

# Architectural And Historic Survey



## Identification

<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b> 190 Rugby Road	<b>HISTORIC NAME:</b> Westminster Presbyterian Church
<b>MAP &amp; PARCEL:</b> 9-5	<b>DATE / PERIOD:</b> 1939
<b>CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK:</b>	<b>STYLE:</b> Colonial Revival
<b>PRESENT ZONING:</b> R-3	<b>HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES:</b> 1 storey
<b>ORIGINAL OWNER:</b> Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ch'ville	<b>DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:</b> 122.3' x 370' (one acre)
<b>ORIGINAL USE:</b> Church	<b>CONDITION:</b> Good
<b>PRESENT USE:</b> Church	<b>SURVEYOR:</b> Bibb
<b>PRESENT OWNER:</b> Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ch'ville	<b>DATE OF SURVEY:</b> Spring 1981
<b>ADDRESS:</b> 190 Rugby Road Charlottesville, Virginia 22902	<b>SOURCES:</b> City Records "A Brief History of Westminster Presbyterian Church" The Daily Progress, special edition 4/13/1962

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This small cruciform Georgian Revival church is a replica of the Abingdon Parish Church at Gloucester Point, Virginia built in 1755. Both foundation and wall construction are of brick laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers and a moulded brick water table. It has a steep gable roof covered with slate with four pedimented gables and a boxed cornice with modillions. The tall round-arched windows are double-sash, 16-over-16 light, with half-round transoms and fluted pilasters. Basement windows are 8-over-8 light. The frontispiece entrance is of rubbed brick. Brick pilasters support a segmental pediment of moulded brick above a round arch and double entrance doors, each with three raised panels. The interior has a simple entablature and a chair rail. Windows and doors have architrave trim. The ceiling is slightly arched. The original chancel was remodeled in 1967 to give it a more typically Presbyterian central pulpit. The addition of a small pipe organ in 1980 further altered the appearance of the chancel. A 3-flight open-well corner stair in the vestibule gives access to the balcony.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

The Presbyterian Church of Charlottesville purchased this lot in 1926 from Dr. John Staige Davis for the purpose of building a church at the University (City DB 55-95). The Depression, however, caused these plans to be postponed for over a decade. Westminster Presbyterian Church was finally organized in January 1939, the lot was deeded to the new congregation (DB 98-407), and ground was broken for the church building on March 13, 1939. Marshall Wells designed the building, and Mrs. William H. White, Jr., gave the sanctuary as a memorial to her father. The first service in the new building was held on September 17, 1939, and the building was dedicated on November 17, 1939. A balcony was added in 1948. Rather than build an addition to the church building, separate buildings have been constructed and connected to it by colonnades: a Sunday School building (now the administration building) designed by Wells in 1950-51, and a new Sunday School building in 1958 and a fellowship hall in 1966, both designed by Johnson Craven & Gibson. The chancel was remodeled in 1967, under the direction of Milton Grigg, and further altered in 1980 by the addition of a pipe organ.



# VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

## HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

Page 1 of 2 (see also attached City survey sheet)

File No. 104-130

Negative no(s). 7216; 7217

Street address 190 Rugby Rd.

Town/City Charlottesville

Historic name Westminster Presbyterian Church

Common name

- Material**
- wood frame (siding:  weatherboard,  shingle,  aluminum,  bricktex,  \_\_\_\_\_)
  - brick (bond:  Flemish,  stretcher,  \_\_\_\_\_-course American,  \_\_\_\_\_)
  - stone ( random rubble,  random ashlar,  coursed ashlar,  \_\_\_\_\_)
  - log (siding:  weatherboard,  shingle,  aluminum,  bricktex,  \_\_\_\_\_)
  - stucco
  - concrete block
  - enameled steel
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
- cast iron
  - terra cotta
  - glass and metal

Number of Stories	Roof Type	Roof Material
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 1/2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2      ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <i>classical</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> mansard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> gambrel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pediment <input type="checkbox"/> parapet <input type="checkbox"/> hipped <input type="checkbox"/> flat <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> slate <input type="checkbox"/> tile <input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle <input type="checkbox"/> pressed tin <input type="checkbox"/> composition <input type="checkbox"/> not visible <input type="checkbox"/> standing seam metal <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Dormers	Number of bays — Main facade
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> shed <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> gable <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> pedimented <input type="checkbox"/> hipped	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Porch	Stories	Bays	General description
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 (center) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (side) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	

