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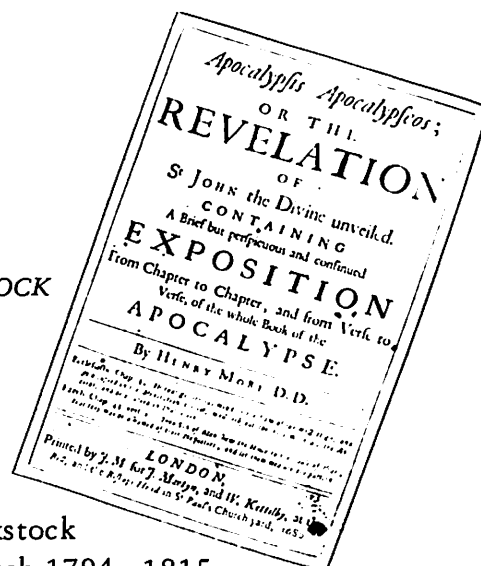
Reader, If thou may'st wth better acceptance per-
use my Exposition of this Book of Pro-
verbs my Exposition of the Apocalypse, I thought fit
to place the Epistle to the Hebrews, concerning
its teaching by way of Prophecy: First, concerning the
Book itself, and only the Authentickness and
Infallibility, but also concerning the Excellen-
cy thereof: Secondly, concerning the grounds I go
on, and the Truth of my Exposition: And
thirdly and lastly, concerning the good Usefulness
thereof.

That this Book is Canonical and of Divine In-
spiration, is composed by the Authority and Su-
zerainty of the Church Universal, but Roman and
Reformed: And though it had no external Confir-
mation, the Truth of Propositions that I have com-
mended, the Truth of the Scripture itself, and the In-
fallibility of those that teach it, will, by my inter-
pretation, be so plain, that I need not say more.

And I

16

Rev. William Blackstock
Pastor of Neely's Creek Church 1794 - 1815



William Dickson was born in Ireland about 1760, studied in Scotland, emigrated to South Carolina as a teacher, then studied theology under Rev. Peter McMullan, pastor of the Due West Church. He was ordained and installed pastor of Bethany and Sharon Churches in 1797. He had a parish covering a large part of York and Gaston County, N. C. where then there were 350 members. This devoted minister laboured earnestly and successfully for many years, part of this time at Neely's Creek Church.

Abraham Alexander was a soldier in the War of 1812, but was most interested in graduating from Jefferson in 1817, teaching languages, and then finished courses in divinity. The Presbytery of the Carolinas ordained and installed him in 1822 and he served most ably for ten years at Steele Creek, Bethany and part time at Neely's Creek. He laid many and varied gifts on the altar of the Master.

Thomas Kechin was born in Howgate, Scotland in 1786 and in his youth he served as a shepherd boy. After graduation from Edinburgh University and Divinity Hall, he did mission work in Scotland. He chose to come to America to minister for Shiloh and Neely's Creek Churches. In 1833, he gave up the charge of Neely's Creek and in 1839, demitted Shiloh.

Reverend Thomas Ketchin, a Scottish shepherd boy, son of a tailor who worked his way through university and seminary, made an indelible mark upon the Associate Reformed Church. His field, Shiloh and Neely's Creed, was large, in 1821, two-hundred and thirty members. He was one of the fourteen founders of Erskine and Clark Seminary at Due West, S.C.

A monument to his memory was erected in the Shiloh Cemetery where he preached for eighteen years.

In Memory of Reverend Thomas Ketchin
Born Howgate, Scotland
Died September 26, 1855
About 70 years of age.
Distinguished for energy abundant labors
and true Christian courtesy.

(History-Bethel A.R.P. Church. Winnsboro, S.C.)

REVEREND JOHN MUSKAT
Minister Neely's Creek 1809 - 1825

Rev. John Muskat was a native of New York, and graduated from Union College in 1807. His services were much in demand in the Presbytery, with churches such as Shiloh, Neely's Creek, New Sterling, N. C. and other churches in North Carolina. He was famed in his day as an educator of youth, and conducted a successful High School near his home not far from Statesville, N. C. He preached earnestly and eloquently in his younger days and his zeal and eloquence were used for his Master.

Reverend Archibald Whyte
(1800 - 1865)
Pastor Neely's Creek

Of the early ministers of Neely's Creek, Archibald Whyte is the only one buried in the church cemetery and through his ministry, his writing and his patriotic fervor, he exerted a tremendous influence on the people of this community.

