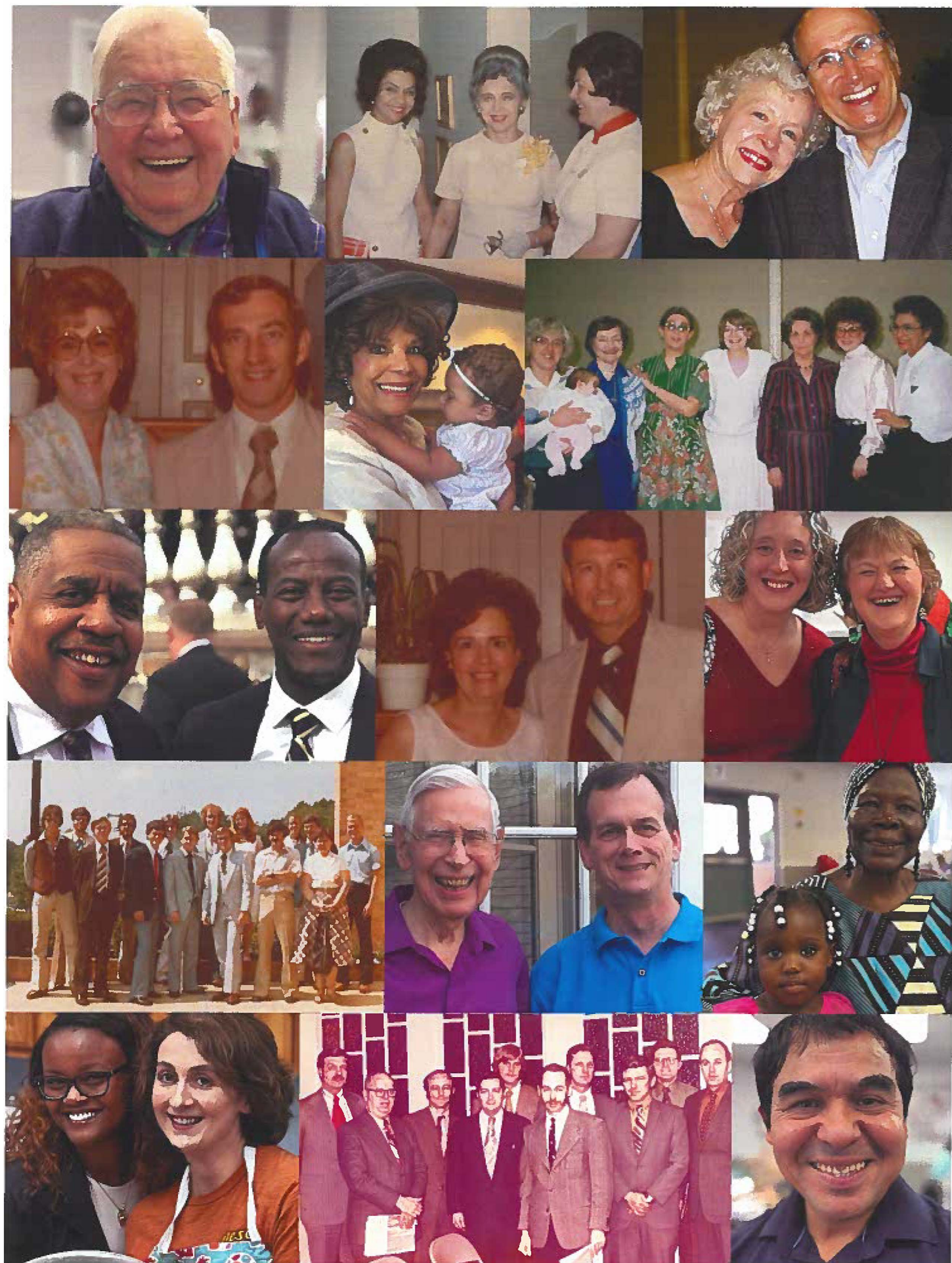




***Bienvenidos a nuestra
Celebración del 75º Aniversario***

Order of Worship

Orden de Culto

INTO GOD’S FUTURE

by Jordan Arnold, Pulpit Minister

On occasions such as this there can be a navel-gazing temptation towards too much self-satisfaction. “Do not say, ‘Why were the old days better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask this” (Ecc. 7:10). The God of the Bible reveals himself not as the spirit of nostalgia but the Spirit of adventure drawing people into His future.