**Building type**

<input type="checkbox"/> detached house	<input type="checkbox"/> garage	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> detached town house	<input type="checkbox"/> farmhouse	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (office)	<input type="checkbox"/> school
<input type="checkbox"/> row house	<input type="checkbox"/> apartment building	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial (store)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> church
<input type="checkbox"/> double house	<input type="checkbox"/> gas station	<input type="checkbox"/> railroad	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Style/period Neo Virginia Colonial      Date 1939      Architect/~~XXXX~~ Marshall Wells

Location and description of entrance



Miscellaneous descriptive information (plan, exterior and interior decoration, cornice/eave type, window type and trim, chimneys, additions, alterations)

This church is loosely modeled after Abingdon Anglican Church in Gloucester County, Va. (175). The building is distinguished by its handsome lines and excellent detailing. Offices and classrooms are connected to the sanctuary by a brick arcade to the rear.

Historical information

See attached City survey sheet.

Greetings:

In the pages to follow you will find the names and pictures of the people of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Here are people who come together for worship, for Christian learning, for fellowship--people who then go out to be responsible agents of God's love in the world. They are to be found outside Westminster, witnessing in their jobs, in their politics, in civic groups, in community causes, on the University grounds, in their homes. Let us use this Directory to know one another better, in the family of Westminster, that we may love one another more and encourage one another--making us more useful to the Lord we serve together.

*William S. Smith*

William S. Smith  
Minister



## PEOPLE IN OUR PAST

BRIEF HISTORY OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
(1939-1970)

### LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEARS

The history of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Charlottesville covers an actual period of thirty-one years - 1939-1970. However, in order to tell the full story of the beginnings of the church one must go back as far as 1922. Because these beginnings had such an important bearing on Westminster Church, the following material from an early history by Dr. Frederick L. Brown is summarized:

At "a session meeting of the Charlottesville (Presbyterian) Church, in May, 1922... two recently elected members of that body, Dr. C. G. Maphis and Mr. T. L. Rosser, were appointed to look after the Educational Institutions and the Men's Brotherhood....

"The first act of this group was to hold what I believe was the first Fall reception for Presbyterian students. It was held in the assembly room of the church, September 22, 1922, and thereby became the forerunner of our own fall banquets for new students.

"Shortly after this, Dr. George L. Petrie, who had been pastor of the church since 1878, was given two young assistants - Rev. Robert S. Woodson, who assisted with calls and with the direction of the young peoples' program, and Rev. William Kyle Smith who, in the fall of 1924, became the first Presbyterian Minister to Students. Just prior to this a committee consisting of Dr. C. G. Maphis, Mr. T. L. Rosser, and Mr. Paul Goodloe McIntire, Chairman, Dr. Wyndham Blanton of Richmond, and other persons who served for varying periods, took over the real direction of student work." It was this Committee which secured the services of the Rev. Kyle Smith. Very soon both Mr. Smith and the Committee concluded that, in order to do really effective work with students, it would be essential to have headquarters near the University. Consequently, in 1926, the lot on which the church now stands was purchased from Dr. and Mrs. John Staige Davis.

Efforts were made to secure funds to erect a building on the site, but before this was accomplished "the depression swept all such plans into the discard."

In 1928, Dr. Petrie retired after completing fifty years as pastor and the Rev. Dwight Chalmers was installed as pastor of the Charlottesville Church. In the meantime, Mr. Smith had resigned as Student Minister and accepted the position of Y. M. C. A. Secretary at Madison Hall. The student work was carried on by "student pastors and graduate students."

"It was not until Mr. and Mrs. William H. White, Jr. and their family moved to Charlottesville (when Mr. White joined the Law School faculty) that the matter of a Presbyterian church at the University was actively discussed once again. As a direct result of the enthusiasm and generosity of Mrs. White and with the effective and wholehearted encouragement of the Rev. Dwight Chalmers, a meeting was called in December, 1938, to consider the matter. It was decided to ask Presbytery to organize this congregation."