He was born in Argyle, New York, in 1800, graduated from Union College and the Associate Seminary in 1826. He came to the Carolinas in 1833 and preached at Steele Creek, Bethany and Neely's Creek. Because of the problem of slavery, he demitted his charge, and turned planter and politician, and was a magistrate for many years.

His home was on old Saluda Road in the bounds of Neely's Creek, near the Hutchison farm. He was one of the signers of the Catawba Indian Treaty, wrote for the Indian Land Chronicle and organized the Whyte Guards.

On one occasion, he addressed the S. C. legislature, and the Speaker asked, "Who is that man who has just addressed me?" On being told that it was Mr. Whyte of York District, the Speaker replied, "In all my life, I have never been addressed with so much grace and dignity."

Reverend A. Whyte was regarded as having the brightest mind in his day. He was a fine speaker, never uttering an unchaste word, and liked by all.

Mrs. Brown, in her book, "A City Without Cobwebs", refers to Reverend Archibald Whyte as "A courtly gentlemen, a man of deep learning, an A. R. Presbyterian Minister, Past Master, school teacher, highly esteemed and greatly beloved by the citizens of Indian Land".

We thank God for him as a minister proclaiming the Word of God from the pulpit of Neely's Creek Church with fervor and dignity.



Reverend Laughlin McDonald
Pastor Neely's Creek 1853 - 1870

Rev. Laughlin McDonald was born in Hart County, Georgia on October 3, 1810. He was the son of John and Margaret (McCurry) McDonald. His parents were members of the A.R.P. Church of Generostee, Georgia, ten miles away.

In 1832, He entered an Academy known as Drake's Old Field, three miles east of Due West, South Carolina, taught by Rev. John S. Pressly. In one year, he was prepared for the Sophomore Class of Miami University, Ohio, where he graduated in 1836. After a course of Theology under Dr.

E.E. Pressly, the second Presbytery commissioned him a probationer on October 5, 1838. On December 10, 1839, he was by the First Presbytery ordained and installed pastor of Tirzah, York County and Union, Chester County, South Carolina. He assumed pastoral oversight of Neely's Creek Church September 5, 1853. On account of bodily infirmity, this extensive charge was given back to Presbytery September 5, 1870. New Hope Fairfield County, South Carolina became his pastoral charge April 28, 1871. Here he labored most acceptably though with many interruptions on account of cancer, which caused his death on March 26, 1874.

He was married twice; first to Miss Mararet Brice of New Hope in 1840. She died, and in 1843, he married Miss Melissa Stinson of Chester County.

Rev. McDonald had a tremendous baritone voice that its volume alone and unassisted could fill the Church. He was known and admired as a polished gentleman and impressive pastor.



Charles Bowen Betts, D.D.

Reverend C.B. Betts was born at Charlotte, Dickson County, Tennessee, November 12, 1828, and was the son of William Betts and Eliza Bowen. He was prepared for college at Viny Grove Academy in Tennessee, and graduated at Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, in 1851. In October 1851, he was received as a student of theology by the Second Presbytery at Due West, South Carolina, and received his theological training in Erskine Seminary, being licensed by the Second Presbytery in October 1853. In May 1855, he was ordained at Winnsboro, South Carolina, and installed pastor over Winnsboro and the Brick Church in Fairfield County, South Carolina. Here he remained until November 1869, when he was sent to the mission at Nashville, Tennessee, by the Synod. In December 1870,

he accepted a call from the united charge of Union and Chester Counties, South Carolina and Neely's Creek, York County, South Carolina. In 1889, he gave up the Neely's Creek charge and remained pastor of Union. He was twice married, first to Miss Amaranth Sharpe, the second marriage was to Miss Flora M. Burns of Chester County, South Carolina. During the war between the States, Mr. Betts was chaplain of the 6th Regiment S.C.V. and afterwards, chaplain of the 12th S.C.V. and went with them to Virginia. He has been elected Moderator of the Synod and president over its Centennial Celebration at Winnsboro, South Carolina in November 1903. He died December 1903.

SERMON

Rev. C.B. Betts

June 1891

Revelation 21:5

"Behold, I make all things new."

