

This booklet is a timeline of the 19 Pastors and significant dates in the history of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge. It was a presentation made by George Fricke, Church Historian, at two Sunday Adult Forums in February 2011.

Presidents of the United States are shown for each pastorate so that the reader can associate major events in our nation with the time of the pastor.

See attachment A: Timeline 2010 Pastors

1410: A small acorn fell on the ground in this year which has grown for an estimated 601 years to the giant white oak that now sits in the churchyard of the church.

1560: The tree started growing before John Knox's Scots Confession published this year which was the beginning of Presbyterianism in Scotland and upon which American Presbyterianism is based.

1640: 20000 people left Scotland for Ireland then to New England for religious freedom.

1690: For greater freedom of religion, many fled New England to Woodbridge, NJ.

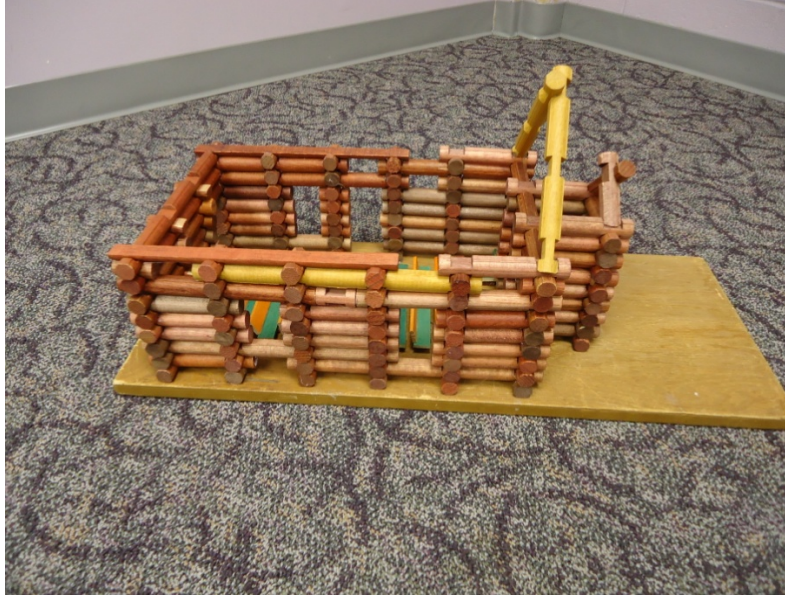
1700: Estimated Native American population in New Jersey was 2000; in Basking Ridge 200.

The first English settler in Basking Ridge was James Pitney who walked from Bound Brook. Two other names that appear in early records are Henry Rolfe and John Ayers. All three were to become Trustees in the new congregation to be formed.

1717: John Harrison purchased 3000 acres from Indian Chief Noweniok for \$50.00

A log cabin was erected under the Oak tree which stood on this land and which became the Meeting House for the new Presbyterian Congregation. This fact is documented by a discourse written by the Pastor of the Madison New Jersey Presbyterian Church in 1854 in which he says “The first church ever organized in what is now the County of Morris was the old Presbyterian church in Whippany, which was formed about 1718...In Baskingridge, some Scotch Presbyterian families, who had settled there were worshipping in a log meeting house which they had erected a year or two previously.” So we could actually make a case for having been founded in 1716, but we will settle for 1717.





1717-1731: Quaker style worship services were held in the log cabin. Itinerant pastors administered the sacraments and performed other pastoral functions.

1730/31: John Ayers deeded 1 ½ acres which included the land on which the log cabin stood to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Congregation. The Board of Trustees included James Pitney and Henry Rolfe. The deed was not recorded until 1763.

As we read further in this document of the men who were our pastors during the 294 years of recorded history of our church, we realize that we have been unusually blessed in the leadership by having men of such strong character and faith, such devotion of their congregations, and often of such outstanding scholarship and achievement for the church as a whole and for the nation. We have a history of which we may well be proud – and a high standard set by the past which should prove a challenge to us for the future.

1732-1741

JOHN CROSS

1729: The Basking Ridge congregation was recognized by the first Presbytery in the U.S located in Philadelphia.

1738: The Presbytery of New Brunswick was founded and BRPC became a part. John Cross was the first Moderator.

The Mendham Presbyterian Church was founded.

1740: George Whitfield preached to 3000 under the great white oak as part of the Great Awakening period in the U. S.

The Morristown Presbyterian Church was founded.

The Presbyterian Church in Lamington was founded.

We believe John Cross is buried here but his grave has not been found.
There are 35 of his descendants buried here.