Thus on January 15, 1939, this group held an organizational meeting and elected the following elders and deacons:

Elders:	Frederick L. Brown	Norton G. Pritchett
	Frederick C. Disque	William B. Murphy
Deacons:	Thomas Gary Johnson	Joseph L. Vaughan
	J. Henry Rushton	Edwin M. Betts
	Percy Brown	

Further meetings followed at which the name "Westminster" was chosen and a committee was appointed to look for a minister. On March 13, 1939, excavation was begun for the foundation of the church building. The design of the church followed that of the Abingdon Church at Gloucester Point, Va. In July, the Rev. John H. Fischbach of Nashville, Tenn., was called as minister. He accepted and arrived on September 1. The first service took place in Westminster on September 17, 1939, followed by the installation of Mr. Fischbach on October 1. The first communion service was held November 5, and the dedication of the church building was November 19, 1939.

The Sunday School was opened on October 8, with enrollments from Cradle Roll through a Student Class.

From the earliest planning stages, provision was made for "Student Work" at Westminster Church. With the approval of the University Administration for the first time a specific date was to be set apart on which to hold church suppers for new students. October 9, 1939, was the date of the first gathering of Presbyterian Students at Westminster Church.

The women's organization, called the Woman's Guild, was begun in the spring of 1939. Mrs. Raymond Hunt was the first president. The program was a many-fold one, an ecumenical type program in many areas - as it has continued to be. Later the name of this group was changed to Women of the Church in accordance with the custom followed by most of the women's organizations in the church at large.

There were eighty-one (81) charter members of Westminster Church. Over forty members were added the first years and by 1944 (five years) the membership had reached a total of two hundred and fifty-two (252). Our church's mission in this community has been challenged by a rapid population turnover. This is evidenced by a constant and balanced increase in membership over the years with the 1969 figure showing seven hundred and forty-two (742) members.

1939-1953 -- John H. Fischbach, Minister

These were challenging and rewarding years and the growth of the church was manifest in many ways. Soon additional space was needed for expansion of facilities. A balcony was added in 1948. In 1950-51, the building presently used as an administration building was erected to provide for the ever growing Sunday School, for work with University students, for the various church organizations, and for the church staff. Land for this had been acquired in 1945; and in 1953, the land adjoining Westminster had been bought for protection and for future expansion.

Because of increasing student participation in the church and an increasing membership, a Minister to Students was called in 1947 - the Rev. John M. Hamm - to assist the minister in this very important phase of the Westminster program. Mr. Hamm was followed by the Rev. David H. Burr who, in 1951, became minister of the Charlottesville Presbyterian Church. Mr. William Knox served as Minister to Students from 1951 - 1953.

Mr. Fischbach, who had been minister of Westminster Church throughout its existence, resigned in 1953.

1953-1954 was a crucial one for Westminster as it was without a minister. This was a maturing year as well; church members assumed the responsibilities demanded of them. The Sunday School program was strengthened; in the absence also of a Student Minister, this program was carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nicholson, members of the church.

1954-1962 -- Jan W. Owen, Minister

Mr. Owen was installed as minister September 19, 1954. Continuing the strong ties with the mother church, the Rev. David Burr, minister of Charlottesville Presbyterian Church and former Minister to Students at Westminster, presided at the service.

The Newsletter was begun in 1955 and has been continued, with some interruptions, to date. It has proved to be an invaluable means of communication with the membership and of providing historical information.

Ministers to Students during this period were the Rev. Robert Keever (1954-1959), Mr. Ray Lord (1959-1960), and the Rev. Peter David Braun (1960-1963).

In 1956, the Virginia Presbyterian Foundation, which was charged with the responsibility for the ministry of Presbyterian students at the University of Virginia, bought the property on the corner of Rugby Road and Grady Avenue, adjacent to the church and it became known as Westminster House. This provided enlarged facilities for student work.

Isabel Ross came, in 1957, as Westminster's first Director of Christian Education. She was a dedicated and invaluable member of the church family. The Sunday School grew from three hundred and thirty-eight (338) and eighteen (18) staff members in 1957 to five hundred and forty-five (545) and a staff of eighty-nine (89) by 1962. (Isabel's death in 1968, following an extended illness, was a very real loss to Westminster Church.)

It was during this period (1958) that a well planned and well equipped new educational building was erected. Westminster Day School Kindergarten began January 30, 1959, with an enrollment of sixteen (16) children. Westminster adopted the unified budget in 1961.

In 1961-1962, with the encouragement, cooperation, and financial assistance of Westminster and First Presbyterian Churches, a third Presbyterian church was organized in Charlottesville - the Meadows Presbyterian Church. Both churches contributed strong members to the new church.