John, the beloved disciple was favored above all men, both during the life of the Saviour, and also after the resurrection. During the life he enjoyed the closest intimacy and seemed to share the greatest confidence with the Master. But, perhaps no period of his life was more favored than that which included his sojourn upon the isle of Patmos. The loneliness was relieved by the presence of the Alpha and Omega; while the time was passed amid the most enrapturing visions. In a glance he saw the progeny of centuries, for these visions embrace the sweep of ages. In visions he saw what has been, what is now, and what in the future shall employ the historian. Yes, beyond the period of mortal history sweeps the range of his horizons, and the vision became more enrapturing, lighted up by the greater glories of Heaven as the end approaches; while the capital in which the text occurs, it seems to have reached its culmination.

Time has reached the boundary line, centuries and cycles of ages are numbered no more. Earthly scenes, feelings, passions are at an end, former things have passed away. All things have become new. Here we are favored with a glimpse behind the curtain of eternity, and what a change! No patch work, no half way measures, everything new.

A new home, ever the new Jerusalem, and all the conditions of that

home are new: tears, sighs and groans and pain and death have all passed away. The inhabitants of this new home are also new for:

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."

New home, new conditions of things and new inhabitants-this is the line of thoughts to which we direct your attention.

Our thoughts are directed to the future state of the Saints in which every vestige of the old has been removed, everything is new.

The home is new. There is a charm about the word home, we associate it with mother and these together make up the sum of ones happiest dreams. Then, these send us hallowed associations that cluster around that place and center in those scenes with which ones infant eyes and early thoughts were familiar. There is always more or less pain in giving up these homes, yet often it becomes necessary. To give up the old for the new may pain the heart, but the mind is satisfied when the change is an improvement: From the cabin to the mountains, from the home of poverty to that of affluence is a change readily made.

Now all this is true of the new home, for the earthly home will not compare with the future home of the Saints. The splendor of new home is described: streets paved with gold, her walls of all manner of precious stone and gates of pearl. No more pain. The sorrows incident to this life clouds the happiest homes on earth. In that new home sorrow never comes "No Tears" for God has wiped them away. Tears belong to earth and are the prints of sin. But sin is gone, and the unholy thing finds no place in the new home.

All who enter there have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness, the linen clean and white, which is the badge of the saints. "No night there"- "No, the glory of God and of the Lamb are the light thereof." - "No death." This is the crowning glory of the heavenly home. Earth is a network of graves but earth is no more, the last vestige of death has been removed.

No sorrow, no night, no death, no graves! Certainly this is a new home. Then, why should we be loath to leave the old home?

To be new creatures in the inner man- "Create in me a new heart, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin." Once God was presented to his mind as an avenging Deity. but now he is reconciled to the Father, and His voice is sweet and beautiful as the music of the spheres. Now he views the Christ "altogether lovely, the chief among ten thousand." The despised Nazarene, the mere man, has given place to

God- Man," the only name under Heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved."

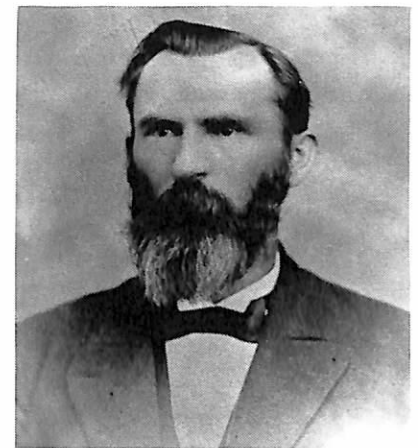
Yes, regeneration is a new creation, recreated, reborn, and this is as truly the work of God as the first creation. This change is indispensable in the case of all who shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven. "Ye must be born again." Nothing short of this will do. Every faculty, affection and power must be renewed, and none can transform us but God.

Now, dear hearer, the one and all important question for every one of us is: Have we experienced this change? Have we been created anew in Christ Jesus? Have we put on the new man? Do we walk in newness of life? Have we been renewed by the Holy Ghost?

Remember, there must be no doubt about the matter. The issues at stake are too vast to allow for doubt. The matter of our Salvation is brought down to this simple yet all comprehending condition: "Created anew in Christ Jesus."

Unless we become new creatures, we will have no place in the new home, the Heavenly Jerusalem.

YOU MUST HAVE NO FEARS, A GLORIOUS FUTURE IS
BEFORE YOU, AND A HAPPY ETERNITY AWAITS YOU.