1742-1744

CHARLES MCKNIGHT

1740: Charles came from Ireland with his father who was a Presbyterian minister.

1741: Charles was taken under the care of the New Brunswick Presbytery.

1742: Charles was ordained. He began serving the congregations in Staten Island and Basking Ridge.

1744: He accepted a call to the Cranbury Church, the same church that future Basking Ridge pastors served.

He served as a Trustee of the College of New Jersey for 20 years.

1778, January 1: Rev. McKnight died after being released from prison for supporting Independence. Buried in Trinity Churchyard in New York City.

1744-1749

JOSEPH LAMB

1717: Graduated from Yale University. He was one of five graduates, all ministers.

1744: Rev. Lamb was called to BRPC after serving the Maggituck Long Island church for 27 years.

1747: The Presbyterian Church in Madison was founded.

1749: To accommodate a growing congregation, the original log cabin meeting house was replaced with a clapboard frame building near the same site as the log cabin. The building was 55 feet long and 35 feet wide, with the length running east and west and the pulpit on the North. There were 52 pews on the floor and 26 pews in the gallery.



1749, July28: Rev. Lamb died and is buried in our churchyard.

George III is King during this pastorate.

1751-1787

SAMUEL KENNEDY

1720: Kennedy was born in Scotland. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh.

1750: Ordained by the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

1751: Samuel Kennedy accepted a call to BRPC. He was a man of many talents. He was not only a minister, but also a medical doctor and a teacher. He founded his own classical school and actively taught in it for all his years in Basking Ridge. The school was located on his homestead which was four miles from the church under the Oak.

1758: The Reformed Church at Bedminster was erected in 1758.

1760: The Township of Bernards was chartered.

Rev. Kennedy received an honorary A.M. degree from the College of New Jersey.

1763: A prominent elder on Session, Samuel Brown, died and bequested 200 pounds (\$35,000 in value today) to the church to be used to assist the pastors in the future. Samuel Brown's widow married Ebenezer White. Upon Ebenezer's death, Widow White became proprietor of Widow White's Tavern from which General Charles Lee was captured by the British during the Revolutionary War. This was a good thing because Lee did not get along with General George Washington and by being captured he missed the

battles of Trenton and Princeton where he probably would have argued with Washington about how to conduct the battles.

1768: The first recorded mission of the church was a donation of 3 pounds 7 shillings to a group of American Indians.

1786: The congregation at Basking Ridge was incorporated by the state of New Jersey.

1789: The first Book of Order was approved by the Presbyterian General Assembly. The fact that no records remain from Doctor Kennedy's pastorate may be due to the fact that he did not know records should be kept.

1776-1783: The Revolutionary War was fought entirely during Dr. Kennedy's pastorate.

1787, August 31: Doctor Kennedy died and was buried in our Churchyard. His stone is the first stone to be seen upon entering the historic old yard.

George III was King until the Revolution, and then George Washington was President of the new United States.

1795-1817

ROBERT FINLEY

1772: Robert Finley was born at Princeton. He was the son of James Finley of Scotland who came to New Jersey at the invitation of his friend, Dr. John Witherspoon, president of the College of New Jersey. Robert was a precocious student. He entered the College of New Jersey at age 11.

1787: Findley graduated from CNJ at 16 years of age.

1793: He was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

1795, June 17: He was ordained at BRPC.

1795: With the arrival of Rev. Finley, our records of Session minutes commenced. There were 74 members of the church at that time.

1797: Andrew Alexander, a member of BRPC, is appointed Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

1798: Robert Finley married Esther Caldwell, daughter of James Caldwell, of “hit them with Watts, boys” fame.

1803: 127 new members were brought into the church. This was a period of religious revival and it became necessary to enlarge the sanctuary by 20 feet

on the North side. Twenty-eight pews were added downstairs and twelve in the gallery, making a total of 118 pews altogether. The highest pew rental, for those on the right and left of the pulpit, was \$14.74 per year. It was in this year that the country went to dollars and cents.

1809: Rev. Finley moved the Classical School, which he continued after Samuel Kennedy left, to the Brick Academy in this year.

1816: Dr. Finley joined Bushrod Washington, nephew of George Washington, to organize the American Colonization Society. The group established the country of Liberia in Africa for free black Americans. Finley was distressed with the way in which blacks were being treated in America.

1817: Awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Princeton for having served eleven years as a trustee of the college.