Mr. Owen resigned in May, 1962, to join the Peace Corps.

1962-1968 -- George Telford, Minister

Westminster was fortunate to find a new minister in so short a time. Mr. Telford came to Westminster in August and was installed on October 21, 1962.

Following the resignation of the Rev. Peter Braun, Minister to Students, in 1963, the Virginia Presbyterian Foundation and the Committee on Campus Christian Life of Westminster Church attempted to re-evaluate the Church's ministry to the University community. This resulted in a proposal to have Westminster Church and the Synod of Virginia assume a joint responsibility in this ministry to students. The Rev. Robert B. Albritton was called as an assistant minister with this specific assignment. In July, 1967, Synod provided further toward this ministry by allocating funds for the hiring of an additional minister. Accordingly the Rev. Howard Gordon, Jr., came to Westminster in August, 1967, as "Assistant Minister and Presbyterian Minister to Students."

An additional building - Westminster Hall - was constructed during this period. It was dedicated April 17, 1966. The building fulfilled many needs - a fellowship hall, a library-lounge, adequate kitchen, additional class rooms. In the summer of 1967, renovations were made to the sanctuary "to provide for a more effective ordering of our worship and for a choir rehearsal room."

The church continued to be a focal point in the community both as a meeting place and as a source of financial assistance. A second worship service was instituted in 1965.

Mr. Telford resigned on May 26, 1968. Mr. Albritton also resigned in the summer of 1968.

1968-1969 found Westminster once again in quest of a minister. On January 19, 1969, special recognition was made of the thirtieth anniversary of Westminster Church. During the year, open discussions were held on several occasions on the church's role in the world today.

1969- -- William Spence Smith, Minister

Mr. Smith came to Westminster on August 10, 1969, and was installed November 2. Mrs. Timothy M. Garner also joined the church family in September as Director of Christian Education.

No account of Westminster Church would be complete without a brief mention of the church music. Dr. Edwin Betts was organist in the early years along with Mr. Thomas Brierly, and in 1952, Mr. Ralph Stoughton became organist and choir director. All of these men have given unstintingly of their time and talent. Over the years the choirs have enriched our church with their music - especially at the Christmas season.

Our history continues to unfold as we look to another decade.

9-5 ✓

? 122,38370

R-3

### 190 Rugby (Westminster)

119-463	Westminster Pres Ch of Ch's	1945	plat 172-228
98-407	" " "	1939	
55-95	The " "	1926	" 55-97
ACDB 32-115	John Staige Davis	1912	" 172-228

1-story

brick found. & walls, slate gable & hys

good const. church office class. Fellowship  
additions 1939, —, 1957, 1965

Bicen Prog 4/13/62

lot bought '20's for Mrs Davis by M<sup>r</sup> Intire & others

"The sanctuary was a gift of Mrs M H White, Jr, in memory of  
her late fa Frank Shephard Royster of Norfolk";  
bought rest of Davis property

Westminster

Flemish bond, random glazed bricks  
water table moulded bricks  
foundation Flem, <sup>just</sup> ~~low~~ front; basement above ground <sup>on</sup> ~~on~~ <sup>2</sup> ~~side~~

cruciform

steep slate roof w/ pedimented gables  
boxed cornice w/ modillions; arch. but no frieze?

entrance; <sup>pinkish or lighter</sup> all of rubbed brick, <sup>no</sup>  
pilasters support seg <sup>segment</sup> arch <sup>of moulded brick</sup>  
~~are~~ double doors in round arch, 3 raised panels  
2 panels in ~~arch~~ <sup>of</sup> stationary "transom" above

~~circular~~ headed

round-arched windows, 16/16, wooden sills, flanked by  
fluted pilasters supporting round arch w/ keystone,  
semi-circular transom

