

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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President of the Women of the Church, Mrs. Elmer H. Dodson
President of the Men of the Church, Gordon Preston
Superintendent of the Church School, Stanley Baker
Director of the Weekday Church Kindergarten, Mrs. E. J. Hague
Church Historian, Mrs. Charles M. Malcolm
Boy Scout Institutional Representative, Joseph E. Settle
Pioneer Youth Fellowship
 President, Miss Mary Dodson
 Adult Advisors, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Dodson and Mr. and Mrs. Alan R. Miller
Senior High Youth Fellowship
 President, Denny Arthur
 Adult Advisors, Mr. Harold Black, Mr. Wm. W. McCrary

VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 1960s

January 1960. A mailing piece distributed by the Church and Rev. Kennedy to prospective members shows a sketch of the Church looking much as it does today with the original chapel section flanked by the sanctuary and the two-story education wing. The text on the cover reads: WE BID YOU A CORDIAL WELCOME To this House of God . . . its worship, its comfort and its peace. The inside copy: Village Chapel is a young Church – organized in 1950 – with membership in excess of 650, and affiliated with Kanawha Presbytery, of the Presbyterian Church, U.S., The West Virginia Council of Churches, and the National Council of Church of Christ in America. A schedule of Sunday services, fellowship, and prayer groups is given, as well as a listing of weekday Church activities. A portion of text on the back reads: We invite all who have no local church affiliation, to share in our worship, our Christian Education program, our fellowship, and our service to God and the community.

Church records on **January 3, 1960**, indicated that forty-six members of Village Chapel were enrolled in college. The institutions in which the students were enrolled and the numbers for each included: Sullins (1), Davidson (5); Miami University (2), WVU (11), Cornell (1), Radford (1), Morris Harvey (4), Mary Washington (1), Madison (1), Glenville State (1), UK (2), Hampton-Sydney (1), VPI (3), University of Louisville (1), St. Petersburg JC (1), Queens (1), Perdue (2), University of Cincinnati (2), Marshall (2), Concord (1), Union Theological Seminary (1), and Northwestern (1).

January 11, 1960. The Village Chapel under the able and dedicated leadership of James R. Kennedy, our Minister for four months, began to carry out specific plans for rebuilding with the view of obtaining a “more worshipful sanctuary”. A Building Committee was appointed and with the help of a consultant, the Church moved to retain Mr. Glen Hancock, a Charleston architect who had worked on the previous building plans. He was retained and moved forward with the first steps toward what will become, with God’s help, a new Village Chapel!

March 27, 1960. To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Village Chapel, charter members names were posted on the wall at the entrance to the sanctuary. Some of the 40 members listed on the cradle roll 10 years earlier were recognized at the evening service. The current Minister, Rev. James R. Kennedy and two past pastors Rev. J. Moody McNair and Dr. Hugh F. Ash, participated as well as Dr. George Vick of First Presby. A 7:30 evening service was held and followed by a reception and displays of the Church’s organization. Village Chapel’s four choirs sang at the evening event.

June 5-9, 1960. A day camp was held at Coonskin Park for thirty-four children, grades 4 through 6. Emphasis of the camp was placed on teaching Christian Stewardship in all of life, and God at Work in His World.

An article in the **June 1960** Kanawha Presbyterian notes that “The Village Chapel Church observed the Tenth Anniversary of its organization on March 27, 1960. The birthday program included a sermon by the Pastor, James R. Kennedy, and Dr. George H. Vick, Pastor of the First Church, Charleston, and greetings from the two former pastors, J. Moody McNair and Hugh F. Ash. The Church was organized on March 26, 1950, with 242 charter members. The membership is now 643 with a Sunday School enrollment of 550. Statistics for the first decade: 1,002 members received; \$90,583 given to benevolence; \$61,845 given to building; \$179,132 given to expenses.

Another article in the same publication indicates that the two sons of the new pastor were received as candidates for the ministry. James, Jr. was received by transfer from Greenbrier Presbytery, and David on examination. James is a rising senior at Union Seminary, having received the B.S. degree from Hampden Sydney College. David is a 1960 graduate of Davidson College and is entering Union Seminary, Richmond, in September. Kanawha Presbytery is happy to welcome these fine young men as future ministers of the Gospel.

