

APPENDIX D
NEW BEGINNINGS

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Initial Activities or Events - Many of Which Have Continued Though the Years

- 1946 **Women's Circle (1)** of 35 members began to meet when the early Church was meeting at Horace Mann Junior High School.
- 1981 The Women of the Church began collecting **2 Cents a Meal** offering on the last Sundays of November and December.
- 1981 The Reuter **organ** in the sanctuary was dedicated.
- 1981 Village Chapel provided support to **Covenant House and Manna Meal** as part of its community outreach.
- 1984 **Process to elect Nominating Committee** revised to elect seven members from fourteen individuals nominated by the congregation and two named by the Session.
- 1984 The Women of the Church (WOC) formed a **Prayer Chain** under the Personal Faith and Family Life Committee.
- 1986 Village Chapel became a **corporation with three Trustees**.
- 1990 The **Shepherd's Program** was initiated.
- 1990 **Blue Hymnals** were dedicated.
- 1991 Mildred Wrenn & Evelyn McClure began to assemble **book bags for children** to use when attending worship service.
- 1991 The Church celebrated **Worship in the Park** at Coonskin Park.
- 1995 Village Chapel participated in **Souper Bowl Sunday** for the first time.
- 1998 **Passing of the Peace** added to worship services to help foster fellowship among the congregation.
- 1998 **Care of Members Committee** initiated.
- 2000 Session Committees became **Ministry Teams with Ministry Team Leaders**.
- 2000 Five Teams of Elders began taking **Traveling Communion** to those unable to attend Church.

- 2000 The Worship Ministry Team began placing **roses**--white for a birth or red for a death and a card recognizing the individual on the Communion Table. Following the service, the rose and the card were given, or taken, to the family.
- 2000 **Grand Friends** program was established at Marmet Elementary School. Members of the congregation and Rev. Mansell went weekly to the school for a Read Aloud Program as well as to serve as mentors for the children.
- 2000 A **Prayer Basket** was placed in the narthex with request slips which the congregation could fill out and place in the basket prior to the service. When requests were made, the basket/prayer request were carried forward by the acolyte(s) to be available to the minister to read during “Prayers for the People”.
- 2001 On All Saint’s Day, those who died in the past year were recognized with the announcement of their name followed by a **“chime”** and the congregation’s response, “Praise be to God for the life of Name” followed by a pause prior to announcing the next name.
- 2004 The Session approved adding a **youth member** to the **Session** serving a one-year term. This brought the number on the Session to 19 and provided input from the younger members of the congregation.
- 2004 Members of the congregation gathered at Vicki and Ira’s home to **prepare gift bags for residents of the Veteran’s Home in Barboursville.**
- 2006 Session **reduced the number of elders from 18 to 15.** The previous addition of a youth elder, when available, made the total Session number 16.
- 2008 The Church joined with St. Agnes Catholic Church and Morris Memorial Methodist Church to offer **Common Grounds** services to eligible individuals and families in the community.
- 2009 The **2 Cents a Meal** (Cents Ability) collection changed to the **last Sunday of every month for the congregation.**
- 2009 **Pay it Forward** sale was initiated.
- 2009 The addition of a **second person to “count”** the collection each time to bring Village Chapel into compliance with the Book of Order.
- 2009 **Close Encounters** – puppetry and music program for children initiated.

- 2010 **Coffee and Conversation** – As Sunday School was discontinued during the summer months, the adults were invited to read a series of articles each week and gather during the hour prior to the worship service to discuss these.
- 2010 **Health Support Fund** available for congregation members needing assistance with health care costs.
- 2010 A 40-hour **Easter Vigil** was done from 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday until the Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. Members of the congregation signed up to serve for one hour to keep watch, pray, sing, read scripture and meditate.
- 2010 On days when there is to be a **baptism** or baptism is highlighted in worship (Baptism of the Lord Sunday) the **font is to be moved to the center of the chancel** and that water be poured into the font on ALL Sundays.
- 2014 **Ashes to Go** – Ashes made available at Town Center Mall.
- 2014 Institution of a “**New Funeral Policy**” that stresses the importance of the Church providing a meal as part of the reception. Also, the document, “**Planning for the Time of Death**” was made available for individuals to complete and make available to their family and to the Church.
- 2015 Village Chapel began offering **Blood Drives** with two scheduled in 2015. In Subsequent years the church offered four each year.
- 2016 **Sunday Morning Cards for Members** displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Members can sign cards for those members and friends currently dealing with illness, grief, homebound, celebrations, thank you, etc. The Membership Ministry Team will address and mail the card.
- 2016 **Audio of worship services** was made available on the church website: vcpresby.com/audio-of-worship-service.
- 2017 The **number of Elders serving on the Session shall be 12**, with the possibility of a 13th by having a youth member serving a one-year term.
- 2017 Kanawha City congregations from area churches met at Village Chapel for a “**Carrying of the Cross**” over a two-mile distance, stopping seven times to reflect on the last words of Christ.

- 2017 Village signed on to the **Kroger Rewards** program. Any member who signed up for the program will have a certain amount donated by Kroger to the Church when they use their Kroger card.
- 2018 **Blessing Bags**, containing basic needs, were filled and made available for the congregation to “give out” to those in need.
- 2019 A “**Free Library**” using re-purposed materials from the Habitat Resale Store was built in 2015 and was this year installed at the 39th Street corner. It offers books that may be borrowed or exchanged as well as seasonal items such as scarves, gloves, etc.
- 2021 Decision made to **incorporate** Village Chapel. Incorporation was achieved on January 1, 2022.
- 2021 Property Ministry Team created **notebook of property item concerns/ record(s)**.
- 2021 Communion was delivered using a **cube of bread and a grape** inserted on a toothpick to minimize contact with others during in-person services following COVID-19.
- 2021 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the necessary hardware and software was purchased and the staff learned to use this to **deliver virtual services**.
- 2022 A **Safety and Security Policy** was approved by the Session
- 2022 The first **Village Apartment picnic** was held.
- 2023 The decision was made to **install solar panels** to decrease the electrical bills.
- 2023 The front four rows of **pews were replaced by upholstered chairs** in the sanctuary.
- 2023 Members of the congregation began to do “**prayer walks**” in the vicinity of the church.
- 2023 The **Vandalia Rotary Club** began having meetings at Village Chapel on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.