basement windows 8/8 2

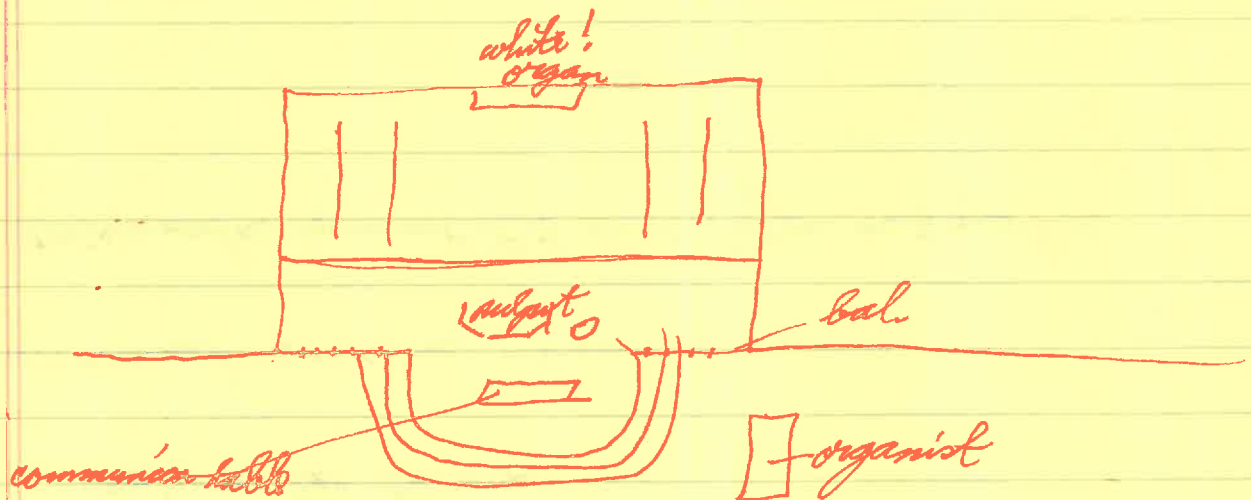
colonnades connect it to other bldgs in complex

