



PASTORS OF HYATTSTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Robert Ferguson, 1840

Robert is said to have been the first pastor of Hyattstown Christian Church. The parish was just starting up so the First Christian Church of Baltimore sent support. Robert H. Ferguson served churches in Baltimore, Gunpowder, and Rockville as well. Back in the early days of the church, pastors served multiple congregations.

Neal McCollum

Neal is listed in historical documents but it is unclear when Neal served at the church. He may have been born about 1831 in Maryland but no other information can be found.

John P. Mitchell

John is listed in historical documents as serving in Hyattstown but no other information can be found.

William Harrison Schell

William was born in Pennsylvania in December 1840. After serving 3 years in the Civil War he entered Bethany College, where he graduated 4 years later. Following his graduation he held a ministry in New York State and another in Pennsylvania. For the next 30 years his home was in Washington, D. C. During this time he did good work with a Maryland mission, making of it a self-supporting church, including time at Hyattstown but it is unclear when. He moved to Gilroy, CA and served a church there. He died May 20, 1915.

D. Sommers

A publication for Bethany College lists D. Sommers as a regular member of the A. L. Institute. His residence was Forest Hill, MD. He is listed as entering the school year of 1869-1870. He is listed in historical documents as serving in Hyattstown but unclear when. Nothing else is know about him, including his first name.

John Kinter

John is listed in historical documents as serving in Hyattstown but no other information can be found.

H. O. Clark

H. O. Clark is listed in historical documents as serving in Hyattstown but no other information can be found.

Alfred N. Gilbert

Alfred was born in Philadelphia, PA on June 19, 1835. He married Miss Rosanna (Rose) Endress of Philadelphia in March 1857 and had 7 children. In 1871, he directed the building of the new two-story frame Hyattstown Christian church, at a cost of three thousand dollars. Alfred N. Gilbert was widely known as a preacher, a man of cultured mind, an untiring pastor, and a pulpit orator who had few superiors and fewer equals. The closing years of his life were largely devoted to the Sunday school, and especially to the analysis of the International Series of Sunday School Lessons. He was a delegate from the state of Maryland in 1873 to the international convention in Indianapolis which adopted this plan of Bible study. He was taken suddenly sick while conducting a protracted meeting in the state of Missouri, and died as he wished to die in the very midst of the blessings and victories of the Gospel of Christ. He died January 25, 1892 of pneumonia in Fayette, Mo.

Richard J. Bagby (Photo left)

Richard was born October 13, 1867 in Walkerton, VA. He was a graduate of Bethany College and served as pastor of multiple churches. On June 3, 1896, Richard married Daisy Price at the Hyattstown Christian Church. He was married by his brother, Rev. Edward Benjamin Bagby of Washington. During WWI, he served overseas with the YMCA. He was 81 when he died at his home in Ashland, VA on August 21, 1948. He was buried in the Smyrna Church Cemetery, King William County.



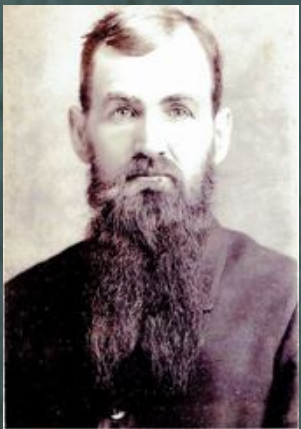
John Baxter Mayfield (Photo left)

John was born near Milton, KY on July 25, 1848. He attended church at old Mount Byrd, the country church famous for the number of ministers it has given to the cause. He entered the Bible College, Lexington, KY, from which he graduated in 1872. He served many churches. For 25 years he was an ardent prohibitionist; this harks back to the time when it took a courageous soul to espouse that cause. But first and foremost he was a preacher. He had the mind of Christ and loved to make it known; he was filled with the spirit of God and it showed in every word and deed. He died on October 1, 1909 at his home in Butler, Mo., age 61.



W. J. Cocke

Rev. Cocke is listed as one of the Pastors at First Christian Church in Boonsboro. He is also referenced in many early Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) chronicles as an active pastor in multiple Washington area churches.