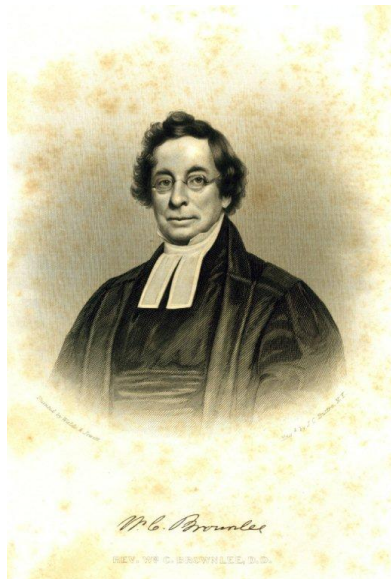
1817: Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church became part of the Presbytery of Newton.

1817: Dr. Finley was called to be President of the University of Georgia. He died shortly after his arrival in Georgia as a result of an extended tour of the state to recruit new students during which he contracted pneumonia.

U.S. Presidents during Finley's pastorate were George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

1818-1825

WILLIAM BROWNLEE



1783: William Brownlee was born as the fourth son of the Lord of Torfoot in Scotland. He graduated from the University of Glasgow and received his Master's degree there also.

1808: He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Stirling, Scotland.

1816: He came to America and taught at Queens College (Rutgers).

1818, April 30: He began his labors here in BRPC. He was installed in 1819.

1818. In his first year in our pulpit, he undertook a major project by conducting a census of the entire community. He recorded diligently the names of 260 families, which included 1700 individuals. He also listed the names of 117 slaves, most of whom were members of this congregation.

1822: 104 people joined the church, and 38 were baptized.

1824: He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from the University of Glasgow.

1825: He left us and went back to Rutgers.

The U. S. President during Dr. Brownlee's pastorate was James Monroe. It was during Monroe's administration that a member of our church, Samuel Lewis Southard, was appointed Secretary of the Navy.

1826-1834

JOHN COE VANDERVOORT

1795: Born in Lamington, NJ.

1819: Licensed by the New Brunswick Presbytery. He was received by the Presbytery of Newton.

1826: He accepted the call to Basking Ridge.

1828: Our Trustee records indicate that an attempt was made to relocate black members of the congregation from the main floor to the gallery. The motion was defeated and the blacks continued to worship “below stairs”.

1832: BRPC transferred to the Presbytery of Elizabeth.

1833: A period of decline started for the church mainly caused by the founding of more churches in the area, New Vernon in this year.

1834: Rev. Vandervoort accepted a call to Paterson, NJ.

John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson were Presidents during this pastorate. Samuel Lewis Southard continued as Secretary of the Navy under Adams.

1834-1836

JOHN ANDERSON

He was born in the North of Ireland.

1834: He was called to serve BRPC on a trial basis for one year.

1835: He was ordained and installed at BRPC. He visited 308 families comprising 1672 individuals of whom 258 were members.

1836: As his own request, he was released to accept a call to the Canal Street Presbyterian Church in New York City.

The U.S. President was Andrew Jackson.

1838-1851

OSCAR HARRIS

1804: Born in Goshen, NY.

1827: Graduated Williams College

1833: Ordained Towanda, PA.

1838: Due to competition from newly founded prep schools the Classical School was closed.

1837: The Liberty Corner Presbytery Church was founded.

1839: The new sanctuary was built on the same site as the two earlier houses of worship. A slab was placed over the West door of the sanctuary which testifies to this fact which reads “This church was rebuilt A. D. 1839 on the site of the former one reared A.D. 1749 where stood the ancient log cabin near the beginning of the last century”. It was an almost square building with 52 pews down, all of which had doors. There were 26 pews in the gallery and the organ and the choir were located there.

The old church was sold at public venue on April 6, 1839. This would indicate that worship continued in the clapboard frame church while the new church was being built.

1840: In this year, Bernards Township consisted of two villages, of which Basking Ridge was the largest. There were 4 stores and 40 homes in the Village.

1841-1850: During this period, the Northeast United States experienced a wave of epidemics which devastated many families in our congregation. The Drummond family lost 5 children under the age of two during this period. They are all buried in our churchyard.

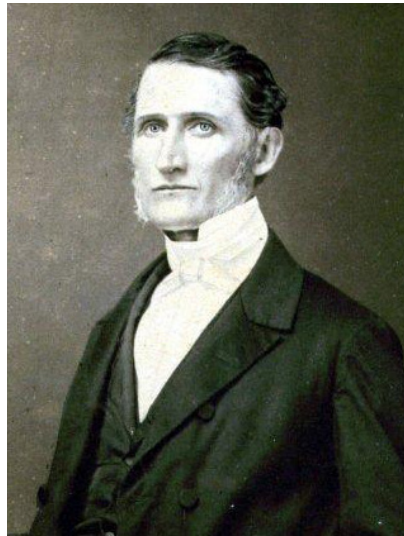
1845: Session selected a chorister and it was recorded that “eleven men and seven ladies offered to sing”, thus forming our first choir.