The Church outgrew its original facilities within three or four years; even as a second story was added to the Sunday School unit. Adjacent residential property has been purchased for class and youth fellowship meetings. There are two identical morning services. The Church is making plans for an expansion building program. On June 5, 1960, a meeting of the congregation was held to hear the report of the Building Planning Committee and authorized the construction of a new sanctuary to the east of and right angles to the present sanctuary.

October 6, 1960, brought forth the announcement of a \$165,000 fund-raising campaign to add a new sanctuary to the present structure. The proposed sanctuary would seat 400 and provide three additional rooms – a parlor, kitchen, and choir room.

During **1960,** Village Chapel began “Intra-Congregational Visitation” in which one-half of the congregation called on the other half in their homes. This was a sincere effort to encourage people of the Church to become acquainted with one another and to call attention to events in the Church program.

December 1960. Reflections over 1960 indicated that as Village Chapel continues to grow, the Church environment continues to flourish. Women of the Church purchased a two-piece sectional, second-hand couch for the Church parlor. Kitchen supplies were donated through a kitchen shower within the circles. One of the members donated a large refrigerator for the kitchen.

July 1, 1961. Martha Shortridge joins Village as the Director of Christian Education (DCE). Miss Shortridge is a native of Welch, WV where her father, the late Rev. Roy Lee Shortridge, was pastor. She is a graduate of King College, Bristol, TN., and a 1961 graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond.

July 16, 1961. On this date, a Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the sanctuary addition was held at 10:40 a.m. in light rain. Following an Invocation and introductory remarks by the Pastor, Rev. James R. Kennedy, remarks by Mr. R. S. Wangelin, the Vice Chairman for the Building Committee, and Mr. R. G. Massey, Chairman for the Finance Committee, the pastor led the following “Litany for Groundbreaking”:

Minister: We break the earth upon this spot to build a structure made of wood and steel and stone; That we may bring to birth in hearts of men a temple to the living God above, whose inner spirit is the heart of love.

People: With hands of helpfulness and hearts of praise we break the earth and dedicate this spot, holding the faith our Christian forbearers held, with zealous spirits seeking mankind’s good, telling of Jesus who died upon the road.

Minister: We break this earth and dedicate this spot that one more unit of Christ’s Church may rise to foster worship and love of God, to serve the present age and mankind’s needs, and liberate the soul from human greed.

People: We break this earth to break the self-restraints that hold men back from giving each his best. We share this act and share Christ’s purposes, who died that men might truly come to be by faith, God’s Sons, and live eternally.

Minister: We break this earth with faith in the high goals of God's great kingdom meant for all mankind, with trust in God's great power to bring to pass what from afar with great desire we see – strong bonds that bind true community.

All: So, in Christ's name we break this crust of earth, that men may come to know God's way for them, that in a world still fraught with strife and woe Men may still work for brotherhood and peace and by Gods truth from sin may find release. Amen

This litany was followed by the Ground-Breaking, Doxology, Prayer, and Benediction. Construction of the new addition began the following day – **July 17th**.

December 1961. In the Annual Report for this year the Village Chapel music program was highlighted: Four choirs involving approximately 100 men, women, youth and children provide music for the services of worship and for the Christian training of our young people. The Chancel Choir, Mrs. Nina Brown, Director, provides musical leadership for the 11:00 service and, in addition, gave two special services in which "The Gallia" by Gounod and the "Story of Christmas" by Matthews were presented. The Youth Choir, Mrs. Mary Kennedy, Director, has provided the music for the 8:45 a.m. service throughout the year, and has assisted in the "Youth Sunday" services, Easter, and Christmas programs. The Junior Choir, Miss Martha Shortridge, Director, and the Cherub Choir, Mrs. Samir Shabb, Director, have both assisted in the services of the Church from time to time. "With only one service necessary when we move into the new sanctuary, it is our hope that the Session's Music Committee can make arrangements for the best and most effective use of each of our choirs."

December 1961. The Women of the Church collected a Birthday Offering for Belgian Congo, Taiwan, and Formosa which will provide literature for our Christian brothers and sisters in these faraway countries. The amount collected was \$45.32. Two circles sent Christmas gifts to children at Davis Stuart School. One circle took gifts to the sick at the House of Mercy Nursing Home and another circle mended clothing for the children in Union Mission's Children's Home.

