



**Kerr Kronicles Volume XXXV  
September 27, 2020**

*Peek into the Past:* In January, 1952, a pulpit committee of Fred Brown, Baxter Bigham, Dolph Black, J.W. Flowe, J. Ranson Lee, Mrs. Karl Burkandt and Mrs. J. Watson Morris were appointed. In March, the congregation adopted the recommendation of the committee and extended a call to Russell Martin Kerr. Rev. Kerr was born in Kings Mountain, NC and a graduate of Davidson College, Erskine Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary. Thus began a thirty year ministry of Russell and Nancy Kerr at Philadelphia Church. In the early 1950's a number of new and exciting things were happening: The Vacation Bible School grew to over 100 people, The Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops were activated, the Children's Department of the Church School was divided into Nursery, Primary, Junior, Pioneer and Senior High Departments, and the Session divided itself into eight committees (Evangelism, Christian Education, Worship and Music, Pulpit Supply, Rolls and Records, Sacraments, Sunday Greeting and Church Development).

A new home for the sexton was built in 1953. Under the leadership of Carl J. McEwen a four room house with bath, brick veneer was constructed down the hill behind the former building. The house was completed at the cost of \$4,940, funds coming from the current gifts of the church. The old house, which likely included the old Session house which had been moved from the church site on Matthews-Mint Hill road, was demolished. After serving as the home for five different sextons, the house has been used for Boy Scout Troop and AA meetings. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Interesting Fact:* In 1952 the manse was completely reconditioned, painted outside and in, new venetian blinds installed, new kitchen cabinets, linoleum and an automatic washing machine. The large brick veneer, nine room house had earlier been equipped with a stoker fired furnace. (Historical notes circa 1952)

*A Musical "Note":* Mrs. Carson ended her fruitful service as Choir Director in 1957. To take her place Carl Cronstedt, Choral Director at Myers Park High School was secured. The music program was enlarged by the addition of the Youth Choir composed of young people from the fourth through the ninth grades. Frances Leete accepted the leadership of this choir. (*The Presbyterian Gathering on Clear Creek*)

*Important National Events:* 1954 The Tournament of Roses Parade becomes the first event nationally televised in color.