J. W. Kimmel (Photo left)

The first full time pastor sent to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Nebraska was from Pennsylvania, the Reverend J.W. Kimmel.

James Alva Hopkins

James was born December 6, 1856 in Jefferson County, Ohio and graduated from Bethany College. He later went to Washington, D.C. and for many years was the industrious and effective secretary of the Maryland, Delaware, and District of Columbia Christian Missionary Society. The ministry of his latter years was spent in Virginia where he was much loved by everybody, and where he was called to lay down the cross and take up the crown. The last church he served was the Christian Church at Newcastle, VA. He died on July 13, 1928 from pneumonia. He was married to Mary (Owens) Hopkins, born 1878 and died in 1944. They are buried in Rockville Cemetery, Rockville, MD.

Oliver C. Barnes, 1912-1919, 1931-1940

Rev. Barnes was the first pastor with dates in the historical record. He also was one of the longest serving pastors in the church's history. In his first pastorate, he also served Rockville and Redland churches. In 1918, his congregation had 68 members. He retired from active ministry in October, 1940. In 1945, Rev. Barnes wife, Clara, was killed in a tragic accident when she crossed train tracks and was struck. She was 62 years old and was buried in Loudon Park cemetery, Baltimore, MD.

Ralph V. Funk, 1919-1922

Early in his pastorate, Rev. Funk performed the marriage ceremony of Mary Ethel Horman (daughter of George Horman) and Melvin S. Price. These families had been associated with the church since its inception. During his pastorate in 1922, Rev. Funk supported the building of the parsonage, which was built at a cost of \$6000. After his time at Hyattstown, he moved to the Gettysburg Pennsylvania area and served as the pastor at Fairfield Church of Christ. He was born in Mifflin, PA October 9, 1887. He died July 6, 1942 at his home in Towanda, PA after suffering a stroke. He had been working in the restaurant business but served churches at Hyattstown and Ringgold, MD and Fairfield and Alba, PA.

Robert Clifford Lutton, 1924-1931

Robert was born in Cincinnati, Ohio June 30, 1866. On August 21, 1889, he married Mary Collins Davis near Hyattstown, MD. Their first child, Wallace Clifford, was born July 25, 1891. Mr. Lutton graduated from Bethany College in 1896. During his college years, two additional children, Raymond Carlton and Beatrice Pauline, were born. In order to meet expenses he worked during vacation time in shops and did pulpit supply. After graduation, his first charge in the ministry was at Plaea, Erie County, PA. He had later charges in North Lancaster, NY and North Baltimore. About 1900 he moved his family to east Pittsburgh, PA and due to financial circumstances worked for several years at his trade (a brass finisher). Later he became a teacher. During most of this time he also did pulpit supply work for nearby churches. In 1924, he became pastor at Hyattstown, MD where in 1927 the first Mrs. Lutton died. On Sept. 4, 1928, he married Rachel Anne "Annie" Davis. Retiring from the ministry in 1931, he moved to Ijamsville, MD where he lived until his death on April 20, 1937.



Leslie L. Bowers Jr., 1940-1942 (Photo left)

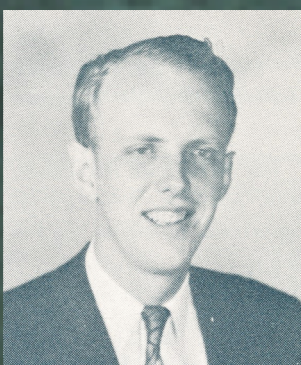
On October 20, 1940, Leslie L. Bowers, Jr., was installed as minister of the Hyattstown Christian Church. He did not live in the parsonage. He had just graduated from the University of Maryland. The Rev. Leslie L. Bowers Sr., minister of the Fifteenth Street Christian Church, Washington, D.C., and formerly of Frederick, was at the installation to support his son.

G. Dewey Lamb, 1942-1944

Rev. Lamb was born about 1898 and died December 4, 1958. Not much is known about his ministry except that he did not live in the parsonage and came to preach on Sundays. During his and Rev. Bowers pastorates, membership declined. The church was going through tough times but they didn't quit!