The new sanctuary, kitchen, choir room and parlor were completed and occupied on Palm Sunday, **April 15th**. The new sanctuary seats 400, doubling the capacity of the original sanctuary capacity and negating the need for two worship services on Sunday mornings.

April 29, 1962. An article in the Sunday Gazette-Mail by Harold Riffe describes the new sanctuary as an "addition to existing facilities – the materialized conception of Glenn C. Hancock of Hancock & Moses, architects". The article indicates that the new sanctuary has "blended materials from many sources and utilized the inspired skills of many".

May 19, 1962. An article in the Charleston Daily Mail by Sol Padlibsky recounts how church officers voted on the china pattern to stock the Church's new dining facility – each

indicating the catalog number of his or her selection, along with the choice of wording to be used on the chinaware. The officers selected pattern No. 2 which “partially explains how Village Chapel’s new china arrived with the distinctive lettering: “Village Chapel Presbyterian No. 2.” Women of the Church spent countless hours with pumice removing the Presbyterian No. 2 from each piece of the dinnerware.

July 8, 1962. One year after the ground-breaking for the new facilities, a service of Dedication of the new sanctuary which cost \$165,000 to build and furnish marked another milestone for Village Chapel. The new sanctuary has a seating capacity of 400, doubling the capacity of the previous area. A soft green carpet, the Carolina pink Roman brick, the muted color of the woodwork all combine with the stained-glass windows on either side of a large gold cross on the front wall to provide a restful and worshipful atmosphere. The windows on the chancel wall were designed by Wayne Husted of the Blenko Glass Company in Milton, West Virginia, using chipped glass ranging in thickness from one and one-half to two inches, which catches and magnifies light from every source. The laminate beams of the sanctuary came from Arkansas. The red-oak pews were manufactured in North Carolina but the wood in them grew out of West Virginia soil. In the Village Chapel sanctuary there is visible evidence of inspiration. We know that it is inspired for the simple reason that it inspires. It elevates. It exalts. It lifts one up. To enter this beautiful structure, in short, is to have a spiritual experience.

In addition to the modern and spacious air-conditioned sanctuary, there will be a commodious kitchen, a beautifully decorated parlor, and a choir robing room. The previous sanctuary will become the Fellowship Hall.

With the opening of the new facilities, a number of memorials and special gifts were made to beautify and further enhance the Church including:

Stained Glass Windows – In memory of Dr. Ben F. Brugh given by Mrs. Langdon G. Morris and her mother, Mrs. Ben F. Brugh

Gold-Leafed Cross – Given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Jarrett, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wendell, and Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Gardner by Miss Mary Sue Jarrett

Pulpit – In memory of Edgar M. Thomas given by Mr. and Mrs. John F. Suter

Communion Table – In memory of Dr. C. A. Raymond, D.D. given by Mr. and Mrs. William T. Graham

Brass Table Cross – In memory of William K. Grizzell given by William K. Grizzell, Jr.

Parlor Furnishings – Given by an anonymous family of Village Chapel

Organ Fund (\$2000) – Given by an anonymous donor.

Kitchen Cabinets – Given by Mr. and Mrs. C. Russell Lewis

Kitchen Equipment – Given by the Women of the Church

Labor to install parlor and kitchen donations – Provided by J. W. Arthur, J. B. Dilger, J. S. Soto and others.

A COMPARISON OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING (1950) with the NEW FACILITY (1962)

Seating Capacity	160	400
Choir Capacity	20	36
Dining Capacity	100	250
Sunday School Capacity	350	450
Total Value	\$65,000	\$275,000

The dedication of the new sanctuary highlighted the year of 1962. This achievement came about under the guidance of our Minister, Mr. James R. Kennedy, whose unceasing devotion to God has been a source of inspiration to all. It is our hope and prayer that we of Village Chapel, with thankful hearts, will grow spiritually and dedicate ourselves to greater service.

