

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MORRISTOWN CELEBRATES...



First Church Building, 1738



Second Edifice, 1793





Sanctuary at 57 Park Place
Offices at 65 South Street
(973) 538-1776
fax (973) 538-7879
mail@pcmorristown.org
www.pcmorristown.org

Timelines constructed by Tom Eckhard.

Logo designed by Grace Akillian.

This booklet is a compilation of the timelines published in the 2008 *Tower Tidings*, submitted by the 275th Anniversary Committee, highlighting some of the momentous events that have occurred in our nation, Morristown community and the church, during our church's history.

Celebrate 275 years of spiritual growth and service with us!



There is a trivia question for each page of the timeline. The answer is provided. Your job is to find it in the timeline!

1733

A Presbyterian congregation is formed in West Hanover (Morristown).

1738

The Presbyterian Church in Morristown is officially established by the Synod.

1739

Morristown becomes the seat of the new Morris County shortly after the county separates from Hunterdon County.

1740

The Presbyterian Church in Morristown erects its first church building on the site of the Howard House. *The town name is changed from West Hanover to Morristown.*

1742

The Reverend Timothy Johnes begins his ministry (which lasts until 1794).

1750

The French and Indian War begins.

1752

The colonies switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar.

Trivia Question: From which Presbyterian congregation did our church spin-off?

1763	<i>The end of the French and Indian War.</i>
1764	A tower is erected and a bell, a gift from King George III of England, is hung in it. Ninety-four new members are added to the congregation.
1769	<i>Daniel Boone begins his ten-year exploration of the Kentucky Territory.</i>
1773	<i>The Boston Tea Party occurs. Our congregation is not invited.</i>
1775	<i>The American Revolution begins and continues until 1783. Our meeting house is used as a hospital during the war. The congregation continues to worship outdoors.</i>
1777	*George Washington takes communion in the orchard of the nine-acre parsonage property owned by our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Johnes.
1779	<i>The Continental Army is encamped in Morristown for a second time from December, 1779 to June, 1780.</i>
1780	<i>During this time, General Washington declared St. Patrick's Day a holiday to honor his many Irish troops.</i>
1782	<i>Morristown gets its first Postmaster.</i>

Trivia Question: Where was the *orchard located in which General George Washington took communion?

1787

The Constitution of the U.S. is framed, and New Jersey becomes the third state of the new Union to ratify it.

1779

George Washington is inaugurated as the first President of the U.S. One of his first presidential acts is to establish Thanksgiving Day. The first national General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church is convened. (The event is depicted in a stained glass window in our Sanctuary.)

1791

The Bill of Rights is ratified. Construction of a new (second) meeting house is begun. The Morristown Church congregation begins worshipping there in 1795.

1794

The Rev. Timothy Johnes dies at the age of 78, the result of a fall from his sleigh the previous winter.

1796

Pew seats are sold in the new meeting house to help pay for completion of the interior construction.

1800

The U.S. capital is moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.

1804

The first music committee in our church is formed. There is no narthex in which to put bell tables.

1809

Pastor Fisher's wife founds the *Female Charitable Society.

1810

Princeton Theological Seminary is established.

Trivia Question: What is the *Female Charitable Society known as today?

1812

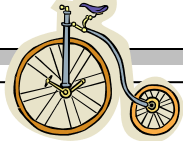
The War of 1812 is declared against Great Britain.

1813

Dr. Lewis Condict conveys the deed for part of his property to the Trustees with the stipulation that it shall always be a "Public Commons" or Green. Caroline Fillmore, wife of President Millard Fillmore, is born in Morristown.

1816

The bicycle is invented.



1820

The rent on pew seats is raised to cover payment of the minister's salary.

1822

Pew seats are sold in the new meeting house to help pay for completion of the interior construction.

1827

There are 430 members in the congregation. Most have since died.

1830

The Morris County Courthouse is built on Washington Street.

1836

President Andrew Jackson signs the Indian Removal Act which authorizes the forced removal of Native Americans living in the eastern part of the country to lands west of the Mississippi.

Trivia Question: What state declared its independence from Mexico in 1836?

1838

At the Speedwell Iron Works, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail build the first telegraph.

1840

Rev. Orlando Kirtland resigns under pressure from the congregation; at a subsequent Congregational Meeting, it is decided to split the church and form a second congregation on South Street. In 1841, Rev. Kirtland is installed as Pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church (on South Street).

1846

The war with Mexico begins over the annexation of Texas by the U.S.

1853

Acorn Hall is built for Dr. John P. Schermerhorn.

1854

The Trustees resolve that no further interments shall be made in the graveyard.

1859

Charles Darwin publishes Origin of Species. Our church's Building Committee is empowered to install furnaces in the church. We get to evolve and be warm!

