

April 18, 2024 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

The PC(USA) church that became a library

*The former Clinton Presbyterian Church in Louisiana
now serves its community as a public library.*

By Bill Williamson

Presbyterian News Service

CLINTON, LA—"I was glad to see that the church building has become a library to serve the community," said Sara Jean Jackson as she attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Audubon Regional Library in Clinton, Louisiana, a town of 1,275 people about 45 minutes northeast of Baton Rouge. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was the culmination of the transformation of what had been the Clinton Presbyterian Church into a library to serve the community. The library has additional branches in the nearby Louisiana towns of Jackson and Greensburg.



Patsy Jackson, the last clerk of session, speaks at the dedication.
(Photo by Bill Williamson)

The Clinton church was founded in 1855 but had been losing members for years. With four members remaining in 2020, the congregation made the difficult decision to close its doors. The church building was given to the city, which then made it into a space for the town library.

Jackson was present at the ribbon-cutting, along with her siblings Paul, Nancy and Patsy. All four grew up in Clinton and attended the church. Their parents, Paul and Mittie Jackson, had come to Clinton early in their marriage and had made sure that all four children attended the church regularly. The four Jackson children continue to be active members of Presbyterian churches. Sara Jean and Paul are members of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston. Patsy was the last clerk of session of the Clinton church, and now attends Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston. Nancy and her retired minister husband, Bill Williamson, attend Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Nancy and Bill were married in the Clinton church.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), like many other mainline denominations, has seen the closure of some of its smaller churches. When a church closes, the question becomes what to do with the now-vacant building. Former church buildings have been reconditioned and turned into restaurants, event centers, and even private residences.

The members of the former Clinton church were glad that their church was turned into a library. "It was a bittersweet day," said Patsy Jackson, who guided the transfer of the property to the city. "Of course we were saddened to see this church close its doors after it had meant so much to our family and many others. But on the day of the ribbon-cutting, we saw children playing and reading books, adults conversing, poems being read, and a community coming together."

"It's not church," she said, "but it's close."

OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS

CLICK ON THE LOGOS



WORSHIP THIS WEEK.

Psalm 23

John 10:11-18

Sermon: *Authority.*

Music Notes for April 21.

The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want...

Those familiar words open Psalm 23, the first lesson in this week's Easter IV worship service. Scores of pieces have been written on the comforting text, including the hymns *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* and *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*, both of which are based on folk tunes.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is is set to the tune St. Columba, named for the Irish saint who brought Irish Christianity to Scotland. The melody was one of many Irish tunes collected by George Petrie (1789-1866) and included in various publications, such as Hymns Ancient and Modern in 1868 and The English Hymnal of 1906.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need comes from an anonymous Appalachian melody. The tune, initially known as HOPEWEL, first appeared in 1828 in The Beauties of Harmony. A few years later, the tune was renamed RESIGNATION for the 1832 publication Genuine Church Music.

The final hymn will be *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*, initially published in the 1840 collection called Hymns for the Young. The music associated with the hymn today was composed by William Bradbury (1816-1868) for his 1859 Sunday School compilation known as Oriola. Bradbury also wrote the music for *Jesus Loves Me*.

calvin and hobbes



BOOKS AND MORE !!

Visit the Library Sunday after worship and pick up a book or two as we begin our spring cleaning - there will also be some computer cables and printers available as well.



Better Together Bible Study

Monday, April 22

1:00 p.m.

Finley Memorial

This week's topic: Ruth



Do you enjoy reading?

Do you find discussions on books interesting?

Do you find kinship with others that love to read?

Do you remember *Faith and Fiction*?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions,
we're planning a new book club!

A formational meeting will be held
May 20 at 2:00 p.m.
in the church parlor.

Topics to be considered:

How often and when to hold meetings?

Will they be hosted in someone's home or at the church?

How will the meetings be run?

Will there be one leader or will the responsibility be rotated?

What genres or books list to read?

Questions? Call Cynthia Hoover, (540) 255-9616.

This Week in History.



The *Civitas Schinesghe*, or Polish state is established following the marriage and subsequent conversion of **Mieszko I**, King of the Polans, to **Princess Doubravka** of Bohemia, a Christian.

April 14, 966



Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Laurent Clerc found the the *Connecticut Asylum for the Education and Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Persons*, later known as the **American School for the Deaf**, the first American school for deaf students.

April 15, 1817



Harriet Quimby becomes the first woman to fly an airplane across the English Channel.

April 16, 1912



The Ellis Island immigration center sets an immigration record, processing 11,747 people into the country on a single day.

April 17, 1907



The Cunard liner **RMS Carpathia** anchors in New York City with 705 survivors from the White Star liner *RMS Titanic*.

April 18, 1968



A gun turret explodes on the **USS Iowa**, killing 47 sailors.

April 19, 1989



The drilling rig *Deepwater Horizon* explodes in the Gulf of Mexico, killing eleven workers and beginning an oil spill that would last six months.

April 20, 2010

