

## HISTORY OF BRYSON CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Lucy Ann Cline



Alfred Cline

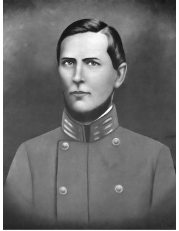
June 1871-Lucy Ann Cline (widow of Alfred Cline) offered 25-acres of land to Swain County for the sum of \$100 for the purpose of locating the new county seat in the town of Charleston (name of the city before Bryson City). The Cline family today still attends the Bryson City Presbyterian Church.



Dr. AW Miller

August 1880

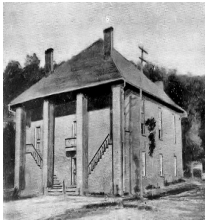
A W Miller who was a traveling pastor from the Charlotte presbytery and an evangelist preached in the mountains in the summer time. Dr. Miller at the Franklin Presbyterian church baptized Cornel Thaddeus Bryson. At one of his worship services he received Cornel Bryson into membership of the Charleston Presbyterian church.



Col. Thaddeus Bryson

1881 - 1885

Reverend M. R. Kirkpatrick organized the Charleston Presbyterian Church. Charter members were Col. Bryson, Dr. E. M. Scruggs (First Elders) Jonathan Hill, Lansing Potts (First Deacons), Letitia Hill, Lena Hill, Claudell Hill, Mrs. M C Bryson and her four baptized children, and Jane Levin. At this time no church was built so services were held at the old courthouse and session meetings were held at Col. Bryson's home. The first Lords Supper was held in 1885 at the courthouse.



In the 1800's church services were at the courthouse

April 1887

M H Mendenhall and A M Frye were sworn in as elders and instructed to sell a lot given to the church by Col. Bryson and erect a church. First Pastor on record was the Reverend R E Henderlite. The services and session meetings were moved to the Methodist church until a church could be built.

1889

Because of mail delivery problems between Charleston, NC and Charleston, SC the town was renamed Bryson City to honor Colonel Thaddeus Dillard Bryson.

1890

Reverend R S Brown takes charge of the Charleston Presbyterian Church as an evangelist.

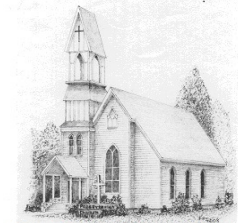


April 1891

The Lady Missionary society was formed and later renamed The Presbyterian Women

June 1891

The Church was built and dedicated and renamed to the Bryson City Presbyterian church at this time.



Bryson City Presbyterian Church

1895 - 1898

The first Sunday School was organized and in 1898 the debt of the church was retired a total of \$ 1317.13

Early 1900's

The Pastor J Q Wallace and elders A M Bennett and S W Black took over leadership of the church with a membership of 20 to 30 with the same number in Sunday School. Services were held the first and third Sunday.

1908 - 1917

T J Allison, the supply pastor, was the first pastor to live in the Manse, which was built for \$1,000 along with donated supplies, and volunteer labor. In 1917 the total membership of the church was up to 47 with 78 - 90 coming to Sunday School.



1938 Bible School



1921- 1926

Rev. J. T. Gillespie was pastor and under his leadership the Hut was built. It contained a large assembly room, a kitchen and Sunday School rooms. In 1926 there were 74 members and 75 in Sunday school.

1930 - 1953

Rev. Paul Thrower was pastor from 1934 to 1941 during this time 30 new members were taken into the church. The Men of the Church were organized in 1950. The Rev. Everette K. Brown served as pastor from 1949 to 1953 during this time the church grew to 100 members

1954 - 1956

A modern manse was erected at the cost of \$7,500. James B. Sherwood was pastor from 1954 to 1956 at this time the membership rose to 149 with 90 in Sunday School.



Rev. Renegar & Wife

1958-1969

Several growth projects took place during this time period the largest was the building of the Educational building including the fellowship hall which was dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Black. The church was renovated in 1966.

1970 - 1980

Reverend Ed Renegar was a strong leader of the church for seven years in the 1970's. In 1979 the library was founded.

1980 - 1986

Pastor Ken Hicks lead the church, Pastor Hicks along with his family, wife Tina and sons Josh and Jacob drew in many new members and young families. An active youth program was started and the halls were filled with children's voices.



Pastor Ken Hicks

1986 - 1994

The Reverend Lewis Brown JR. took charge of the church with his wife Peggy. Rev. Brown provided a great deal of stability during his term. During Rev Brown's tenure the Hut was remodeled to hold the community food bank. The 2-cent offering was started to help stock the food bank. The Kids 4 Kamp was started in 1991 in order to give scholarships to our youth to attend camp Grier. Articles of corporation were filed. In 1993 a child-care center was opened.