Ladue E. McGill, 1944-1952

Ladue was born May 18, 1887 in Washington DC and died June 13, 1956 in Rockville, MD. He was married to Mary Vivian McGill. A stroke in 1952 ended the ministry of Rev. McGill. The entire family moved to Rockville, all, except Rev. McGill, remained very active in the church. His daughter Marion started the first choir and his wife Mary played the organ. A handwritten resignation letter is among church records effective October 1, 1952. He felt the church needed an active pastor and he could not be that due to his health issues. He is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery, Rockville.



J. Arthur Mott, 1953-1955, 1957-1963 (Photo left)

J. Arthur Mott is the ONLY KNOWN STEPHEN OF HYATTSTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH! He helped Rev. McGill when he became ill, taking over as pastor in 1953. In 1954, the educational building was built including kitchen, hall, office, classrooms, and restrooms. He left in 1955 to continue his studies in Lynchburg and earn his degree. He was ordained at Park Street Christian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. He returned for his second pastorate in 1957. He was well loved, hard working, and got the church organized into various departments. He planned the 120th Anniversary celebrations, of which we still have bulletins! For financial reasons, he worked part time in addition to the church. He resigned in 1963 to teach full time.

Charles Hume Funk, 1956 (Interim)

Charles was born about 1883 in Kentucky and died 1956 in Rockville, MD. He served a short time as interim while the church awaited for the return of Rev. Mott. He served in the ministry for 50 years including churches in Beaver Creek, Snow Hill and Hyattstown. He was married to Corda Funk who served as president of the Capital Area Christian Women's Fellowship.



Maitland Watterworth, 1956-1957 (Interim, Photo left)

Rev. Watterworth came out of retirement to serve as interim pastor between Rev. Mott's two pastorates. He was born on May 27, 1878 in Middlesex, Canada and died on July 5, 1965 in Richland, Michigan. He was called by one source "a born evangelist." "For a period of time, he was the only 'acappella' church of Christ preacher between British Columbia and Ontario. Voice problems forced him to stop preaching between 1912 to 1918. In 1919 he resumed preaching and returned to Ontario. He preached until his death in 1965. His son, David, also became a pastor of Hyattstown in 1972.

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Winslow Gerald Flinn, 1963 (Interim)

Rev. Flinn was born on 28 December 1908 and died in May 1974, in Silver Spring, MD. He served as interim minister after Rev. Mott resigned after his second pastorate. Rev. Flinn is the pastor who started Heritage Christian Church in 1964.

Adelbert H. Tisdall, 1964-1968

Rev. Tisdall was born December 6, 1902 in New York to English parents and died July 2, 1990, in Rockville, Maryland. He served at Hyattstown from August 1, 1964 until June 30, 1968. He had served in the Washington area since 1954 when he began a ten-year ministry as pastor of the Suitland Christian Churches. He attended and earned his degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. While at Hyattstown, Rev. Tisdall was active in ecumenical and community affairs in the area. He served as chaplain of the Hyattstown Volunteer Fireman and the Montgomery County Volunteer Firemen which included about 1500 men - he continued to serve after retirement.



Theodore Keckler, 1968-1972 (Photo left)

Rev. Keckler was born around 1930 and served at Hyattstown for about 4 years. While at Hyattstown he lived in the parsonage but had a beautiful little cabin on the foot of Sugar Loaf Mountain with his back deck extending just to the edge of a little creek that ran behind the cabin. He lived there after leaving Hyattstown. He served as President of the Minister's Association at some time in his ministry and had a very active community involvement program while at Hyattstown. He was especially gifted in and committed to ministry to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Ted had many contacts outside of the church and was especially gifted at relating to people beyond the usual boundaries of 'church people'. He is a very mechanical person who loves Volkswagens and could and did fix any problem in any Volkswagens as a side interest. He is retired and now living in Florida loving golf!