1851: Rev. Harris resigned due to poor health. He died in 1872 in Middletown, NY.

Presidents during this Pastorate were Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore.

1851-1895

JOHN RANKIN



1816: He was born in Greensboro, NC.

1840: He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary.

1848: He was ordained by the Presbyterian Board of Missions and became a missionary in India.

1851: Rev. Rankin accepted a call from BRPC.

1852: A manse was built for Rev. Rankin. This is the house on the corner of East Oak Street and North Maple Ave.

1853: St. Mark's Episcopal Church was consecrated.

1854: A Session House was built on the corner of North Finley and West Oak Street. At this time, there were seven elders on Session.

Bishop Janes Methodist Church was founded.

1856: William Lewis Dayton, a member of our congregation was nominated to run as Vice President of the United States on the John C. Fremont for President Ticket against James Buchanan and John C. Breckenridge.

1859: A Roman Catholic congregation purchased land and built a small chapel for worship. The church was officially incorporated in 1864.

1861: An entry was made in the Session minutes to observe a day of prayer and fasting for our nation during the Civil War at the request of President Lincoln.

1863: The Presbyterian Church in the United States divides over the issue of slavery.

1864: President Lincoln wanted William Lewis Dayton to run as his Vice President candidate but Andrew Johnson was nominated instead. The party bosses felt a Southern senator was necessary to help heal the wounds of the Civil War and to appease the South.

1867: Rev. Rankin received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Princeton University.

1869: A tornado blew the tin roof off the sanctuary. A new slate roof was installed. The sanctuary was enlarged to 118 pews.

1872: Dr. Rankin delivered his Historical Discourse from the pulpit on a Sunday for three hours.

1873: The Presbyterian Church in Stirling was founded.

1875: A new bell was placed in the steeple. It weighed 1009 pounds and was made in Troy New York.

1887: The Session House was torn down and replaced with a new frame chapel. It subsequently became the town library and was faced with brick. It still stands on the corner of West Oak and North Finley.

1892: The sanctuary was renovated at a cost of \$2500.00. The doors on the pews were removed and the pew configuration was the same as today. (See fig.5)



Figure 5: Chancel after \$2500 renovation project.

1892: A supplement to the Historical Discourse was delivered by Dr. Rankin.

1899: Dr. Rankin died while still residing in Basking Ridge.

U. S. Presidents during the Pastorate of Dr. Rankin were: Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, and Grover Cleveland.

1895-1899

EDGAR MASON

1864: Edgar was born in Tennessee.

1890: He attended Union Theological Seminary and was ordained in Tennessee.

1895: He started at Basking Ridge the day Dr. Rankin left the pulpit. This was not a good thing to have a new pastor start so soon after a pastorate of 44 years. The congregation had no time to grieve. To make matters worse, Dr. Rankin stayed in town until his death in 1899. Apparently, this situation resulted in a series of motions to dismiss Rev. Mason at a congregational meeting in 1899.

President of the U.S. was William McKinley.

1900-1912

JOHN THOMAS REEVE



1872, July 12: John Reeve was born in Swinford, Leicestershire, England

1886: John came to the USA at age 14. Graduated from Lennox College, Iowa

1900: He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained at BRPC on October 10, 1900.

1908: The Knox room addition was completed which included Sunday school rooms, a chapel, and some sanctuary modifications. This architect for this project was George Browne Post who was famous for developing the skyline concept for New York City. (See figure 6).