Being a newcomer myself, the aspect most exciting to me about this weekend is getting to worship Jesus together as a unified body, both FCCOC and FCIDC (Iglesia de Cristo). My earnest prayer is that the hours, resources, and effort we have all put into learning these new bi-lingual songs from Keith’s Praise and Harmony program will yield a more sustainable harvest of fellowship for the future of the Church of Christ in Falls Church. I’m also looking forward to the upcoming 75 Days of Service initiative in connection to this year’s focus, “Service from the Heart.” A special thank you to all who have participated in making the 75 th Anniversary a God-glorifying event. Bless you for your faithfulness, for your dedication and continued generosity in support of God’s Mission here in Northern Virginia. As we pass the torch now to new generations, may we be grateful for the adventure to which God has beckoned us.

CELEBRANDO 75 AÑOS

by Adán Hernandez, el Ministro de la Iglesia de Cristo

Al celebrar el 75 aniversario de la Iglesia de Cristo en Falls Church, damos gracias a Dios por su fidelidad y la dedicación de los miembros que fundaron esta congregación. Desde su inicio, la iglesia tuvo la visión de convertirse en un faro de esperanza, basado en la predicación del Evangelio, la oración, el servicio y el compromiso inquebrantable con la Palabra de Dios. Y el escritor a los Hebreos nos invita a seguir adelante cuando dice “Mantengamos firme, sin fluctuar, la profesión de nuestra esperanza, porque fiel es El que prometió” (Heb. 10:23).

Meditemos sobre el compromiso que tenemos delante de nosotros, poniendo nuestra mirada en Jesús nuestro Salvador (Heb. 12:2-4). Porque sabemos que “a su debido tiempo, segaremos, sino desmayamos” (Gal. 6:9).

Finalmente, demos gracias a todos los que han formado parte de esta congregación: miembros presentes y pasados, líderes y aquellos que nos han apoyado desde el comienzo. Su amor, dedicación y fe han sido el motor de esta congregación.

I Will Call Upon The Lord	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Welcome and Introduction	Oliver McDaniel
Scripture (Bilingual)	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
The Steadfast Love Of The Lord	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Primera Oración	Saul Reyes
Opening Prayer	Joshua Stults
Presentation of Mike Tune (Longest-Serving Minister)	Hal Swetnam
Blessing of the Past 75 Years	Mike Tune
Bendición por los últimos 75 años	Adan Hernandez
Scripture (Bilingual)	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
I Woke Up This Morning	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
You Are Worthy	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
You’re The One	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise	Oliver McDaniel
Oración de Acción de Gracias y Alabanzas	William Euceda
He Has Made Me Glad	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Scripture (Bilingual)	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Nothing But The Blood	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Communion	Joseph Tucker
La cena del Señor	David Rodriguez, Jr.
Hide Me Away O Lord	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Offering	Will Waterston
Ofrenda	Omar Robles
My Life Is In You	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Every Praise Is To Our God	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Genesis 12:1-4	Sammy Rodriguez
Génesis 12:1-4	Carlos Rodriguez
“75 Is Just Getting Started”	Jordan Arnold
Announcements	Oliver McDaniel
I Still Have Joy	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Blessing for the Future	Habtu Zemech
Bendición para el Futuro	Ignacio Espinoza
Shout Hallelujah	Lancaster/Jones/Gonzalez
Oración Final	Wilfr edo Reyes
Closing Prayer	William Kincaid

The Church of Christ in Falls Church at 75

On the first Sunday of January 1913, thirteen individuals met in the home of Thomas F. Colvin in the Cherrydale community of Arlington County, Virginia. Modern-day evangelism of the Church of Christ in the District of Columbia and its surrounding suburbs would grow from this nucleus. Historians often label this as a “re-establishment” of the Church of Christ in the nation’s capital, the work of Alexander Campbell, James Barclay and others in the mid-1800s having been cut short by regional differences over the Civil War as well as estrangements during Reconstruction.