Reverend Dallas Grier Caldwell
Pastor Neely's Creek 1892 - 1894

Dallas Grier Caldwell, son of Charles and Louise Cochrane Caldwell, was born in Cabarras County, North Carolina, February 19, 1856. Having access to good schools he had a sound and thorough primary education. At an early age he entered college at Erskine and graduated at the age of seventeen. While a student he united with the church at Due West. In the fall of 1873, he became a student of Theology in Erskine Seminary.

He graduated in the spring of 1875. He was licensed to preach by First Presbytery and ordained at Sterling, North Carolina, in 1876. He assisted Reverend W. B. Pressley in Statesville for several months. During the next two years he supplied Sterling and Amity, North Carolina, Hopewell, South Carolina, Huntersville, Gilead, and Prosperity, North Carolina. In 1879, he accepted a call to Gilead, and Prosperity, North Carolina, and was installed in the spring of that year. After six years there he became pastor of Statesville where he served six years. In 1891, he accepted a call to Neely's Creek, where he served three years. In 1893, he accepted the chair of Latin and French in Erskine College and spent his remaining years until God called him home October 10, 1909. He died in Due West and was buried there.

Professor Caldwell was a man of brilliant mind. He was a strong theologian, an able preacher, one of the best in his church. He was loved as a pastor, he loved little children and they loved him. He loved to preach, was sound in his convictions and had a remarkably clear insight into the Work of God.

At Due West, South Carolina, July 13, 1875, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Barksdale Sitton of Due West. To them were born eight children. At his death, many tributes were paid him by his associates in the College, and by his fellow Presbyters.



Rev. Oliver Johnson DD
Pastor Neely's Creek 1894-1908

Oliver Johnson was born in Abbeville County, South Carolina, June 30, 1866. After graduation from Erskine College, he taught in Richburg for three years, entered Princeton Seminary to graduate in 1894. He was licensed by the Second Presbytery at Due West, supplied the Atlanta Church and the First A.R.P. Church of Charlotte for the summer of 1894.

On October 18, 1894, he was installed pastor of Neely's Creek Church,

where he was the faithful minister for fourteen years; and he led in the erection of the Handsome building 1906.

He married Miss Tirzah Christine Elliott of Winnsboro, and four daughters and four sons were born to this happy couple.

Dr. Johnson loved people, and was at home with all classes of people. He had a broad culture, and took interest in affairs of state and international affairs.

His ability as a preacher was recognized by all, for he knew the Bible, was good at exposition, and the phraseology of the Holy Scriptures wound itself into his prayers. He was an orator, and was eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures. His great sermon was on "The Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ."

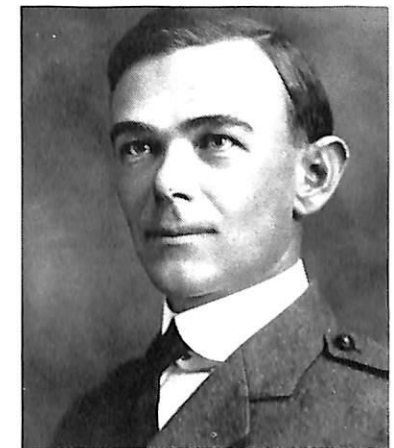
Other churches called him but he rejected their offers. The April 26, 1903- Minutes of Session record: "The congregation met after morning service, with D.T. Leslie as chairman. Rev. Oliver Johnson asked them to consider his resignation as pastor.

The congregation unanimously declined to accept the resignation and voted to increase the pastor's salary to the amount of \$100. (per year)."

He was loved and respected by the people of Neely's Creek and the community as a preacher, a counselor to the needy, and a peace maker uniting the people of this church into a spirit of harmony and service. (Session minutes: "His resignation was accepted with great reluctance in 1908").

He served on the Home Mission Board, Erskine College Board. He also carried the title Doctor of Divinity, bestowed by his Alma Mater.

His last pastorate was in Winnsboro where he served for 37 years and where he died April 26, 1948. He is buried in the cemetery at Winnsboro.



William Hartin Stevenson
Pastor of Neely's Creek 1908-1916

William Hartin Stevenson, son of Dr. R.M. and Emma Christian Stevenson, was born in Virginia, and spent his boyhood years in Clover where his father was pastor of the Clover A.R.P. Church.

After graduation from Erskine College in 1904, he taught in the Public Schools of York County for two years. He graduated from Erskine Seminary in 1908 and was then ordained and installed as the pastor of Neely's Creek Church. His aunt, Miss Macie Stevenson, lived with him in the manse at Lesslie while she was on furlough. He did post graduate work at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1912 - 1913

During World War I, he served in the Y.M.C.A. as officer in the U. S. Army. He served the Presbyterian Church in Sumter for fifteen years.