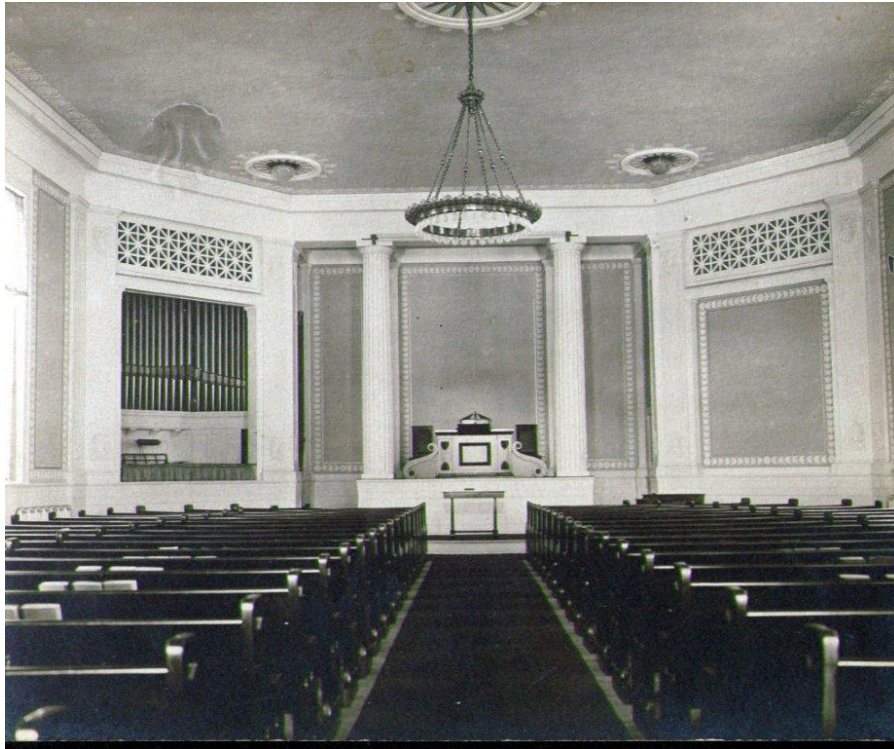


Figure 6: Sanctuary appearance after George Browne Post changes in 1908.

1909: A chapel was built in Bernardsville for the Italian Mission. This mission was started by Rev. Reeve to provide religious services for a growing Italian population in Bernardsville. Many Italians gravitated to Bernardsville to meet the growing need for gardeners for the large estates which had cropped up in the town. The Chapel was designed by George Browne Post who invited some of our members to a field day on his property on the Bernardsville Mountain to gather stones for the building. The first pastor was the Reverend Tommaso Barbieri, a convert from the Roman Catholic faith. Rev. Barbieri is buried in our churchyard.

1910: The old chapel which was on the site of the Session House was given to William Childs in exchange for his donation of 4 acres at the rear of the sanctuary for a new cemetery. The old church yard did not have any space left for burials. The old chapel subsequently became the town library.

1910: Dr. Reeve's alma mater, Lennox College, gave him an honorary D.D. degree.

1911: The number Elders on Session were increased from 7 to 9.

1912: Dr. Reeve accepted a call to the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

During his pastorate, 288 new members were added by Confession of Faith and 118 by letter of transfer.

U. S. Presidents during his pastorate were Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft.

1913-1944

LAUREN BENNETT



1879: Rev. Bennett was born in Kinsman, Ohio.

1905: He graduated from Westminster College, PA then became a school teacher for two years.

1911: He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained in the Morrisville, PA Presbyterian Church.

1913: He came to BRPC and served here for 31 years.

1917: 49 members of our congregation entered the armed forces during World War One.

1920: The number of Elders on Session was increased from 9 to 12 and again to 15 during Dr. Bennett's pastorate.

1935: He received an honorary D.D. degree from Westminster College.

1944: Dr. Bennett died while still Pastor here and is buried in the new churchyard.

Dr. Bennett was our pastor during both World War I and World War II.

U. S. Presidents were Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin Roosevelt.

1944-1951

J. MERION KADYK



1904: Merion Kaydk was born in Fulton, Illinois. He attended the College of Wooster and McCormick Seminary.

1942: He received his Doctor of Divinity degree from the College of Emporia, Kansas.

1944: He was called to be Pastor of BRPC.

1949: To provide space for Christian Education, he had the space below the sanctuary excavated to make Calvin Hall. This space was dirt and had to be removed by hand. It must have required a tremendous effort to remove that much dirt manually. The architect for this project was Joe Jackson.

Prior to this project, a committee developed plans to replace the Church house across the street with a brick building with a number of classrooms and offices. Apparently, the cost was too great and Calvin Hall was created instead.

1944-1951: During his pastorate, he added 560 new members. When he left, there were 970 members on the rolls.

He established a church office with a secretary; he initiated printing of annual reports; he started the publication of *Oak Leaves*; he supervised the compilation of a new church register; he divided families into Parish Groups for visitation; he instituted a rotation plan for church officers; and he increased the size of Session to 18.