3 fl open<sup>well</sup> corner stair to balcony

cruciform

dumb center pulpit now

" white pipe organ center, choir face



entab of plain fringe

chair rail, no wainscot or paneling

sl arched ceiling

arch. window trim

no pediments over doors or anything

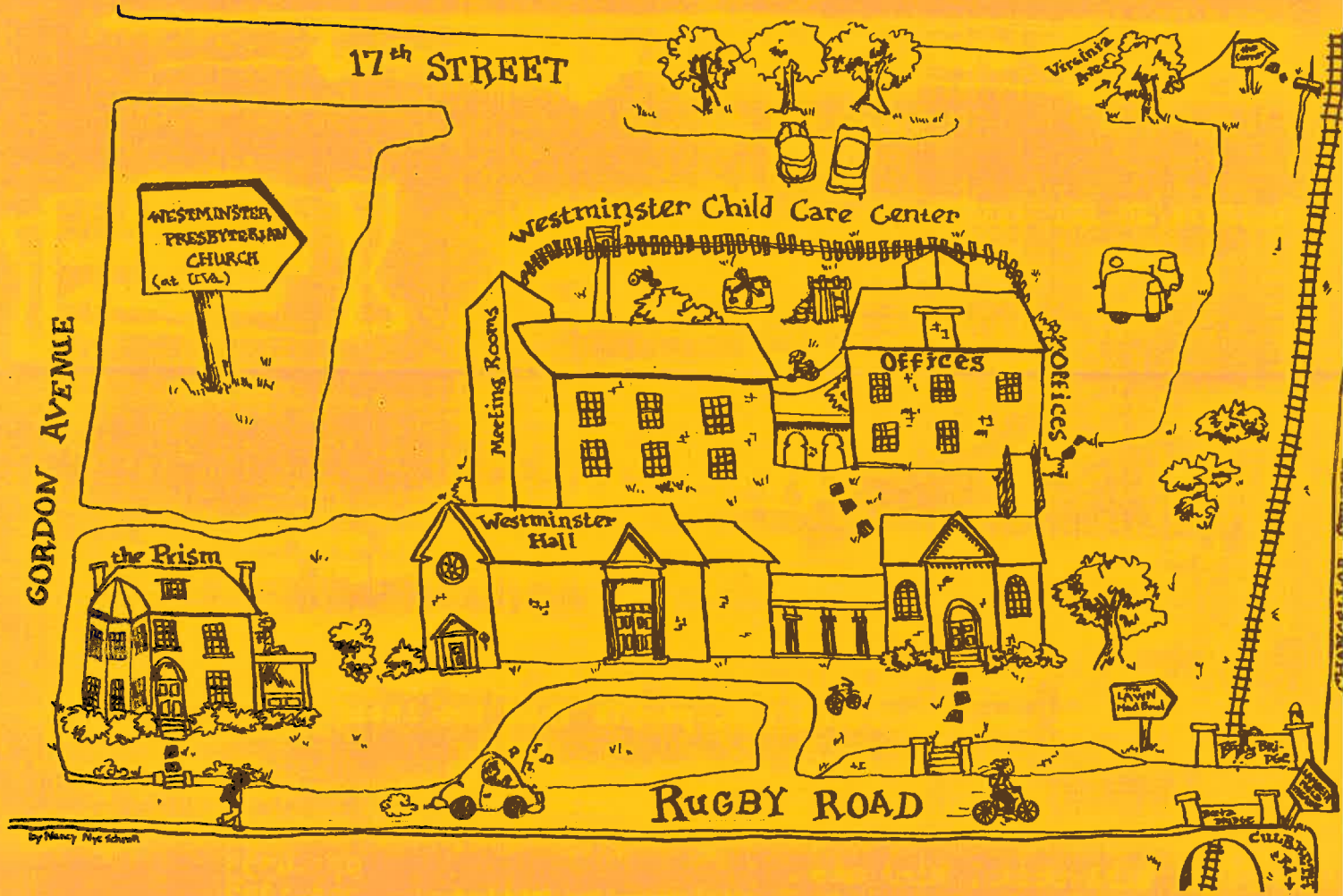


# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

190 Rugby Road

P. O. Box 3865

293-3133



## WORSHIP

Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary, with additional opportunities for worship during the year.

Church School on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. with a special class for University students this year, starting Sunday, September 14th. "The Bible Makes Sense" will offer you an opportunity to reflect on the Bible and what it says here and now.

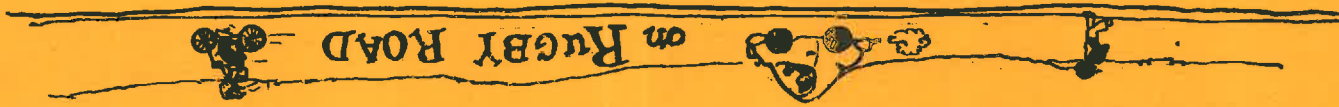
## EDUCATION

## FELLOWSHIP

Get Acquainted Lunches on three Sundays following worship together will give you an opportunity to get to know some of the people in the Westminster Community. Lunches are scheduled for September 14 and 21 and October 5. Plan to join us then.

And, a friendly welcome awaits you on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. when University students gather for MID-POINT at the church. This weekly evening of fellowship begins on September 17 with a cook-out.

WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP, EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP, AND MORE.



AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PEOPLE WITH A MISSION



- A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY...Westminster Hall is kept open for students, Sundays through Thursdays for late-night studying.
- A PLACE TO SERVE...teaching, singing, working with others.
- A PLACE TO MEET...other students, people from the University faculty and administration, people from the local community.

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

Bill Smith, Minister	973-4595
Jim Baker, Associate in University Ministry	295-1397
Renita Sheesley Banks, Christian Educator	293-5526
Bruce Stevens, Organist/Choirmaster	1-353-4260

Westminster Church was established by the Presbyterians of Charlottesville to serve the University community. It is located in the midst of many University activities. It is made up of many University people, including students, faculty, and administrators. It seeks to worship and serve God in this community. At Westminster people gather to share in worship, study, and fellowship, and from Westminster they scatter into the community to serve God and the world.



The Organ of Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Charlottesville, Virginia

Taylor and Boody Organbuilders, Staunton, Virginia  
Opus 3, 1980

SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Great</b>	<b>Positive</b> (expressive)	<b>Pedal</b>
Bourdon 16'	Gedackt 8' (oak)	Subbass 16' (poplar)
Principal 8'	Rohrflöte 4'	Octave 8'
Rohrflöte 8'	Octave 2'	Trompet 8'
Octave 4'	Quinte 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub> '	
Quinte 2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> '	Zimbel III	<b>Couplers</b>
Superoctave 2'	Regal 8'	Positive to Great (shove)
Gemshorn 2' (prepared)		Great to Pedal
Tertia 1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>5</sub> '		Positive to Pedal
Mixture IV		

Mechanical key and stop action

Tremulant to entire organ

Zimbelstern

Balanced expression pedal

Flexible winding

Unequal temperament (Kimberger III)

