

Chapel have already raised over \$15,000. They confidently expect to meet, over the years, their obligation for \$20,000 more. Expensive—perhaps but look at the value! Ask anyone who has had a part and see the joy which has followed!

The new church, erected and furnished at a cost of \$75,000, had a membership of 239 at the time of its dedication and was pastored by Dr. McNair, who instituted and supervised the building of the edifice as an outpost of First Church. It was the fourth to be built under his supervision – the others being Elk Hills, Walnut Valley, and South Park Presbyterian churches. The original Village Chapel structure was comprised of a one-story building with a basement which would provide facilities for offices, meeting rooms, and Sunday School. A larger area to serve as the church sanctuary (now the Fellowship Hall) was connected to the previous structure. The total budget for the church for 1950-51 was \$10,614.50 with \$4,000 designated as the pastor's salary. Budget data for 1951-52 included \$4,000 for the pastor's salary, \$1,440 for rental of a manse, a pastor's annuity of \$388, and an auto allowance of \$300!

VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 1950s

The policy of the First Presbyterian Church was to encourage its outpost missions to organize as soon as it was practical to do so. Therefore, Village Chapel, with the sanction of the First Church, petitioned the Presbytery to complete the organization of the proposed church and on **March 26, 1950**, was formally recognized as a Church. On this glorious occasion the membership was 242 and the new Church, designated officially as Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, had the distinction of being the largest Church ever organized in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

The first meeting of the Church Session was held on **March 28, 1950**. At this meeting, it was decided to hold the charter membership open until **April 23, 1950**. A meeting of the congregation was held to decide on the official name of the Church and "Village Chapel – Presbyterian" was officially adopted. The charter membership of the Church was closed with a membership of 276. A budget of \$10,514.50 was adopted for the first year, **1950-1951**. Receipts that year came to \$19,000, an amount well over the budgeted amount!

A Pulpit Committee comprised of seven individuals including Mr. Fred Work, Chairman, Miss Susan Cork, Mrs. John Mendenhall, Mrs. Julia Martin, Mr. P.J. Moore, Mr. Donald Pitzer and Mr. Joseph Soto recommended to the congregation that Reverend J. Moody McNair be called to become the first minister for Village Chapel. This received unanimous approval. The Pulpit Committee was authorized to issue a call to Dr. McNair, who accepted the call on **June 1, 1950**. Prior to this time, Davis and Elkins College conferred a doctoral degree upon him so he could be referred to as Dr. McNair.

Shortly after the formation of Village Chapel, The Kanawa Knews, Official Bulletin of the Women of the Church of Kanawha Presbytery, Synod of West Virginia announced: CONGRATULATIONS! It is with real joy that we welcome the Women of the Church of the

Kanawha Village Chapel. They organized with eight circles and already show evidence of growth. In July of the initial year, the Men of the Church received a charter from the Presbytery, Synod, and Assembly.

The first elders of the new church were Mr. Payne Brown, Mr. John C. Arter, Mr. Joseph Soto, Mr. Edward Cork, Mr. Kenneth Wrenn, and Mr. Friend C. Cochran. Mr. Cochran was elected as the first clerk, thus completing the first Village Chapel Session. The first Board of Deacons was comprised of Mr. LeRoy Osborn, Chairman, Mr. Joe F. Burdette, Mr. Donald Cork, Mr. Elmer Dodson, Mr. Harold Litton, Mr. Robert G. Massey, Mr. John r. Mendenhall, Mr. Donald Pitzer and Mr. Fred Wiseman. Three trustees, Mr. LeRoy Osborn, Mr. Donald Cork, and Mr. Fred Work, were elected to receive the church property from the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church.

On **September 10, 1950**, Dr. J. Moody McNair was formally installed as the first Pastor by a Commission of the Presbytery composed of Dr. George H. Vick, Chairman, Rev. D. H. Goshorn, Rev. R. W. Kirkpatrick, Elder Charles M. Love and Elder E. K. Perrow. At this service the Scripture was read by Elder Love; the sermon delivered by Dr. Vick; the installation prayer was offered by Elder Perrow; the charge to the Pastor was given by Rev. Kirkpatrick; the charge to the congregation was given by Rev. Goshorn and the benediction was pronounced by Dr. McNair. Music for the service included the hymns--Savior Breathe an Evening Blessing and Lead on O King Eternal. A violin solo of the Lord's Prayer was played by Mrs. William L. McCarty.