David L. Watterworth, 1972-1976

David was born February 15, 1920 in Carmen, Manitoba, Canada and died November 11, 2010 in Saratoga Springs, NY. He became a naturalized US citizen in 1941 and married Pearl Mae Fitzsimmons in September of the same year. He was Pastor of the Aspen Hill Christian Church in Aspen Hill, Maryland and Interim Pastor of Mt. Storm Presbyterian Church in Mt. Storm, West Virginia. He also was a teacher in the public schools in both Maryland and West Virginia, retiring in 1985.



John S. Powell, 1976-1983 (Photo left)

"Hyattstown is a wonderful memory from our young lives. I was pastor from 7/76 through 5/83. Both our children were born and dedicated at Hyattstown. When we arrived the church was very small and nearly all the members were retired. We were blessed to have a couple dozen children born into the church during our time there. What really stands out to me was the connection we had to other friends in the region. Georgia Ave (now Aspen Hill) and University CCs both sent people our way after the people had moved up county. We had a bear in the backyard one summer during the time we were doing Vacation Bible School. We literally had a couple men with guns at the back of the church just in case. No problem in the end. Katie, my wife, was the organist and choir director in our early years. I always thought the church grew because people loved her and singing so much. We raised money to buy robes and the hand bells with a concert of show tunes. We did plays for Holy Week most years. What has been consistent about Hyattstown every time I've been close has been the love and warmth of the people."

Caren Culleen-Knapp, 1983-1984 (Interim)

Caren was born Feb 1, 1954 in Ohio. Served as interim minister for a short time. She currently lives in Cleveland, OH area and has been affiliated with Franklin Circle Christian Church.



W. F. Terry Reister 1984-2008 (Photo left)

W. F. Terry Reister became pastor of Hyattstown Christian Church July 1, 1984. He is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, born June 12, 1938. He is a graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Memphis Theological Seminary, and of Candler School of Theology at Emory University, where he earned his doctorate in 1980. Dr. Reister was very involved in the public schools and public service organizations. He was the chairman of the Montgomery County Public Schools SAFE and DRUG FREE SCHOOLS Advisory Council. In August of 1997, he became a Maryland certified prevention specialist for Drug Free Schools. He was appointed to serve on the Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Advisory Council. He was also a member of the Commission on Ministry for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Capital Area. He was Chaplain of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association. Dr. Reister has written numerous articles for the *DISCIPLE*, the journal of the Christian Church, and has been published in *Midstream*, a theological journal of the Disciples. As well as being very involved in the church and schools, Terry was also an accomplished magician and comedian (this helped his sermons!). In 1994 he won the award for the best comedy act at the Magicians Alliance of the Eastern States. Terry was committed to public service and helping those in need. In 2005, he founded Camp Starfish, a summer overnight camp for children of inmates. He loved helping at the Frederick Soup kitchen, serving lasagna. His favorite get away was to Bethany Beach. Terry retired July 31, 2008 and died in April 30, 2011. He is buried in the church cemetery.



Rev. Benchuck Manning, 2008-2009 (Interim, Photo left)

Rev. Manning joined the church as interim after Rev. Reister retired. He is presently Pastor of Winchester Avenue Christian Church. Rev. Manning was born in 1942 and moved many times during his childhood. Upon graduation from high school, he attended a nearby Christian College that shared a degree program with Kansas State University and was ordained in 1964. He served as a student minister and then full time in Palestine, IL. He soon was commissioned into the chaplaincy with the Illinois National Guard (1968) and called to active duty. He served as an Army Chaplain for 27 years, retiring from that position in 1995 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After providing pulpit supply and wanting a civilian church, he received a call to become Senior Minister at Heritage Christian Church in Silver Spring, MD. From Rev. Manning: "I had the privilege of being called to be the interim minister with your congregation soon after the retirement of Rev. Terry Reister and was present to rejoice with you upon the calling of your present minister, Rev. Lisa Kay Comingore Smith. Members of your wonderful and gifted congregation were always welcoming to the Mannings and we appreciated all of you for the way you use your gifts."



