF THE SANCTUARY WINDOWS

All six of the stained glass windows were installed at the time of the original construction, 1907-1909. There are no records of the cost of the windows, the artists, or the studio. With the exception of the Christ Window, the windows are a Victorian style that was in popular under Queen Victoria's reign in England, 1837 – 1901. The style often has a central figure with strong, defined borders and geometric backgrounds. It is believed that the Christ window, which was created in the late 1800s by a different artist than the other five windows and dedicated to Henry Wood, Esq. (1799-1883) and his wife, Anne Eliza Wood (1806-1886), was moved from the previous church building on 4th Street at the time of sale in 1907 and installed on the east side of the new sanctuary during construction. The style is considered pre-Raphael Italian, but the artist is unknown.

Over the years, Clarksville Presbyterian has recognized the value of the windows, both as a significant part of the worship experience and for their value as historic works of art. When financially possible, preservation was made a priority. In 1954, repairs were made by E.L. Morgan of Roanoke Rapids. In 1972, repairs were made by Russell Church Studios which gave the windows an appraised value of \$10,000. In 1997, Shenandoah Studios of Stained Glass from Front Royal made necessary repairs on all windows, recementing outer surfaces, painting of exterior sash, and installing new protective covering of Lexan at a cost of \$7805. In 1999, the insurance value of the windows was recorded as \$34,000. The most extensive restoration work on the Sunnyside Window was done in 2014 by Shed Brand Studios in Charlotte. This project, coordinated by Robert Thaxton and Russ Messier, involved removal of the entire window and repair of the glass and framework. Scaffolding was installed from November, 2014, through February, 2015. David Thaxton removed and installed the rotted framework after the window glass was repaired, and Williamsburg Woodcraft of Selma, NC, crafted all of the replacement trim at a cost of \$1500. Records of the total cost of the project have not been located.

In 2022, an appraisal by Lynchburg Stained Glass for all windows was \$67,725, and a minor repair to the Sunnyside window was made at a cost of \$1,175. Upon their recommendation, significant repairs were made 2023 and 2024 on the Sunnyside and Good Shepherd windows to resolve leaking and bulging problems caused by weather. Glass covers were installed on the exterior to preserve and prevent additional damage to both windows at a total cost of \$37,600.

See **"A History of the Stained Glass Windows of Clarksville Presbyterian Church"** which contains specific documentation and photos of the six windows.

APPENDIX 5 – REFERENCE MATERIALS

Historical Sketches of Clarksville Presbyterian located in Dropbox and with Session Minutes:

1957 – 125th Anniversary
1982 – 150th Anniversary
2007 – 175th Anniversary

Session, Deacon, and Congregational Minutes – copies in file cabinet of secretary's office:

1907-1912	Congregational Meetings	Ledger book
1908-1911	Sunday School Association	Ledger
1953-1960		Ledger
1965-1979		Blue notebook
1970-1986		Red notebook
1972-1975	Deacons	Red notebook
1977-1991		Black notebook
1987		Red notebook
1997-2001	Long Range Plan	White notebook
1994-1996		Folder
1997-1999		Folder
2000-2002		Folder
2001-2005		Folder
2006		Folder
2007		Folder
2008		Folder
2009		Folder and black notebook
2010		Folder
2011-present		Folders
2020-present		Dropbox

Located in the lower shelves of the walnut cabinet in the Church Parlor:

Ladies Aid

1943-1944
Church History – through 1980

Women of the Church

1963-1992

Presbyterian Women

1982-2008

Historic Session Minutes, Congregants, and Baptismal Records – 1832-1967

These records have been uploaded to the Church Dropbox, and are also found in the Library of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA, and on-line at FamilySearch.com

APPENDIX 6 – MEMORABILIA

Located in cabinet in the Parlor unless otherwise noted

- 1980 Walnut cabinet, made by Burton Sydnor of Howerton's Antiques) given by Martha Rucker in memory of her husband, Benjamin Rucker (1911-1975)
- 1881 Communion service – silver urn and goblets used during terms of Rev. F.N. Whaley and Dr. Thomas Drew
- 1881 Bible
- 1900 Collection of plates from the Carrington Sisters of Sunnyside
- 1909 Wooden offering plate
- 1909 Bible
- 1934 Grandfather clock
- 1945 Bible – presented by Mary Stegal Rennie, March 18, 1945
- 2004 Pottery communion set donated by Jim and Saree O'Brien to commemorate the participation of CPC in the PCUSA General Assembly meeting held in Richmond, VA.

APPENDIX 7 - EARLY NOTABLE FAMILIES

Clark Royster Clark Royster was the founder of Clarksville, Virginia, which was incorporated in 1818. In 1840, Mr. Royster received adult baptism and membership in Clarksville Presbyterian Church. He was an Elder from 1842 until his death in 1847. He is purported to be buried on private property behind Second Baptist Church, the original location of Clarksville Presbyterian, in an area that is now covered by an asphalt parking lot. His house, built in 1793, stands at 300 Rose Hill Avenue.

