



**Kerr Kronicles Volume XL**  
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*Peek into the Past:* Before 1973 the Presbyterian Church, U. S. had not ordained women as officers in the church. When the Book of Order was amended to allow this, Philadelphia was among the congregations that very quickly took advantage of the privilege. In December 1973 Bettie W. McEwen was ordained and installed as its first woman deacon. For many years she served as treasurer for the church. The next year the congregation elected Dorothy Wilson Waltman as its first woman elder and Peggy Todd Helms as deacon. They were ordained and installed in December 1974. Dorothy served several terms as clerk of Session and Peggy later served as elder and served as clerk of the Session and of Congregational meetings. Since that time the congregation has elected many women leaders to the offices of elder and deacon. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*A Musical "Note":* In 1973 Frank Roberts began as Minister of Music. He developed a program of voice training for choir members and made music a part of the recreational life of the church. Each summer he arranged the presentation of a musical led by the choir assisted by young people and other members. The congregation delighted in hearing the lyrics from popular musicals: *Showboat*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *George M.* (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Interesting Fact:* By 1974 the membership passed 800 and the Building Fund for the new sanctuary was \$306,000.

*Important National Events:* August 9, 1974 - President Richard M. Nixon resigns the office of the presidency, avoiding the impeachment process and admitting his role in the Watergate affair. He was replaced by Vice President Gerald R. Ford, who, on September 8, 1974, pardoned Nixon for his role. Nixon was the first president to ever resign from office.