



## **Kerr Kronicles Volume XXXVII**

**October 11, 2020**

*Peek into the Past:* In 1963 the Christian Education Committee recommended to the Session that a full time, qualified Director of Christian Education be employed. Mae McClure, a graduate of Queens College began her work in January 1963 that lasted the next nine years. Under her leadership, the Senior High Fellowship presented a live nativity scene in the area between the cemetery and the Bain School Road, a Youth Club was organized, and a Wednesday program including music, recreation and Bible study with a supper at the church was offered to young people in the Junior and Intermediate Departments. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*A Musical "Note":* In January 1959, John E. W. Clark began the first of two periods of outstanding leadership in the program of music. The Clarks were a unique team. He had choral and instrumental training under James Christian Phohl at Davidson and Elizabeth was harpist in the Charlotte Symphony, having grown up in the distinguished music program at Lenoir High School and later at Salem College. While he led the choir program, she volunteered as music librarian, choir participant, and special occasion harpist.

In September the Cherub choir for children in grades one through three was formed. In December a Brass Ensemble was established made up of an intergenerational group of instrumentalists. Mr. Clark had participated in a similar group at Davidson College where Mr. Phohl had introduced the Moravian custom of a brass band at Christmas. By 1963 the choir had progressed to the point that it sang the Easter Oratorio, "The Seven Last Words", accompanied by an orchestra made up of members of the church augmented by thirteen members of the Charlotte Symphony. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Important National Events:* November, 1963 – President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson becomes the 36th President. The man accused of assassinating President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, is shot and killed by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby. The assassination marks the first 24-hour coverage of a major news event by the major networks.