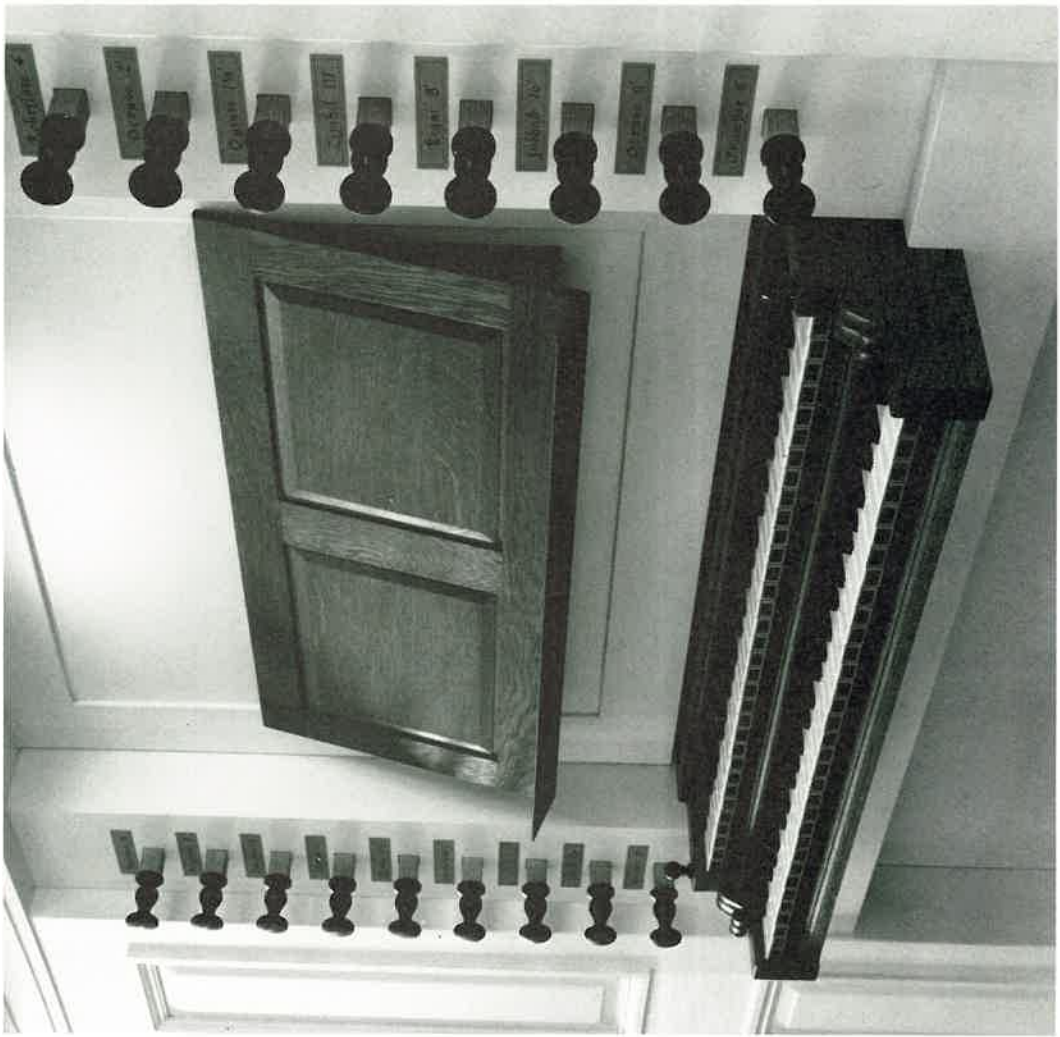
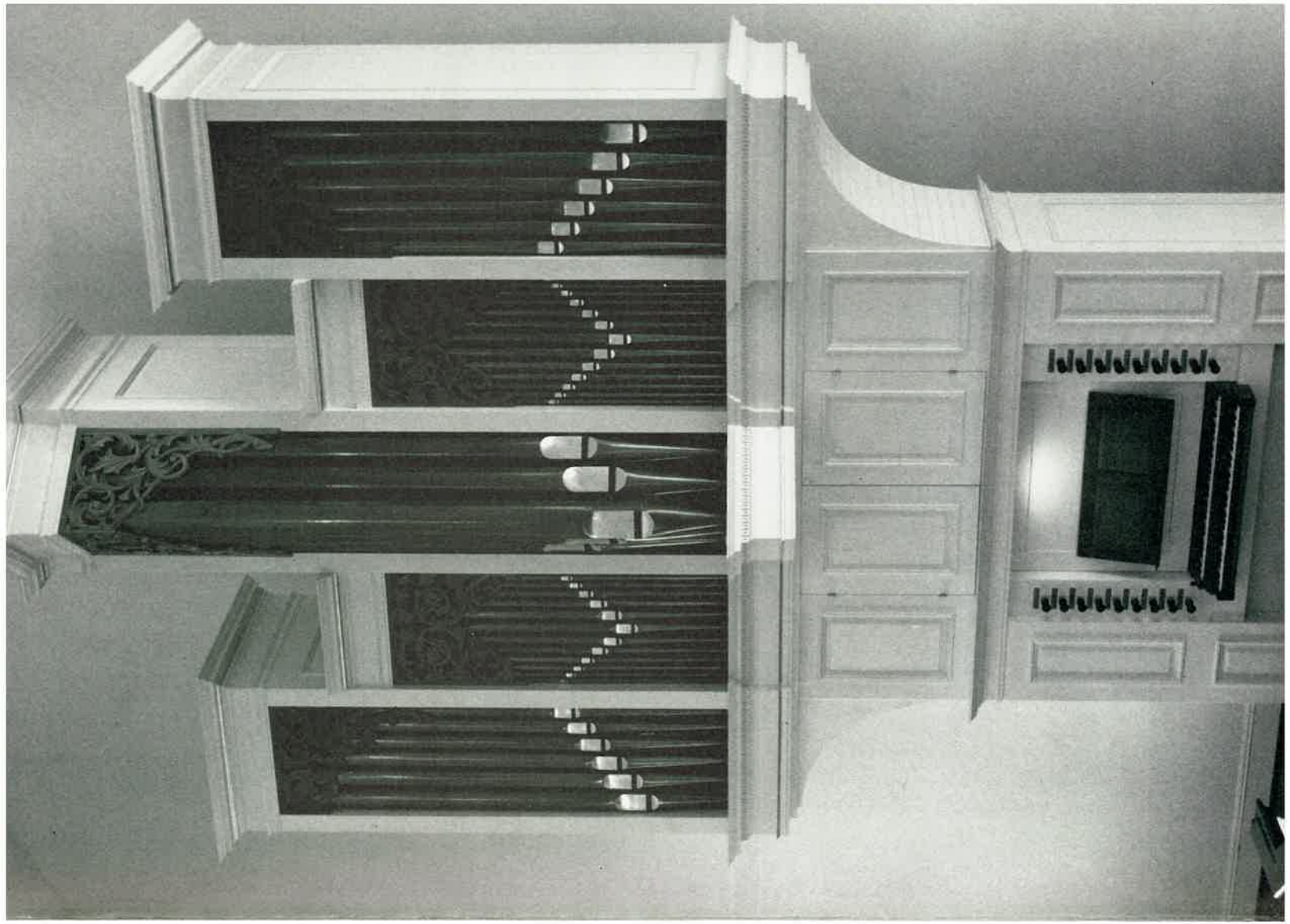
Metal pipes of hammered lead alloy

Natural keys of polished cow bone

Sharps and stop knobs of ebony

Case of solid poplar and oak

Number of pipes: 1117



copy of church in <sup>Abbingdon</sup> Gloucester Point, Va

Founded & built 1939 - 3/13/39 broke ground

Milton Brigg?

9/17/39 - 1st service

given by Mrs White

renovated c 1969 to make chancel Pres

by Brigg

## Westminster

98-407

Thos L Rosser Jr, trustee

→ trustee of Westminster Pres Ch of Ch'o  
new congregation formed

55-95

10/15/1926

John Staige & Volunna S Davis → Thos L Rosser Jr,

trustee for The Pres Ch of Ch'o

\$10,000

part of ACWB 32-115, 1912, fr Caroline H. Davis

121' on Ragley & 160' back, bounded by Davis on N & E

9-5

190 RUGBY RD.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



lot purchased 1926 from  
Dr & Mrs. John Laife Davis

3-3-39 excavation begun

11-19-39 bldg dedicated

design of church followed that of  
Abington Church - Gloucester Point, Va.

#397