Wherever he preached he was greatly loved and honored by the people he served. He was a strong and eloquent speaker with a remarkable memory and ability to quote from the Holy Scriptures.

He died in 1944, and is buried in the family plot in Due West, South Carolina.



Reverend O. W. Carmichael, D. D.
Pastor Neely's Creek Church
1918 - 1939

Dr. Oliver Walthall Carmichael was born in Harolson, Georgia, October 27, 1883. He was the son of Thomas H. and Susie Elizabeth Walthall Carmichael. He was baptized and received into the Church at White Oak, Georgia, at the age of twelve years old.

His pre-college education was received at Holly Springs and Luther-ville, Georgia. In 1901 he entered Erskine College in the Sophomore Class, graduating with the degree of A. B. in 1904. The year of 1904 - 1905, he taught school in Doraville, Georgia. He then entered Erskine Theological Seminary, finishing the course in 1907, receiving his license by the Second Presbytery at Louisville, Georgia. He received a call from Lancaster and

Shiloh churches of South Carolina and was ordained by the First Presbytery in August of 1907. In the fall of 1908, he resigned this pastorate and spent a year in Princeton Seminary. Resuming Ministerial work, he served at Mt. Sion, Missouri and Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Carmichael was called to Neely's Church on December 2, 1917 and was Pastor until March 4, 1939. He is buried in the Neely's Creek Church cemetery.

During his Pastorate a Homecoming was held on October 12, 1930. The first educational building was built in 1933 under his leadership. A memorable occasion during Dr. Carmichael's Pastorate was the meeting of Synod in 1937 at Neely's Creek Church. He served many years of loyal service on the boards and committees of Synod and on the Board of Erskine College. In 1938, Erskine College conferred the Degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In early years he lost his right arm in a cotton gin accident. His left arm soon served the purpose of both. With it he learned to write, play baseball, shoot a gun and to drive a car.

On June 27, 1918, he married Miss Mary Delle McGill. She was a graduate of Due West Woman's College of Due West, South Carolina.

Dr. and Mrs. Carmichael were parents of five children.

The following tribute to Dr. Carmichael was prepared by his lifelong friend, Dr. E. B. Hunter, pastor of the A. R. P. church at Sharon:

Rev. Oliver Walthall Carmichael, D. D., graduated from Erskine College in 1904 in a class of ten, five of whom entered the Ministry. He graduated from Erskine Seminary in 1907, and a few years later studied a year at Princeton Seminary. He spent about 8 years in Home Mission fields in Missouri and Florida, and was pastor at Lancaster two years. The rest of his labor was spent as pastor of Neely's Creek until he was called higher in March, 1939. Thus, there stands to his credit thirty-two years of loyal, faithful service to his Master. In addition to his work as a minister and pastor, he served on several Boards and Standing Committees of Synod, Board of Home Missions, Board of Erskine College, and Standing Committee on Finance. He was Vice-Moderator of Synod in April, 1935, at Due West.

His best work was his preaching. He preached the Word. He took his sermonizing seriously, spending much time in the preparation of every sermon. The first half of his ministry he wrote them in full, and followed his manuscript closely, but without using it in the pulpit. The last half of his ministry he did not write his sermons, but occasionally used brief

notes. This method he thought more effective.

Besides being a great, energetic, forceful preacher, he was a friend to every one who knew him. This entrenched him in the hearts of the people he served, and gave him their unbounded love. This friendliness gave him easy approach to many unsaved men and women whom he brought into friendship with his Master.

And with all this, he was human. He liked clean jokes, of which he had a ready stock for any occasion. He was a sure shot in the fields, could drop a dove or quail as quickly as anyone, and squirrels never got too high. Every classmate held him in highest esteem. He walked with man, yet truly walked with God.



Reverend William Roger Echols, D. D.
Pastor Neely's Creek Church 1939 - 1970

Dr. William Roger Echols was born September 1, 1900, in Paint Lick, Kentucky. He was the son of Rev. L.I. and Margaret Todd Echols. He grew up in the ministry of his father and joined the church at the age of nine. His education was obtained in the Grammar School of Spottswood, Virginia and the High School of Raphine, Virginia. He entered Erskine College in September 1917 and graduated in 1923. For his Theological training, he attended Erskine Seminary and graduated in 1928. His ordination was on July 1, 1928 by the First Presbytery.

