



## **Kerr Kronicles Volume XXXIX**

**October 25, 2020**

*Peek into the Past:* In 1970, the Bi-Centennial Home Coming in July was a special one attended by an overflow crowd of worshipers. Fred R. McAlister, the only living former minister, was the preacher. Two minister sons of the church, T. DeWitt Mullis and Fred R. McAlister, Jr. participated in the morning worship. After the morning worship, the picnic dinner was spread on tables placed in the grove. It was impressive to see one hundred feet of tables loaded with the bountiful meals. Trips were arranged to the old cemetery and conversations continued long after the trips and dinner were done.

Since 1950 the membership had grown from 387 to 766. The second century in the life of the church had been one of change and progress, a progress that would continue into a third century of witness. Looking back the congregation gave thanks and looked forward with high hopes. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Sadness of War:* Philadelphia, along with the rest of the nation, was not spared the agony of another war. The conflict in Vietnam spread itself through this decade. The twelve young men from the congregation served: Baron Bartlett, Fred McAlister, Jr., Wayne Burch, James L. Miller, Jr., J. Thomas Black, Dwight M. Ross, Jr., Jerry D. Flowe, James F. Ross, Charles R. Griffin, Gerald Stansell, T. Michael Higgins, and Walter S. Whitley, Jr. In February, 1966, Gerald Stansell was killed in action in Vietnam. His body was brought home, and the congregation gathered to join his family in mourning the loss of a son and friend. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*A Musical "Note":* At the ground breaking ceremony of the New Sanctuary, the gathered members led by the choir fervently sang the Doxology. The Carl McEwen family informed them that they wished to give a pipe organ for the New Sanctuary. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Important National Events:* The most immediate effect of the Vietnam War was the staggering death toll. The war killed an estimated 2 million Vietnamese civilians, 1.1 million North Vietnamese troops, 200,000 South Vietnamese troops, and 58,000 U.S. troops. Those wounded in combat numbered tens of thousands more.