C.H. Russell Family The Russell family name appears in the minutes of Clarksville Presbyterian beginning in the late 1890s, and the former Russell Furniture Building (c. 1861) stands next to the church today where the great-great grandson of C.H. Russell now, Charles Russell V, operates his business, James River Advisors. Charles Henry Russell (1833-1919) and his wife Virginia, members of Clarksville Presbyterian, made it possible for the church to purchase the property next to their furniture store with a loan of \$2500 and their purchase of a parcel on Beauty Street (Fifth Street), valued at \$350. C.H. Russell's son, William Horace (1859-1926), and his wife Sara, continued the family's church membership. C.H. Russell, III, and his wife Ella continued their support and generosity by donating another small parcel of property north of the original church, allowing for the 1950 addition. Charles Henry Russell, IV, (Buck) and wife Lucy were also active members whose name appears throughout old Session minutes, particularly in maintaining of church property. When Buck died in 2013, his service was conducted by Rev. Jim Moss. Mrs. Lucy Russell is still living, and Charles Henry Russell V is the good neighbor of the church today. The Russell family has sustained the longest continuous tenure of any family in the church history.

The Carrington Sisters of Sunnyside Sunnyside was a boarding school which operated from 1871-1908 on Shiney Rock Road by the four daughters of Tucker Carrington, Isabella, Mildred, Emily, and Agnes. The sisters were members of Clarksville Presbyterian Church during this time, and they graciously donated \$350 toward the purchase of the property on which the church was constructed in 1907-1909. The church pulpit bears a brass plaque, "A Gift of Love from Sunnyside." In a paper written in 1946 by J. D. Eggleston, President of Hampden-Sydney

College, *The Misses Carrington Sunny Side School for Young Ladies*, we see this quote: “In building the new Presbyterian Church in Clarksville; in helping to support the Pastor; in contributing to every worthy cause, in the church and out of it; in the entertainment of ministers, the Ladies of Sunny Side were a source of strength, encouragement, and of hospitality. A special room was reserved for visiting ministers. Among them was Rev. Thomas Drew...” (Note: Rev. Drew was pastor of Clarksville Presbyterian from 1892-1917.) Further, “In the work of our dear Ladies in their own church, their work was joyous and efficient, and the new church in town, with the memorial window to Sunnyside School, is largely a gift of their loving hands.”

In 2023, the Department of Historical Resources recognized Sunnyside School with an official Highway Marker, located just off Highway 15 south on Shiney Rock Road:

Sunnyside School (ca. 1870-1908)

“Educational opportunities for White women in Virginia expanded during the 19th century as female institutes taught academic subjects as well as the arts. Some women supported themselves by opening schools. After the Civil War, when demand for education was high, sisters Agnes, Emily, Isabella, and Mildred Carrington established the Sunnyside School for young women here at their residence. Day students and boarders from Virginia and beyond studied subjects including algebra, chemistry, Latin, deportment, and religion. The sisters, highly regarded in the community, were longtime supporters of Clarksville Presbyterian Church. Sunnyside School closed in 1908 after more than 35 years of operation.”

The Wood Family Henry Wood, Esq., (1799-1883) and his wife Anne Eliza Flournoy Wood (1806-1885) joined Clarksville Presbyterian in 1842 and are memorialized by a stained-glass window donated by their children and grandchildren. (See Appendix – Stained Glass). Henry Wood, Esq., was elected as an Elder in 1847 and was instrumental in the construction of the first Clarksville Presbyterian Church in 1861, located on Fourth Street. He and his wife made their home at “Woodland”, located at 148 Buffalo Road.

The son of Henry Wood, Esq., Judge Henry Wood (1843-1915) was a Captain in the Civil War, a Mecklenburg County Judge, and a member of the Virginia Legislature. As an adult, he lived in the brick house located at 105 6th Street. He joined Clarksville Presbyterian in 1877. As a Deacon, Elder, and Trustee, In 1907, Judge Wood was appointed as a “committee of one” to negotiate the sale of the first church and manse, purchase property for the new church, and to oversee its construction in 1909. His children, John Stanhope, Ellen Jane, William, Nannie, Rosa, Alice, and Catherine were all baptized in the church. On January 8, 1922, a Resolution was issued on the occasion of his death. His half-brother, Cabel S. Wood was a member, Sunday School Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, Deacon and Trustee of the church.

The Whaley Family

The congregation was very fond of their Pastor, Rev. F. N. Whaley, who served for forty years, 1852-1892, and dedicated this window to him after his death in 1900. Rev. Whaley lived in Chase City, and on Sundays when he preached, he often stayed the night before at the Sunnyside home of the Carrington sisters. In 2022, the Whaley great-great grandchildren, Kathryn Whaley Pugh, Susan Whaley Walsh, and Leigh Carrington Whaley II, returned to Clarksville for the internment of their aunt, Helen Whaley in 2022, and again for their father, Leigh Carrington Whaley in 2024 in Oakhurst Cemetery.