After serving as Pastor of Ebenezer Church at Charlotte, North Carolina for eleven years, he was called to Neely's Creek Church and preached his first sermon on September 17, 1939. Installation services were held on October 15, 1939. For more than thirty years, Dr. Echols was Pastor of Neely's Creek Church and served as Pastor Emeritus until his death on April 25, 1971. He is buried in Neely's Creek Church cemetery.

Dr. Echols was known as a builder and it was under his guidance

that many of the building programs were developed. The second Educational building was finished in 1953. A Boy Scout Hut was built in 1955. Also a new Manse was built in 1958. It was under his leadership that plans for the new church were completed. Also, he assisted in the establishment of a number of new churches.

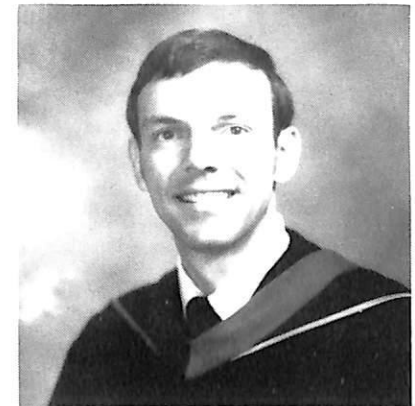
During his Pastorate, the church celebrated the 150th anniversary in 1940 and the 175th anniversary in 1965.

Dr Echols served on various boards and committees of the General Synod. Also he was on the Home Mission Board and was a member of the Board of Erskine College. In 1951, Erskine College conferred on him the Degree of Doctor of Divinity.

On April 12, 1933, William Roger Echols and Miss Emma McDill Reid were united in marriage at Sardis A.R.P. Church on Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Mrs. Echols was a graduate of Erskine College and through Dr. Echols' pastorate was a constant source of encouragement, inspiration and strength to him. Today, she is still working in the promotion of God's Kingdom.

Dr. and Mrs. Echols spent the years of 1953-1954 in Edinburg, Scotland where he studied at New College, University of Edinburgh. His brother, Rev. J. T. Echols was interim pastor while he was absent.

Dr. Echols was an effective minister, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and was recognized as a teacher, leader, organizer, counselor, and administrator.



Rev. Lawrence C. Young
1970-1976

Rev. Young was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, the son of a Baptist minister. He attended public schools in Rhode Island and Connecticut. He received a B.A. degree from Columbia Bible College in 1964. He spent the summer of 1964 as Assistant Pastor of First A.R.P. Church, Rock Hill, where he taught the College Sunday School class, directed the choir and

worked with youth groups.

Rev. Young married Suzanne Mary Hutson of Charleston, S.C., a graduate nurse. They have four children: Robin Suzanne, Amy Elizabeth, Lawrence C. Jr. and Heidi Rebekah.

After graduation from Erskine Seminary, Rev. and Mrs. Young spent over a year as missionaries to Mexico, before returning to the states.

Rev. Young accepted a call to Neely's Creek Church and was installed as pastor on February 22, 1970.

Plans had been underway for several years to construct a new and larger sanctuary. During his pastorate, construction was begun for the new sanctuary in the fall of 1971. The cornerstone was laid in a special ceremony in October, 1972, and the building was completed in 1973. Rev. Young preached the first service in the new sanctuary on March 11, 1973, after beginning the service in the old sanctuary. It was an impressive sight when the minister left the old sanctuary, unlocked the door of the new sanctuary and the congregation followed the minister into the new sanctuary for the sermon. The sanctuary was dedicated on October, 1973.

During his pastorate at Neely's Creek a youth retreat was held at the church for the first time.

A rotation system for elders was begun. He also developed a leadership course of training for church officers. Visitation teams were also trained and a system of visitation was initiated.

He resigned in June, 1976, to return to Mexico as a missionary.

Rev. Young was an energetic preacher, and a leader of young people. His zeal for the Gospel made many people feel the need of accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and witnessing to others the plan of salvation. He brought in new members through evangelistic teams.

Today he is a Presbyterian minister in Panama City, Florida.



Dr. Grant Fritjof Johnson
1977 - 1981

Dr. Johnson was born on January 18, 1917, at Spencer Brook, Minnesota, the son of a Swedish Congregational minister. His boyhood was spent in Stanford, Connecticut, and he graduated from Stony Brook Christian Academy. He received an A. B. Degree from Davidson College and an M. A. Degree from the University of North Carolina.