1861

Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated; the Civil War begins.

1862

The Emancipation Proclamation is issued.

Trivia Question: What organization is housed in Acorn Hall now?

1865

*The Town of Morristown is incorporated. Abraham Lincoln is assassinated, and the 13th Amendment is ratified.**

1869

Our present Chapel is built and replaces the Session House.

1873

The system of pew rentals at the First Presbyterian Church on the Green is ended.

1876

Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital opens. Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone.

1877

The South Street Presbyterian Church burns to the ground. The new building is completed just a year and a half later in 1878.

1879

The light bulb is invented by Thomas Alva Edison in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

1885

The "Old Manse" (now Howard House) is constructed for just over \$18,000.

1886

The Statue of Liberty is unveiled in New York Harbor.

Trivia Question: *What was the 13th Amendment to the Constitution?

1889

The Market Street Mission is established by the South Street Presbyterian Church. The women congregants at South Street begin the "Italian Mission"* to help Italian immigrant women learn the English language and American customs.

1893

The zipper is invented. Thank God! Morristown Memorial Hospital is born as a Protestant endeavor when Rev. Erdman, pastor of the South Street Presbyterian Church, dedicates it in his role as the President of the Trustees of a member's will. The new hospital occupies the former manse of the Rev. Timothy Johnes. The cornerstone of the new First Presbyterian Church is laid and construction is completed in September of 1894. This is our current church building.

1899

The Daughters of the American Revolution place a sundial on the lawn in front of the "Old Manse" (Howard House) to commemorate General Washington's partaking of the Lord's Supper with our congregation.

1900

The First Presbyterian Church decides to connect the church and the chapel.

1902

Madison Avenue in Morristown is referred to as "the street of 100 millionaires" and "the finest four miles in the world."

1910

The South Street Presbyterian Church supports the German Theological School in Bloomfield with a special offering, saying "No more important work confronts our nation than the preparation of men who speak their own tongue to work among the immigrants who are coming to us by the hundred thousand."

1914

World War I begins, and the Panama Canal is opened. The world's first red and green traffic lights are installed in Cleveland.

Trivia Question: What is the Italian Mission known as now?

1918	The First Presbyterian Church (on the Green) and the South Street Presbyterian Church (now our Parish House) hold union Sunday services from January to September while their pastors alternately engage in war work.
1920	<i>The 19th Amendment is ratified giving women the right to vote.</i> (Ed. Note – The parties celebrating this event aren't very good because the 18 th Amendment was passed the year before.) The Parish Echoes is first published by the First Presbyterian Church.*
1925	The reunion of the First Church and South Street Church is discussed, voted on and approved by a large majority. The new name is The Presbyterian Church in Morristown. Members opposed to the merger withdraw and form the Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian Church on the corner of Whippany Road and Park Avenue in Whippany.
1929	<i>The Stock Market crashes and the Great Depression begins.</i>
1930	The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church votes that women may be elected and ordained as elders.
1936	The Rev. Thomas Mutch is installed as our pastor and serves for 30 years.
1937	The church's phone number becomes "1776", the Library Table is begun and the first Christmas Eve candlelight service is held in our sanctuary. <i>Amelia Earhart is lost at sea, and the Hindenburg explodes at Lakehurst, New Jersey.</i>
1939	<i>World War Two begins in Europe.</i>

Trivia Question: The Parish Echoes was a predecessor of what church publication?

1941	<i>Aerosol spray is invented. Black and white television broadcasts begin (so that aerosol spray products can be advertised). The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. Our church has 30 members in the Armed Forces.</i>
1945	<i>On May 7, Germany surrenders. In August, atomic bombs are dropped on Japan and Japan surrenders. The United Nations is established. Our church begins to prepare the South Street building to become the Parish House. Linda Hunt, Academy Award winning actress, is born in Morristown.</i>
1947	<i>The transistor is invented at Bell Labs in Whippany. The Chapel is redecorated with pews, the communion table, pulpit chairs and baptismal font taken from the South Street Church.</i>
1950	<i>The Korean War begins. Fran Lebowitz, photographer, is born in Morristown.</i>
1952	<i>The Revised Standard Version of the Bible is published. Craig Newmark, founder of craigslist.org, is born in Morristown.</i>
1955	The First Annual Carol Sing is held at our church and is called "an outstanding success."
1960	Our sanctuary is graced with a new Austin organ, installed during the summer.
1963	<i>President John Fitzgerald Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.</i>
1964	The Presbyterian Church in Morristown joins the Newton Presbytery. The Nursery School receives certification from the New Jersey Dept. of Education and begins operation.
1966	Rev. Dr. Thomas Mutch retires after 30 years as Senior Pastor at Morristown Presbyterian. The Reverend Robert Schmidt is called as Assistant Pastor.

