



## **Kerr Kronicles Volume XIII**

**April 19, 2020**

*Peek into the Past:* From 1853 to 1861 the church faced one of the longest periods without a settled pastor. In 1861, Henry Nelson Pharr was installed as pastor. The first records of his ministry record meetings of the Session in three homes to baptize infants who were very ill and whose mothers were frail. The fact that they had been so long without a pastor led to the presentation of many children to receive this sacrament.

On Sabbath morning March 2, 1862, Mr. Pharr preached the text, "This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them." After the service, he and one of his daughters drove home in the carriage. She got out to open the gate and returned to the buggy to find that her father had suffered a massive stroke." He died two weeks later at the age of 64. The Synod referred to him as "an instructive and impressive preacher, a faithful pastor and a wise, punctual presbyter." This was the second time in three years to the day that the congregation mourned the loss of their minister by death.

*Interesting Fact:* In 1851, the Session heard a series of Common Fame charges for the Sin of Dancing. At least four young ladies and one young man were brought to confession and forgiveness. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*A Musical Note:* A favorite hymn, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" was written in 1858 by George Duffield, Jr. who was an ordained Presbyterian minister like his father and grandfather. (*Source: Internet*)

*Important National Events:* 1852: U.S. abolitionist and writer Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896) publishes Uncle Tom's Cabin as a book and sells 300,000 copies in its first year. 1858: The upstart politician Abraham Lincoln debates Stephen A. Douglas, in a series of debates that included slavery in the country.