While teaching physical education and coaching football and basketball in Charlotte, N. C. he met and married Bertha McLaughlin. The Johnsons are the parents of six sons: Grant, Robert, George, Mark, Paul, and David.

Dr. Johnson served his country as Physical Training Director in the Army Air Forces Training Command during World War II. Thereafter, he became the Athletic Director, coach of basketball and baseball and professor of physical education at King College in Bristol, Tennessee. He served as Youth Director at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Fort, Lauderdale, Florida. During these years, he did lay preaching in many churches and was assistant pastor in a church in Bristol for two years and supply pastor in Johnson City, Tennessee.

In 1958, Dr. Johnson felt the call to full-time ministry, and moved his family of eight to Due West to attend Erskine Theological Seminary. During these three years he was a professor of physical education and tennis coach for Erskine College and was student supply at Cedar Springs Church.

Dr. Johnson served churches in Gastonia, Burlington and Lancaster before being called to Neely's Creek January 1, 1977.

During his pastorate at Neely's Creek, the indebtedness on the sanctuary, completed in 1973 – was paid in full and the mortgage was burned at homecoming in August, 1980.

Individual family communion services were held on Christmas day. The first pictorial directory of Neely's Creek members was printed during his ministry. A Mission Committee for the congregation was appointed for home and foreign missions.

Erskine College conferred a Doctor of Divinity Degree upon Dr. Johnson on May 14, 1978.

Dr. Johnson retired from Neely's Creek on June 1, 1981, to move to their home at Bonclarken. He is supplying churches and is still answering God's call to preach His word.

Dr. Johnson delivered strong, inspirational Bible-based sermons. He was a teacher and led many young people into the fellowship of the church through his personal interest in them through athletic programs.



Reverend Jan Senneker

Reverend Senneker was born on February 15, 1937 in the Netherlands, where he received his primary education. In 1950 his family moved to Canada and he is still a citizen of that country. He received a diploma from Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan in Evangelism and Missions in 1960, a B. A. Degree in History from Covenant College in 1968 and Master of Divinity from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 1972.

He is married to the former Ruth Baas, who is also a graduate of Reformed Bible College, and is a wonderful help-mate to him. They have two daughters, Linda Marie and Valerie Joy. They also had two other children, Daniel and Judith, who were killed instantly at the ages of 15 and 14 when struck by an automobile on their way home from a Young Peoples gathering at church. Both Reverend Senneker and his wife, Ruth, show a tremendous testimony of God's grace in the homegoing of these two young people.

Reverend Senneker served as a missionary in Australia under the Christian Reformed Board of Foreign Missions from 1960-1965. While attending Covenant College he served as Lay Pastor of West Brow Chapel of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. He also served as studentsupply of the Elsberry A. R. P. Church, while attending Covenant Seminary.

After ordination into the ministry he served as pastor of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland. He was serving as pastor of

Community Chapel by the Sea in Melbourne, Florida when he received the call to Neely's Creek. On November 15, 1981 he preached his first sermon at Neely's Creek.

Reverend Senneker has served as Vice-Moderator of Synod, Chairman of the Foreign Mission Board and was a member of this board from 1978 to 1985. He has visited the A. R. P. Mission Fields both in Mexico and Pakistan and has also had a preaching mission in Korea.

The church has experienced tremendous growth in membership during his pastorate. He was instrumental in making the plans for the Family Life Center Project a reality and it was completed in 1983. Under his direction the congregation realized the need for a full-time Director of Christian Education and Miss Judi Hodges was hired to serve in this capacity. The children at Neely's Creek look forward to Pastor Senneker's children's sermons which he presents each Sunday. He also started a tape ministry for the sick and shut-ins.

Since coming to Neely's Creek, Pastor Senneker has been burdened about a retirement home for the elderly members of the church and it was through his efforts that plans are now underway for such a home.

The Sennekers have established a tradition at Neely's Creek of an annual church-wide family Christmas banquet. Pastor Senneker also began monthly "family night suppers" and family breakfasts. His emphasis on the family and weekly prayer meetings have strengthened the fellowship and unity of the congregation.

The people of Neely's Creek feel the Lord's richest blessings since the Sennekers came, and look forward to many more years of spirit filled leadership directed by Pastor Senneker.