Lisa Kay Comingore Smith, 2009-2017 (Photo left)

"I came here after having been a Global Missionary serving in the former GDR (East Germany) from Jan. 1, 1993 - February 2009. This is my first solo pastorate, so I was graciously allowed to be very adventurous in what I offer. I have offered 4 German worship services over the years here; tried out a motorcyclist service; and provided a few blessing of the animals services (and will continue to do so). I also started an Interfaith (having participants from, as well as talking about, various world religions) being Compassionate (open and affirming to LGBT rights), sharing our spirituality through our *Music, Youth Group!* All together we call it *ICMYG* (which we affectionately call, "I see my G_d!"). Wednesday mornings, I offer an Interfaith spirituality Women's group officially called "Exploring Our Faith" but we affectionately call each other "Super Soul Sisters"! My focus on missionaries also has periodically brought missionaries to our church and we pray for our Missionary of the Week each Sunday. I have done my best to be supportive of the various Regional programs and am presently the Chairperson of the Congregational Life Commission for the Christian Church Capital Area Region. I have also been very involved in the Pro-Reconciliation/ Anti-Racism movement." Rev. Smith left Hyattstown on February 19, 2017 to pursue ministry in Kentucky.



Jeffrey Stinehelfer, 2017-2020 (Interim, Photo left)

Rev. Jeff Stinehelfer was called as the intentional interim pastor for Hyattstown Christian Church on July 30, 2017. Jeff received his Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in Philosophy and Religion, from Heidelberg University (Ohio), and his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School (Connecticut). Ministry in his home denomination, the United Church of Christ, has included service as pastor, associate pastor, Associate Conference Minister, and Conference Minister in the Midwest and East Coast. Ministry in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ for the past seven years has included service as Interim Pastor at Heritage DOC (Silver Spring) and the Palisades Community Church (Washington, DC). From 1997 to 2010, Jeff was a professional Development Director/Major Gifts Officer for various faith-based non-profits. He has five adult children and six grandchildren, and lives in Olney with his wife Chris. Their son Danny is a graduate of the University of Maryland. Jeff stayed with Hyattstown for 3 years, helping foster relationships, raising money for Puerto Rico Hurricane relief, and learning Zoom technology when the church could not meet in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After leaving Hyattstown, Jeff accepted the position as the part-time Regional Minister for the Capital Area.

Monica Banks, 2020-Present (2021) (Photo left)

Rev. Monica Banks was called as the full-time pastor for Hyattstown Christian Church on September 13, 2020. She was called during the global COVID-19 pandemic making worship and pastoral care a bit challenging but her experience and compassion enabled her to quickly establish strong relationships. In her short time with us, she has helped the church successfully register as Open & Affirming and held the first Blue Christmas service for the church. Rev. Banks was raised by Baptist grandparents from the age of ten. She was baptized at the age of 12 and grew up attending youth group at First Baptist Church in Fremont, Nebraska. Rev. Banks was also active in church camp and statewide youth events. Before pursuing ministry, she attended business school and pursued a B.S. in Business Leadership and Management. She graduated from College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska in 2002. Rev. Banks spent much of her early career in the hospitality industry, was a corporate trainer and general manager at chef-owned and farm to table restaurants. In 2012, Rev. Banks followed her calling to ministry and began the discernment process. She began her theological education at Wake Forest School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 2014. During her time at Wake Forest, she traveled on pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine, Tucson/Nogales, and the Patagonia Region of the Southwest working with migrant farmers. In 2017, Rev. Banks was nominated and received the Re:Generate fellowship for young ministers working in ecology and food insecurity. Rev. Banks continued to have a gospel centered focus of Table/Hospitality, Eucharistic praxis (practice), and focus toward ultimate kinship. Rev. Banks is the founding Co-Executive Director of New Communion (www.newcommunion.org), an interfaith nonprofit focused on Asset Based Community Development and food justice. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the North Carolina Commission on Ministry. Reverend Banks has completed a Chaplain Residency at Moses H. Cone Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. She has served as Second Year Chaplain Resident to Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric Intermediate Unit, and Pediatric Emergency Department. Before coming to Hyattstown, she was Senior Pastor at New Disciples of Cedar Rapids in Iowa.