December 1962. In addition to the dedication of the new facilities at Village the historical summary for this year included a variety of activities that highlighted the year. On Youth Sunday four of our senior high students led the Worship Service. An Intra-Congregational Visitation was held on April 1st and each family in the Congregation either made or received a visit during this afternoon. During Holy Week special services included sermons by the Reverends McNeill, Lyles, Smith and Thurston. A Maundy Thursday Communion Service was held, at which time the communicants class and new members were received into the church. Two services were conducted on Easter morning, the first being preceded by breakfast for the college, senior high and Pioneer students. A Thanksgiving Service was held on Thanksgiving morning, and the youth and children's choirs sang. A "Deck the Hall" program for Pioneer and Senior High students consisting of dinner and decorating the Fellowship Hall and Christmas tree. On **December 22**, the youth groups went caroling and on Christmas Eve, the Church celebrated Holy Communion.

December 1963. The budget for this year reflected an income of \$43,016.23 with total disbursements of \$41,881.63 including \$9,112.43 for benevolences. For this year, the minister's salary was \$7,080.00 with additional payments for an annuity (\$610.71), manse mortgage (\$1,154.76), manse utilities (\$500.00), and a car allowance (\$300). The Director of Christian Education received a salary of \$3,575 and the church secretary was paid \$949.50. The Director of Music received \$770, and the Organist received \$660. The Treasurer for this year was Jule Sockman.

June 1, 1964. Our Minister, James Kennedy, was presented with an honorary degree, the Doctor of Divinity, by Davis and Elkins College. Also in June, our new Director of Christian Education, Miss Jeanne Gregory, began her work.

November 1964. A new organ was dedicated. The old organ (electric) was given to Bluestone Conference Center to be used in the new chapel at that facility.

December 1965. Church membership this year increased by 37 new members. The communicants class numbered 25. In addition, 20 infants were baptized. Five members were lost by death.

May 1966. The entire congregation at Village Chapel regretted losing the Edward Chevalier Cork (E. C. Cork) family, who left to make their home in Marietta, Georgia. This family has been very involved in the formation and continued success of our Church. Mrs. Thelma Cork was presented a lifetime membership in the Women of the Church, the first such presentation made by this group, in grateful and loving recognition of her many services in the organization. Mr. and Mrs. Cork were among the organizers of Village Chapel in the 1940s, and both of them have been important in the life of the Church. Mr. Cork served as Deacon and Elder, a Trustee, and served the church several years as Treasurer. Thelma was chair of several bazaars held early in the Church's history, so successfully that the Women of the Church organization has always been financially solvent. She served as Historian, Vice-President, a Circle Chair many times, and recently has been in complete charge of the kitchen activities for the church. She has not only served her church long and well but has worked with many civic groups and engages in several hobbies including sewing, knitting, and bridge. The Corks have six children: Susan, Benjamin, Mary-Louise, Catherine, Harriet, and Andrew. In losing the Cork family to another location, we at Village Chapel wish the record to show that we will find their place in our church and in our hearts impossible to fill.

June 19, 1966. A new lectern was dedicated at the morning Worship service on this date. This treasure was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Jarrett and Miss Mary Sue Jarrett in memory of Miss Georgia Wendell who died on December 7, 1965. The Church is very grateful to the Jarrett family for this gift, which now completes the furnishing of our chancel, and to Mr. Friend C. Cochrane for giving of his time and skill in installing it. Bookmarkers for the lectern, matching the pulpit scarves, were a gift provided by Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Mason.

December 1966. Congratulations are extended to our staff member, Mrs. Madeline Pleasant, whose son Brent, was named one of two finalists from Kanawha County in the National Achievement Scholarship program. Finalists receive a four-year scholarship to the college of their choice. Mrs. Pleasant is one of our long-term and faithful caretakers.

Another wonderful achievement of **1966** was that the Women of the Church compiled and published a cookbook which was sold to raise money for a much-needed dishwasher. "As a result of the cookbook sales, we now have \$490 in our fund!"

In **1967** a notable addition to the activities of the Women's Circles was to take a bouquet of flowers to a sick member of the church each Sunday. The flowers were donated by members of the Church and the card which accompanied the flowers read:

These Flowers
Have been in the sanctuary of
Village Chapel Presbyterian Church.
They have heard the hymns which have been sung,
the prayers which have been offered, the sermons
which our pastor preached. Now they come to You
with their message of our love, our concern
and our prayers for you, saying
GOD BLESS YOU!

