

Barkersville Christian Church

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For: Mary J. Packer, Town of Providence Historian

The Town of Providence lays claim to the 160 year old church that stands at the center of the town in an area called Barkersville. Providence has hosted many houses of worship since its formation in 1796, but the Barkersville Christian Church is one of few that have endured, overcoming hard times and many changes.

In the beginning of its organization in May of 1845, there were but eighteen members, most of whom lived nearby. The first pastor was Reverend Allan Haywood. There have been many since then, but now, the church is held in the loving hands of Pastor Pat Atwell, who is adored by all.

The Barkersville Christian Church has long been a landmark of Providence. As a non-denominational church, there are now members and attendees who travel many miles every Sunday to meet and pray in this familiar House of God. Children and adults alike are comfortable there.

On October 1, 1983 the church was rededicated and underwent extensive remodeling under the capable hands and workmanship of Earl Keeler and many other dedicated volunteers. A crawlspace beneath the church was dug out and turned into Sunday School classrooms. An old carriage shed was refurbished to include a large meeting room and Pastor's office.

A couple of years ago, the church dedicated a small flower garden area to Mary Packer. There is also a bench for sitting. Recently, the church acquired some land adjacent to the building which is already being cleared in order to enlarge the parking lot. There are also plans to construct a playground and pavilion in the future.

The Barkersville Christian Church has been standing tall and proud for 160 years and a celebration is planned to commemorate its life. In good times and in times of strife, its doors have been open to all. We wish them congratulations with hopes for many more years of spreading God's word and works to all.