By 1920, the District of Columbia congregation purchased an existing church property at 3560 Fourteenth Street, NW. From this 14th Street Church of Christ (now 16th and Decatur) other congregations were to emerge. Elders and members alike in our brotherhood led cooperative efforts over several decades to take advantage of the unique location offered by the nation’s capital. Establishment of the Avalon Heights and Mt. Rainier churches would ultimately lead to the formation of the University Park congregation in Maryland. In the days of segregation, the third congregation organized in the Washington area – the 13th and Irving Street church – was an outreach to the African-American community. As population growth crossed the Potomac River into Northern Virginia, so, too, did congregational evangelism.

Among the congregations to follow around the region would be Alexandria, Arlington, Belair, Bowie, Dale City, East Capital Street, Fairfax, Falls Church, Great Falls, Laurel, Leesburg, Lexington Park, Manassas, McLean, Oxon Hill, Rockville, Silver Spring, Springfield, Southeast, Wildercroft, and Woodbridge. Over the years some merged; others relocated and assumed new names. And, still others – like our congregation at Falls Church – were planted by a “sister congregation” in the area.

On September 4, 1949, the Church of Christ in Falls Church, Virginia, conducted its initial worship service, gathering in rented meeting space at the Odd Fellows Hall on West Broad Street, within the city limits of Falls Church. Bro. William Green, then Associate Professor of Languages at the University of California at Berkeley, delivered the inaugural sermon on the subject of “The Great Commission.” Fifty-seven people attended Bible school, sixty-six were recorded at the worship service, and a contribution of \$208.24 was gathered. Forty-six people, predominantly former members of the Arlington church, placed membership with the new congregation. Sunday morning Bible classes were also organized. Glyndon Bennett and John Johnson were early teachers. Midweek services were held every Thursday evening.

During the first 16 months of existence, preaching was done by a number of brethren from within the congregation’s ranks or from neighboring churches. In the fall of 1950, the Arlington Church of Christ arranged to bring Thomas N. Page, minister at Wooster, Massachusetts, to Falls Church in January 1951 and assist with his support. Following a 3-month delay in which Bro. Billy Hood filled our pulpit on an interim basis, Bro. Page delivered his first sermon on Sunday, April 4, 1951. As of January 1, 1952, the church at Falls Church became fully self-supporting and has been financially independent since then.

Shortly after the Falls Church congregation was organized, it was agreed by the members that a permanent building would clearly prove most favorable and beneficial for growth. Ground was broken on January 2, 1951 for our first church building at East Broad Street and Church Place at the eastern edge of the city limits near Seven Corners. A cornerstone laying ceremony was held on July 4, and the building, with an auditorium designed to hold 180, was ready for occupancy two months later. A formal opening dedication was held on September 16, 1951. A preacher’s residence was built on a remaining portion of this property in 1954; it was sold in 1967 to acquire the home in Annandale that continues to be utilized today. By April 1954, rapid growth made it necessary to hold two worship services each Sunday morning.

In February 1953, three elders – William Geddes, Charles Grandey and Richard Lyle – were ordained. John Johnson, Gene May, Phillip McCrea and Allan Truax were appointed deacons shortly thereafter. Over our 75 years of existence, 35 men have served as elder, including 5 currently. 103 men, including 7 currently, have been selected as deacons. 21 of our deacons have later served in our eldership.

By the mid-1950s, our fellowship had outgrown its initial facility, even with two Sunday morning services. A new lot at our current location – 6149 Leesburg Pike just over a mile east of the original building’s site – was purchased in 1956. Ground was broken on April 9, 1958, and a 500-seat auditorium with Fellowship Hall and a single, three-story classroom wing was erected. 392 people were in attendance when it was opened for use on January 11, 1959. When additional space was again needed, movable partitions were installed in the Fellowship Hall for use alternatively as six class areas.

A renovation and enlargement of the Leesburg Pike building occurred in 1969-1970, with the addition of a second 3-story classroom wing, expanded auditorium and foyer, and other upgrades. Dedication services were held on October 4, 1970. This is the facility we continue to use to this day. As our 30th anniversary approached at the end of 1970s and with a membership roster surpassing 500, Falls Church was the largest congregation of the Church of Christ in the mid-Atlantic and on the East Coast north of Florida.