1967

Rev. Robert Holland is installed as our Senior Pastor. The first church directory is published. Rev. Holland brings a recipe for home-baked Scottish communion bread that is used for many years in our church. Membership is 2,047. There are 1,083 enrolled in church school.

1968

The George Washington communion stained glass window is installed in the sanctuary in tribute to Dr. Mutch's ministry. The pulpit is completely rebuilt. The reunion stained glass window, depicting the reunion of the First and South Street churches in 1925, is installed honoring the ministries of Dr. Howard and Dr. Bennett. *Martin Luther King is assassinated.*

1970

Mrs. Clare Eckhard becomes Director of Christian Education at our church. (You didn't think I'd leave that out, did you?!) Our radio ministry begins on WMTR. The nativity stained glass window is installed. *The Park Theatre, next to the Chapel, is torn down to make way for the 1776 building.*

1971

William A. Payn is installed as Minister of Music. The last stained glass window is installed, honoring the life of the Rev. John Witherspoon. The Parish Sages begin to meet.

1973

Rev. John Miller is installed as Senior Pastor, Rev. Holland having left in 1972. Rev. William Cartmell, Assistant Pastor, retires. Rev. Robert Schmidt leaves to pastor a church in Eagleville, PA. Revs. Thomas Sheffield and Duane Ferris are installed as our Assistant Pastors. (Aren't you glad you weren't on Management and Administration that year!?)

1980

Rev. Thomas Sheffield is installed as Senior Pastor. Rev. Carol Benz Scott is installed as Assistant Pastor, the first woman called to this position in our church.

1983

The Morris Shelter (now Homeless Solutions) is temporarily housed in our Old Manse, Howard House. We celebrate our 250th Anniversary!

1984

Rev. Carol Scott leaves our church. The church gets its first computer. AT&T is broken up into 24 independent units, affecting many in our church.

1985

Rev. Joanne Scott is called as our Assistant Pastor. Jim Hicks begins his tenure as our Director of Music. David Rivera begins as Sexton.

1986

Clare Eckhard retires. *The bus stop is removed from in front of the church. The Sanctuary is renovated.*

1989

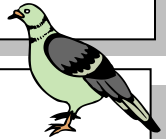
Rev. Duane Ferris retires. Our Session adopts the General Assembly's "Commitment to Peacemaking." *The Berlin Wall is dismantled.*

1990

The Memorial Garden in the cemetery behind our church is dedicated. *Nelson Mandela is released from prison in South Africa. The Exxon Valdez runs aground and becomes one of the biggest ecological disasters in history.*

1991

The church purchases the new Presbyterian Hymnal for use in worship. The tower of the former South Street Church (Parish House) is cleared of large quantities of pigeon, um, debris. *The first Iraq War takes about a month.*



1995

After 23 years of service as our Business Administrator, Barbara King retires and Rix Yard takes her place. Samaritans, a new caring ministry of our church, begins.

1996

Our church adopts a "Policy on Sexual Misconduct." We launch the Clothing Bank in partnership with the Church of the Redeemer. Members of our church go on our first mission trip to Kenya. *The DVD (an optical disc storage media format) is introduced.*

1999

We celebrate "The Year of the Bible." The Parish Nurse Program begins. The Long-Range Planning Committee begins its work. *Lance Armstrong wins his first Tour de France.*

2000

The new Millennium begins and computers continue to fail at their normal rate. Our church starts a website, which eventually can be found at <http://>

2001

Rev. Tom Sheffield is called to be Presbytery Pastor of the Denver Presbytery. The Long-Range Planning committee's aspirations for our church are presented. *Terrorists attack the U.S. on September 11.*

2003

The U.S. invades Iraq.

2004

Rev. David Carpenter becomes our Senior Pastor.

2006

Rev. Cindy Alloway becomes our new Associate Pastor. WMTR broadcasts of our service are discontinued after 36 years. The Contemporary Worship Service is added to our Sunday worship schedule. Rev. David Lawrence leaves our church after 25 years of service.



Answers to trivia questions

Answer to trivia question on page 4: *The First Presbyterian Church of Hanover (aka Whippany)*

Answer to trivia question on page 5: *The orchard where George Washington took Communion is presently the Midtown Shopping Center on Morris Avenue.*

Answer to trivia question on page 6: *Family Service of Morris County*

Answer to trivia question on page 7: *Texas*

Answer to trivia question on page 8: *Morris County Historical Society*

Answers to Trivia Questions on page 9: *The 13th Amendment abolished slavery.*

Answers to Trivia Questions on page 10: *The Italian Mission is now called Neighborhood House.*

Answer to Trivia Question on page 11: *The Tower Tidings.*



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YEARS
1733 - 2008

PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORRISTOWN, NJ