APPENDIX 8 – ANECDOTAL ENTRIES FROM SESSION MEETINGS

1842, Nov. 16 Mr. Henry Wood had violated the good order of the church in a public altercation with another gentleman. Resolved that he should appear before the Session on Nov 25. Mr. Wood expressed his sorrow for having acted in an unchristian manner. Session forgave him his offense and admonished him to be more watchful of his temper in the future. Dec. 21 – Mr. Ligon appeared to express his sorrow for having an unpleasant controversy between himself and Mr. Talley, violating the good order of the church. The Session warned him to be more watchful. Dec. 21 – Mr. Talley appeared on the same offense.

1848, Dec. Session elected Rev. Wilson's Negro man, Bob, as Sexton at \$20 per year. There were 32 White Communicants, and 30 Colored Communicants.

1851, Sept. 21 Four colored servant men and servant women were baptized and received into membership.

1858, June 20 Mr. B. Morton and Mr. William Morton were involved in an unpleasant altercation with Mr. Duke which offended against the good order of the church. The difficulty was resolved, and they said that they had acted on the impulse of the moment and entertained no more unkind feelings. They were truly sorry for the occurrence and asked forgiveness from the Session and the church. Received as satisfactory after words of counsel.

1862, Oct. 4 Suspicion of William, servant of Mr. Finley, in reference to stolen goods. Advised William not to approach the communion table until remorse could be investigated. Unable to find evidence of guilt, and William desired to be reunified with the church. Suspension was removed. Advised by the pastor to remain circumspect in the future, lest he bring reproach upon the church of God and fall into condemnation of the devil.

1866, Apr. 12 William, former servant of Rev. Whaley, united himself with the Baptist Church without consulting Session. It was resolved to strike his name from the rolls. Jane, servant of William Townsend has given birth to a child without a recognized husband. Date set for her to renounce the charge of fornication. Two servants were baptized after experimental acquaintance with religion.

1866, Sept 8 Jane refused to appear and requested to be removed. She was excommunicated from the church for fornication and contumacion (stubborn, willfully disobedient to authority).

1868, Mar. Emily, a servant was rumored to have had an illegitimate child. The Pastor received a letter requesting that her name be stricken from the rolls. Cited to appear twice. Pastor talked to her. She felt that she brought disgrace to the church, she loved the church, loved her Savior. Did not attend. Session determined she was guilty and excommunicated her.

1874 Mr. B C Anderson, member of this church, guilty of violent behavior in public streets of Clarksville.

1875, Mar. 1 Several members have been seen dancing.

1886, Feb. 1 Six members appeared voluntarily stated that they had recently attended an entertainment at a private home and engaged in dancing, contrary to the rules of this church. They

expressed their deep sorrow for this and promised to refrain in the future. After prayer, Session took no action.

Late 1800s Questions on the reports to Presbytery:

Has your church had any special manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power?

Does worldly conformity prevail among church members?

Is your church involved in any evangelistic work outside your congregation?

1907 Noted by a member of Session that Church business was handled in a "miserable, slipshod" manner, and the church had fallen behind in funds for the pastor's salary, borrowing from the building fund which now had a negative balance.

1963 Deacons' minutes: "The Men of the Church have organized and the Women of the Church are asked to prepare a meal for them once a month at a cost of \$1.00 per meal."

1973 Deacons' minutes: "Mr. Wright will contact Frances Yager to see if the Women of the Church will be responsible for cleaning of the church. Mrs. Yager responded with a list of supplies needed."

APPENDIX 9 – LOCAL SITES RELATED TO CLARKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

- **Clarksville Presbyterian Church**
502 Virginia Avenue
- **Second Baptist Church**
216 Fourth Street - CPC's first building, 1861-1907
- **Russell Furniture Building**
500 Virginia Avenue – CPC met for worship in 1908-1909. C.H. Russell assisted with financing of current church in 1907 and donated an additional parcel behind the church in 1951. The Russell family has been associated for five generations.
- **Sunnyside School** – 104 Shiny Rock Road. This was the home of the Carrington Sisters of Sunnyside who were beloved supporters of Clarksville Presbyterian Church from 1872-1903. (now Sunnyside Sisters Bed and Breakfast) – The Department of Historic Resources installed and dedicated a Highway marker at the site on Shiny Rock Road, just off Highway 15 South.
- **310 Beauty (5th) Street** – oldest part of this structure served as the Manse in the late 1800s.
- **300 Rose Hill Avenue** – The Clark Royster House, founder of Clarksville, built in 1840.
- **105 6th Street** – The Judge Henry Wood, Jr., House, built in 1830.
- **148 Buffalo Road** – “Woodlands”, home of Henry Wood, Esq., built in 1765.
- **Between Commerce Building and 202 5th Street** – A parcel of land was purchased for the new church in 1908, but it was determined that it was too small for the church. Mr. C.H. Russell agreed to purchase the land from the church, enabling them to build in the current location.
- **703 Virginia Avenue** – Brooks-Lyon Funeral Home. Oldest section served as the Manse until 1953.
- **201 Dan Circle** – Served as the Manse until 1980. The church has had no additional manses since that time.