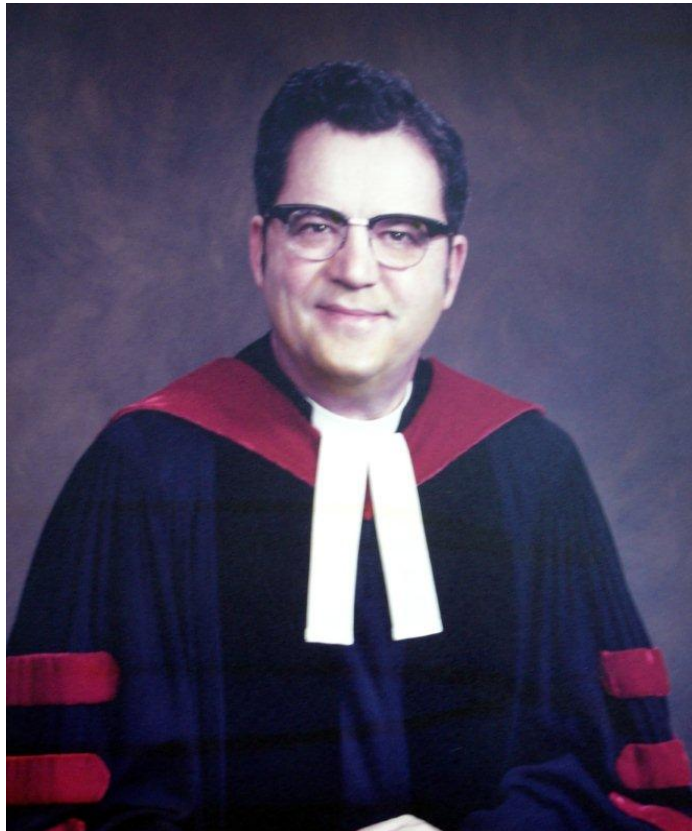
He was affectionately called “Dutch”.

1951: He was called to serve the Presbyterian Church in Riverside Illinois.

Presidents during his pastorate were Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

1951-1974

WILLIAM HARTE FELMETH



1918, May 21: William Felmeth was born in New Kensington, Pennsylvania.

1934-1963: While his father was Pastor of one of the Presbyterian Churches in Elizabeth, he attended Pingry Preparatory School. He graduated from Harvard in 1939, received his Th.B. from Princeton Seminary in 1942. He also received an honorary D.D. from Bloomfield College after many years on the Board of Trustees in 1963.

1942-1946: Instead of entering the ministry after graduating from Princeton, he entered the Army where he served in the Aleutians as battery commander and staff officer, then in Europe.

1946-1951: Served his first pastorate at the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford, NJ.

1951, July 1: He came to BRPC with his wife, Kay and two daughters.

1951: Shortly after his arrival, the sanctuary was completely renovated. (See figure 7.)



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New Sanctuary on Mr. Felmeth's 10th Anniversary June 1961

Figure 7: The sanctuary after the 1951 renovation.

1954: He undertook a major step forward by building Westminster Hall and classrooms and the present Chapel. This required removal of 187 grave stones from the area which was to become Westminster Hall. It is suspected

that there was much discussion over this move, but it has turned out to be a significant addition to the Christian Education program and fellowship activities.

1957: Nancy Knobloch was called to be our Assistant Music Director.

1959: St. James Roman Catholic Church was built.

1961: Our church achieved its objective of 50% of our income to missions.

It was also in this year that Bob Beringer, a child of the church, was ordained and who after his retirement back to his home church contributed so much to us during times of transition.

1962: The Bernardsville Presbyterian Church was built to replace the Chapel of the Italian Mission and Assistant Pastor Donald Pepper left us to become its pastor.

1964: The number of Elders on Session was increased to 21.

1965: The cupola to the sanctuary was rebuilt, because it was sagging.

1967, May 28: the 250th anniversary of our church was celebrated.

The erection of the present Church House was completed. It was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Willits. The old church house was torn down, but a piece of it remains as the mantel in the Parlor of the present Church House.

1968: Our membership reached its all-time peak of 1833!

In this year, Organist and Choir Director Phil Stimmel left for a school position in Vermont.

1969: F. Paul Dickey became Organist and Choir Director.

1970: Paul Dickey was drafted into the Army. He was followed by Erick Bruner who filled in nicely until Paul was released from active duty.

1971: Ridge Oak was built and opened for Senior citizens. This project was the brainchild of Dr. Felmeth and became a reality through the hard efforts of Bob Boye, an Elder in our church.