Rev. Brown & Peggy

1994-2001

Reverend Bob Frost came to the church in 1994 and served the church for seven years, but because of cancer he moved to Florida where he died from his illness. The members sent a delegation to FL. To help his wife Dee care for her husband.



Rev. Bob Frost

2001 - 2003

Pastor Judy Stanley was the first woman pastor at Bryson City Presbyterian church. Pastor Stanley is currently serving as an Interim Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro NC.



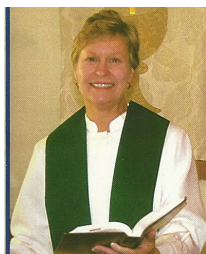
Rev. Judy Stanley

2003- 2005

Rev. Dick Lonnee served as a part time interim pastor for Twenty Months.

2005 - Present

Reverend Terry Hanna became the second woman pastor of Bryson City Presbyterian Church. Pastor Terry and her husband, Mark, moved to Bryson City in January 2005. Pastor Terry is also very involved in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as the Chair of the Small Church Committee. She hopes to convey the message that small churches are able, *to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine*, through Him who gives us the power.



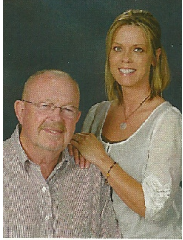


2011

Dr. Walt Larimore the author of “Bryson City Tales” said about BCPC “ There was an air of dignity and stability to the small building that most church’s in the area seemed to lack”.

The Bryson City Presbyterian Church has had several families who have helped build our church and our community; several have ties to the forming and building of this church.

**Below is just a few of them.**



Phil and Anita Brintall

The Brintnall family goes back many generations in this church. It was Phil senior who made the building of the parlor possible. Phil JR still worships at our church.



Bill & Gay Mitchell  
Bill Grimesly

Dr. Mitchell was a well-known Doctor in Bryson City and a leader in the community and the Bryson City Presbyterian church. Dr Mitchell was featured in the book Bryson City Tales and Bryson City Seasons. After his death his wife Gay moved to Asheville but still supported BCPC.

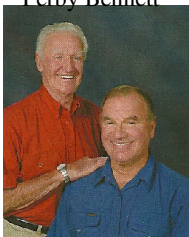


The Black’s Stanley and Marianna. The fellowship hall, which is used today for dinners and many other church and community events was dedicated to them. In 1929 Marianna began circulating books to townspeople out of two old suitcases. By asking friends and well-wishers for monetary donations, Mrs. Back was able to increase the size of the collection to 2,000 volumes. The county library was named in her honor. Stanley was the older brother of Amy Black who married Thad Bryson, Col. Bryson’s older son. Mr. Black was installed as an elder of the church in the early 1900’s. Mr. Black served as Sunday School superintendent, clerk of the session, and member of the session for fifty-one years.



Perby Bennett

Perby Bennett’s family’s history goes back to the late 1800’s with the church. Perby opened the church on Sundays, mowed the lawn, lit the candles and lead the pray of dedication before church service. His lineage goes back to A M Bennett who was one of the early Elders of the church.



Bob & Steve Claxton

Phyllis and Bob Claxton use to put on a flower show every Spring to raise money for the Children's Camp Fund. Her family is still active in the church today. The Claxton’s were mentioned in the book Bryson City Tales.



Frela Beck

Frela Beck is an elder of the church and was a member of the nominating committee who hired our current pastor. Her father Frell Owl is a born Cherokee who was an elder Emeritus and her mother was a circle leader and Sunday school teacher.



Commodore Casada

Commodore Casada, who passed away in 2011 at the age of 101, was for more than a half-century a devoted and highly supportive member of Bryson City Presbyterian Church. Over the years as a church member he served multiple terms as an elder; on the pulpit, finance, and other committees; and indeed in any way he could help. For a number of years he maintained the church grounds on his own.



Dr. Mary Alice Greyer

Martha Katherine Brown and Dr. Mary Alice Greyer were among our first women elders. Dr. Mary Alice Greyer was a pharmacist at Bennett's Drug Store which was founded in 1905 by Greyer's father, Kelly Bennett (1890-1974), whose father, **Dr. A.M. Bennett**, was one of the first elders of our church.



WATERS, Everette & Iris

Everett "Speck" Waters, before his death in 2010 made a beautiful Presbyterian cross for each new family that joined the church to place in their homes.