In our 75-year history, 11 men have served Falls Church as Pulpit Minister. Thomas N. Page (1951-1954), Robert C. Oz (1954-1961), Jack Meyer, Sr. (1961-1963), G. Bonds Stocks (1963-1967), Phillip E. Morrison (1968-1976), Gary R. Martin (1976-1984), Charles R. Prince (1984-1991), Kenneth R. Durham (1991-1997), Gayland G. Gieger (1998-1999), Michael Tune (1999-2022), and Jordan Arnold (2023 to date).

Regrettably, both Jack Meyer and Bonds Stocks died while working with us in the 1960s curtailing their length of service. And, after one year, Gayland Gieger chose to return to the legal profession in Oklahoma from which he had come. In all instances, however, our congregation has built heartfelt, long-lasting relationships with the men and their families who have ministered to us. The widows, children and even grandchildren of some have remained active in our fellowship over the years. Ties of faith and friendship have proved strong, consistent, and dear.

Our earliest business meeting minutes reflect the congregation’s strong interest in evangelism and missionary work. Several area congregations had a start involving a significant number of Falls Church members. The Great Falls, Fairfax, University and Mount Vernon congregations are among the more recent examples. Financial support has been regularly provided to congregations further outside of the metropolitan area, most recently in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. Mike Tune through his Amazing Grace International work reached thousands of students in every state, and AGI’s special “Tom’s Kids” project seeks to educate children in Vietnam as well.

Falls Church began a radio evangelism effort in the 1960s. John Fisk was employed in June of 1967 to direct the church’s mission program for the Eastern European area, including radio. A “state of the art” recording studio was even included in our 1970 building expansion. Ross Dye was specially commissioned to travel on behalf of the Eastern European mission work and that in Central America.



After establishing the programs for Eastern Europe, Falls Church began looking for broadcast possibilities in the local area. From 1967 to 1973, a four-hour program – known collectively as “Morning with the Master” – was broadcast on Sunday mornings on 19 different stations in the mid-Atlantic area from Philadelphia to the Tennessee border, reaching an audience of 21 million in 1971. Programs were geared to various age groups. Imogene Baker, with Beryl Fisk as announcer, led the first program for women in the Churches of Christ. In 1978, a 15-minute “Good Morning” program was also co-produced by Bill Ashley and Minister Gary Martin. Accelerating commercial costs forced an end to these radio evangelism efforts in 1980.

Over the years, financial assistance has been provided to as many as fifteen geographical Locations in the same year. Current efforts have been more concentrated. Initial mission efforts in the 1950s involved routine shipments of clothing to Korea, Japan, Cuba, England, and the Philippines as well as Appalachia and West Virginia. Special drives to support work in Ireland, Australia, Scotland, Germany and Vietnam also occurred. A missionary in Cuba was supported until political conditions made it impossible.

From 1965 to 1977, support and oversight were provided for Otis Gatewood in his Iron Curtain Nations work. Work in Mexico, Chile, Italy, Ukraine and Vietnam have been among our most recent commitments. Beginning in 2011 and in concert with efforts led by Habtu Zemech, Falls Church has supported the My Neighbors program in Ethiopia where, along with other churches, a preaching school, computer training schools, and the first school for the deaf have been established. Drilling for clean drinking water has also been a project of the My Neighbors work.

Support for Dr. Richard Rheinbolt and his wife, Karen, in their work among the Mayan people of Guatemala began in 1979. He was Founding Director of Clinica Cristiana, a medical and evangelistic mission providing medical and nutritional services from a base in Quetzaltenango and by mobile clinics traveling to outlying communities, in addition to spreading the gospel to a people whose religious practices retained many pagan elements. Dr. Michael Kelly and his wife, Julie, of Stillwater, Oklahoma, succeeded the Rheinbolts in 1986. A second clinic was set up near the town of Santo Tomas La Union in 1991. More than 1,500 patients per month were being treated by that time.

After developing a relationship with Health Talents International (HTI), an organization of members of Churches of Christ in the U.S. supporting medical evangelism in developing countries, Falls Church transferred overall management of Clinica Cristiana to HTI in 1994.

For over 50 years Falls Church has been associated with Bro. Pedro Batres and his missionary work in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. For a number of years Bro. Batres was principal preacher for the congregation in Managua and was instrumental in founding the Nicaraguan Institute for Biblical Studies. Preachers and other church workers have been trained through its two-year course of studies. He is constantly in demand throughout Central America to participate in gospel campaigns and seminars, having served in that way in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. He is also regularly invited to lead campaigns for Spanish-speaking congregations in Florida and California.