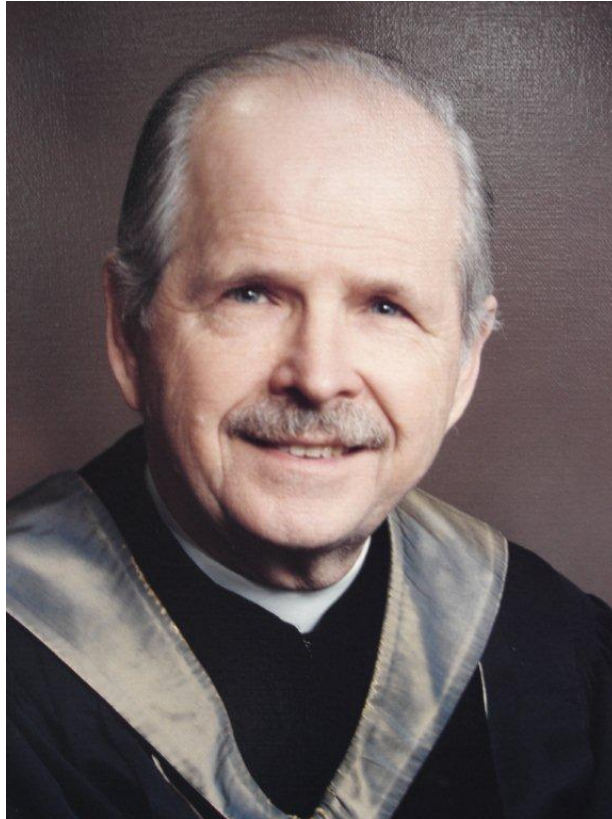
1974: Dr. Felmeth accepted a call to become Vice President at Princeton Seminary.

1983: The appreciation for Dr. Felmeth's time with us was expressed by the congregation by naming him Pastor Emeritus, the first such honor in our history to this point.

U.S. Presidents during Dr. Felmeth's pastorate: Dwight Eisenhower, JFK, LBJ, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford.

1975-1993

J. CALVIN K. JACKSON



1928: He was born in Philadelphia, where his parents lived in a church manse.

1950: Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, B. A. History

1953: Graduated Princeton Seminary with B. Div. While there, he had an encounter with Albert Einstein. While fleeing some college pranksters, he jumped over a hedge and landed on Albert Einstein who was sitting in his yard. Dr. Einstein laughed about the incident.

1955: Graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, with a Ph. D.

1967: He became Pastor of his uncle's church in Baltimore.

1967: He accepted a call to Washington Heights Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

1975: He accepted a call to BRPC where he served us faithfully for 19 years.

1976: The Memorial Gardens were added to our cemetery for the burial of cremains.

The Deacon Cluster concept was developed. The congregation was divided into 26 clusters with at least one Deacon responsible for the members in that cluster.

1982: The Adult Forum was started. The Tree House Child Caring Center was also established this year.

1983: The Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the Presbyterian Church, USA were reunited after being split for 122 years, since the Civil War.

1988: A ramp was built to allow easier access to our sanctuary.

The church's first pictorial directory is produced with 400 of 600 families photographed

1989: Jimmie Struthers retired as Clerk of Session after 21 years. He was replaced by George Fricke.

A manse policy was adopted which allows pastors to live in a manse or purchase their own home.

1992: Our 275th anniversary was celebrated with historical services in March and a parade through town in July. George Washington, aka Alf Walton, chaired the committee that arranged for the celebration events.

A capital funds campaign was conducted to raise \$275,000 for our Historic Buildings Endowment.

Our Organist and Music Director, Paul Dickey resigned.

1993: Mary Lou Stevens was called to be our Minister of Music,

1994: A farewell party for Dr. Jackson and his family was held at a nearby restaurant attended by a very large number of members. It was a bitter-sweet occasion.

Dr. Jackson was honored by the congregation by being voted Pastor Emeritus.

U. S. Presidents during Dr. Jackson's pastorate were Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and William Clinton.

1994-1995

JAMES E. MORRIS

1974 INTERIM MODERATOR OF SESSION

1994-1995 INTERIM HEAD OF STAFF

1963-1999 ASSOCIATE PASTOR



1963: Jim graduated from Waynesburg College and McCormick Seminary and following pastorates at the Amboy Presbyterian Church and the Belle Isle Methodist Church in Syracuse became our Associate Pastor in September 1963. He subsequently earned his doctorate at Drew University.

1974: Jim was asked by Presbytery to be Moderator of Session for the interim period between Dr. Felmeth's departure and Dr. Jackson's arrival.

1994: Jim was asked by Presbytery and approved by Session to be Head of Staff in the Interim period between Dr. Jackson and Jeffrey Newlin.