At the time of their Infant Baptism, a similar card was presented to the parents of the child along with a fresh flower with the suggestion that the parent press the flower and frame it along with the Baptismal Record, with the hope of making it a very special occasion in the child's life.

January 1968. A letter to parents of kindergarten students described some very fun and interesting activities the children have participated in over the year including stringing popcorn with raisins and suet for the birds to have a treat. The children learned about illnesses by playing doctor and nurse. They also went "Krogering" to learn about how meat is cut and packaged and where fresh produce is kept prolonging freshness. Following this activity, the children developed a grocery store in their classroom and made clay vegetables and fruits. They also made paper billfolds and pocketbooks and learned the value of different bills and coins.

January 20, 1968. The Charleston City Parks and Recreation Department began having "Teen Canteens" each Saturday evening, 7:30 – 10:00 in our Fellowship Hall. This was a community effort to provide recreation for the young people in the Kanawha City area.

March 3, 1968. The white pennant stoles, first worn by the Chancel Choir members on this date, were a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur J. Mason, given as a memorial to Margaret L. Grose for her inspiration in the music of Village Chapel.

The Session accepted with genuine appreciation the offer of the family of Frank P. Jarrett and his friends to install stained glass windows in the south wall over the main entrance to the narthex and sanctuary, as a memorial to Mr. Jarrett, who served faithfully as a deacon from April 1, 1964, until his death on February 26, 1968. A service of dedication was held for the windows on **May 4, 1969.**

June 23, 1968. Rev. James F. Kennedy resigned as pastor effective July 31st to accept a call from the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in Fort Defiance, Virginia, effective August 1st. The congregation and friends of Village Chapel were invited to attend a farewell reception honoring the Rev. Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy in the Fellowship Hall.

In the **fall of 1968**, a study clinic was set up as a pilot project at Village Chapel. Those interested in participating were organized by Mrs. H. S. Graham who served as the coordinator for volunteers. This effort was expanded when a city-owned building was donated for the purpose of supervising and encouraging study for elementary, junior and senior high students. The hope was that students needing assistance with their studies would seek out the clinic.

Following Rev. Kennedy's resignation, the Church was without a minister for nearly four months. On **November 10, 1968**, a congregational meeting was held and the congregation voted to call Mr. Conrad G. Crow as minister. Rev. Crow accepted Village Chapel's call as of November 19, 1968. Mr. Crow is a native of Mullins, WV. Prior to becoming a minister, Mr. Crow was an electrical engineer. He received his Bachelor of Science and engineering degrees from Auburn University. After working two years with General Electric, he entered Louisville Theological Seminary and received the Master of Theology degree from that institution in 1963. During his seminary experience, he was the pastor of the Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY, later accepting a call to the Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church.

To accommodate the new minister and his family, the manse which had been purchased in 1952 and located at 3822 Noyes Avenue was sold and a new manse located at 4705 Noyes Avenue was purchased.

On **December 15, 1968**, Rev. Conrad G. Crow delivered his first sermon at Village Chapel entitled, "What's a Preacher to Do?" Mr. Crow comes to Village Chapel with his wife Carolyn, and three children, Terri Lynn, Marshall and Charles. Following the service, a reception was held in the Fellowship Hall to welcome the Crow family.

In addition to those mentioned previously in **1968**, several memorials were gifted to the church, including a silver tea service in honor of Mrs. Herbert Tully presented by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schwender. A silver chalice and flagon in memory of Mr. Harry Martin Silling was given by Mrs. Paul King and youth choir robes in memory of Dr. Thomas Mayne were given by Mrs. Mayne.

February 23, 1969. The installation of Rev. Conrad G. Crow was celebrated at a 5:00 p.m. service. Invocation and Welcome were presented by Dr. Walter White, Scripture read by Mrs. Elmer (Polly) Dodson, the Sermon by the Rev. Stewart Lawrence, Installation Prayer by Dr. Jack Martin, Charge to the Pastor by Mr. Harold Miller, Charge to the Congregation by the Rev. Percy Hagan, and the Benediction done by Mr. Crow. Following the service, members of the congregation were invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall to meet Village Chapel's fourth minister, the Rev. Conrad Crow and his family.