Our Central American efforts have involved the support of more than a dozen missionary families and native evangelists. In spite of political upheaval and natural disasters, the Churches of Christ in Nicaragua have continued to flourish and expand their influence. In 1998, our congregation began contributing support to Guatemalan missionaries Gene and Janice Luna; Bro. Luna co-founded the Western Bible Institute in Quetzaltenango, a non-residence school for teaching church leaders.

Teaching methods have been many and varied – from the nostalgic felt boards with cut-out figures and Bible settings to Jule Miller film strips with accompanying texts for outreach campaigns. Vacation Bible School was first held at Falls Church in the summer of 1952 accompanied by a series of evening evangelistic

meetings led by Bro. Burton Coffman. In 1954 over 200 youngsters were enrolled in VBS with a daily attendance high of 196 recorded. From 1978 to 1988, Carol and Bobby Golden and Calanthia and Joseph Tucker got the Rainbow Bus program moving, knocking on doors on Saturday mornings to invite children and their parents to come to church and to ride the bus – singing songs and holding Bible quizzes along the way. In the 1990s, it was Sunday night Bible Clubs – Whirlybirds, Honeybees, or Jet Cadets – for our youngsters 2 years old through 6 th grade. And, over the years, Lads to Leaders efforts have brought about puppet shows, song leading, Bible verse memorization and other learning competition opportunities.

A non-profit organization of members of the Church of Christ in the metropolitan area purchased land in 1956 near Front Royal, Virginia for development of a permanent Bible camp. Falls Church has consistently contributed to Camp WAMAVA ever since. Our members have not only sent their children to WAMAVA but also worked at the camp and served on its board.

In 1964 a corporation was formed to operate a children’s home near Haymarket, Virginia. A more permanent home was purchased near Gainesville, Virginia four years later. Rainbow Christian Services provided foster care and adoption services for over 40 years. Several Falls Church members have served – and continue to serve – on the Rainbow board. With the recent sale of Rainbow’s property plans are underway to transition to underwriting a family counseling professional to address this critical and growing specialized community need.

With the identification of over 75 young people in grades 4 through 12 among our membership, Mike McLoud was hired as our first Youth Minister in 1983. He, Bryan Bearden, Eddie Field and Josh Byrd have also led this special focus in the years following.

Members from Falls Church gave extraordinary leadership support to Northeast Christian Junior College in Villanova, Pennsylvania. John Johnson served on the board for 30 years, 15 as chairman. Gene May, Robert Kendrick, Richard Smith, and Hyde Harper were also long-time supporters. These endeavors continued even after Northeastern merged with Ohio Valley College (which regrettably ceased operations in 2022).

For over 45 years we have had a Spanish ministry at Falls Church. Spanish language Bible classes for adults and children were first held on March 4, 1979. For a two-year period, Luis Morales served as teacher, followed by Roberto Alvarez, who taught the adult class for a number of months. From mid-1981 to 1985, Ted Presley, our Associate Minister, who was fluent in Spanish and had been a missionary in Argentina, had responsibility for this work.

Roberto Alvarez was appointed a deacon in 1984, and upon Bro. Presley’s departure, he assumed primary responsibility for this ministry with the able partnership of Adrian Rodriguez. Iglesia de Cristo congregation members Ignacio Espinoza, Saul Reyes, and Wilfredo Reyes now also serve as Falls Church deacons. A number of evangelistic campaigns and fellowship events have been held in collaboration with a growing number of Spanish ministries in our brotherhood throughout the DC area.

In September 2023, another milestone was reached with the employment of Adan Hernandez as an Associate Minister to oversee our ongoing Spanish Ministry efforts on a full-time basis.

Falls Church has been blessed by the absence of dissension and strife throughout its history. Prudent budgetary decisions have also maintained a sound and stable financial foundation for the advancement of our mission. Faithful leadership and devoted ministers, who were true students of the truth and committed to its ultimate goal, have allowed hundreds of fellow Christians to serve and bring glory to God both domestically and internationally.

After 75 years Falls Church continues to look to the future. Our mission is as important as it has ever been to love God, to love our neighbors, and to share the Gospel.

Written by *John Hilboldt*