1999: Dr. Morris retired. He was elected Pastor Emeritus in this year in recognition of his 35 years of rich and fruitful service to this church. Jim's middle name is Elmer, appropriately, because he was the glue which kept things connected during many periods of transition in his 35 years.

A wonderful dinner and farewell party was held at the Olde Mill Inn in April 1999 which was well attended.

1995-1997

JEFFREY NEWLIN

1973: Jeffrey Newlin graduated from Northwestern University with a B.A. in Philosophy. He then received a Honors Masters of Arts in Theology from Cambridge in England and a M. Div. from Yale.

1995: Jeff introduced the LOGOS program, a midweek Christian Education program for youngsters which was very successful and which was continued for four years.

1996: A Paige Whitney Babies Center liaison to Session was formalized.

1997: The relationship was dissolved due to transition issues. Jeff characterized his pastorate as an “Unintended Interim”.

1997-2000

DONALD BELL (INTERIM PASTOR)

Dr. Bell did a fine job as Interim Pastor for the 2 years he was here. He was thought of as “our Teddy Bear” because he was a big huggable man.

1998: George Fricke retired as Clerk of Session and was replaced by Richard Fryling.

2001-2006

W. ALFRED TISDALE



Alfred was born in Sumter, South Carolina.

1975: He graduated from Wofford College with a B.A. in Religion and minors in Physics and Math.

1999: He attended Union Theological Seminary with his wife Nora, where they both received their M. Div. Alfred later attended General Theological Seminary in New York City where he earned the degree of Master of Sacred Theology.

Al and Nora spent two years as visiting professors at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea.

Upon return to the United States, he accepted a call to be Pastor of the Cranbury Church, at which former Pastors McKnight and Felmeth also served.

2001, 9-11: Our church hosted a vigil for the victims of the terrorist acts of 9/11 for 5000 people around the town square.

With Pat Weichert and Matt Camlin, we were without an Interim for the first time in ten years.

During his pastorate, air conditioning was installed in our sanctuary; barrier-free access was provided to Westminster Hall, and the organ and chancel were renovated. (See figure 8).



Figure 8: Renovated chancel and organ.

Mission trips were made by groups from our church to Ecuador and Africa, as well as to help rebuild after hurricane Katrina in Louisiana.

2006: A restored cemetery was rededicated.

2006: Nora was honored with an endowed Chair at Yale University and Alfred and Nora left for Yale for her to accept this position.

2006-2007

ROBERT BERINGER

INTERIM HEAD OF STAFF



1961: Bob is a child of this church who was ordained here upon graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary. Bob first attended Cornell University where he received his B.A. degree.

After his ordination, Bob first served at the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church. He then served the remainder of his career with two congregations; first the Presbyterian Church in Hopewell, NJ then the Metuchen Presbyterian Church. After being honorably retired, he served as an Interim at the Westfield and Lamington Presbyterian Churches.

2006: Bob returned to the pulpit of his childhood church to help us during one of our many transition periods.

As a Parish Associate, he continues to serve us in many ways; coordinating Men's Luncheons, teaching classes at Fellowship Village, and occasionally leading worship. It is a delight to have him retired in our parish.

2006-PRESENT

MAUREEN PATERSON

2006-2010: DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND EDUCATION

2010-PRESENT: ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Maureen was born in Scotland. She graduated from St. Andrews University and did post graduate study at the University of Edinburgh.

1996: Maureen accepted a position as a student intern at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen, North Carolina.

1997: She then took a youth and Christian Education position in Raeford, NC and was ordained into that position.

2007: Maureen came to us this year to a non-clergy position as Director of Youth and Education. She is married to Ian Rankine who is an Associate Pastor at the New Providence Presbyterian Church.

2009: Received her Doctor of Ministry degree in May from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA..

2010: It was with great delight that Maureen accepted a call to become our Associate Pastor. We look forward to many happy fruitful years together.

2009-PRESENT

DENNIS W. JONES



Dennis's story is a wonderful success story – from the cop on the beat in front of the Presbyterian Church in Basking Ridge to its Senior Pastor!!

1984: He attended Boston College, and then graduated from the University of Delaware.

1990: He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary.

1993: He was called to be Associate Pastor at the Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1994: He returned to Basking Ridge as Interim Associate Pastor. He served six years in this capacity. Normally, interim pastors only serve for one year, but BRPC received a dispensation from the Presbytery of Elizabeth because of our transition period.

He was called to the Alexandria First Presbyterian Church in Milford, NJ.

2009: He received a call from BRPC to return as Senior Pastor which he accepted.

Dennis is currently working on his Doctorate of Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary.

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