Following the service, a reception in honor of Dr. and Mrs. McNair was held in the church basement. The guests included members of the sessions and their wives from other Presbyterian Churches in Charleston. Mr. and Mrs. John Mendenhall introduced the guests to the receiving line which included Dr. and Mrs. McNair and members of the session and their wives. (Kanawha Presbytery, History of the Village Chapel – Presbyterian)

The congregation met on **October 15, 1950** to accept a deed from trustees of the First Presbyterian Church to the Village Presbyterian Church property, subject to the lien indebtedness of the Charleston National Bank in the amount of \$14,000 and to borrow on behalf of Village Chapel Church, the sum of \$14,000 for the purpose of discharging the lien . . . a debt payable to Charleston National bank in 120 monthly installments of \$141.74 each. (Village Chapel Presbyterian Church. History At-A-Glance, 1948-1978, p. 4, 1948-57)

Also, in **October of 1950**, pews for the first sanctuary were ordered from the Southern Desk Company of Hickory, North Carolina at a cost of \$3,140. These were received and installed in **January 1951**.

In a letter describing her "Recollections of Village Chapel" the daughter of Dr. McNair, Alicia Kay McNair Holloman wrote:

I remember there were only two older couples in the church as members. Most of the members were young families with one to six children. About the time my sister and I would have been in college, we were told that there were approximately 90 kids from Village Chapel in college.

I believe that at one point, early on in the church, they had a shooting range in the basement and the church sponsored both adult and youth rifle teams.

I also remember that one of the Village Chapel members was a state official whose office, among other things, was responsible for arranging for the execution of death row inmates. The night before an execution, he would come over to the house, and he and our father (Reverend McNair) would go down to the basement for prayer.

The young Church continued to flourish and by **April 1, 1951**, the membership had grown to 359 with a Sunday School enrollment of 457! In **1950**, Mary Hague, with the support of Dr. McNair, opened a kindergarten for 26 children in her home. The next year it was moved to the basement of the Church. Tuition for the kindergarten was \$15.00 per month. The curriculum for this program was described as “Play with a Purpose – Let the child learn by doing”. In addition to Mrs. Hague, teachers over the years included Betty Arthur, Nadine Black, Sharon Callard, Phyllis Livesay, “Bitsy” Preston, Barbara Richardson, Helen Settle, Ruth Snyder, Pricilla Soto, Mary-Francis Taylor, and Francis Van Cleve. This program provided quality pre-school education for hundreds of Kanawha Valley children until the spring of **1988**.

In its initial year, the Church sponsored two Girl Scout troops, Brownies, Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Troop 98 was officially chartered.

During this first year of the Church, a permanent choir of approximately twelve members was established. Two organists gave of their services without remuneration providing music for Sunday morning services and all special occasions. A third organist provided music for the Sunday evening services. Material was purchased and through the efforts of Mrs. Gertrude White, robes were made for everyone involved in the music program.

A piano was purchased for the Sunday school in **June 1951**, and another was given by Mr. Donald Cork. This made a total of four pianos, a portable organ and the main Church organ. These instruments were kept tuned and well maintained throughout the year. To provide for diversity of hymns for Sunday School, prayer meetings, and other activities, one hundred hymn books were obtained through efforts of the Music Committee and the Choir Director, Mrs. Elton Brown. (History, the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, 1950-1960)

Other additions made outside the fledgling Church included painting the front part of the building with paint donated by John Arter, the back alley was paved, a sewer was put in by Lawson's and Kroger at the cost of \$1,000, the Church side walk was paved on 39th street from Venable to the alley, and a Church sign, made by Jim Arthur, was installed on the lawn.

Rally Day and Promotion Day were combined on **September 30, 1951**, with 334 in attendance and a total offering of \$91.51. Not including the Cradle Roll, the Church enrollment was 539. The average attendance for Sunday School was officially listed as 227 with 23 teachers.

November 15, 1951. The original Church building consisted of a sanctuary, now the Fellowship Hall, and a one-story Education Building that had a usable basement that included a kitchen, and multiple Sunday school rooms. The first sanctuary was designed and built in such a manner that an additional thirty feet could be added to the sanctuary and another floor to the Sunday School as the need arose and funds became available. To raise funds to build the next story on the Sunday School building, the Church voted to tithe for the months of October, November and December. During this period a close friend of the Church offered a challenge fund of \$7,500 on December 16, “if we (the Church) would meet the challenge by January 1, 1952”. The grand climax of the “tithing venture” was December 23rd, the Sunday before Christmas. As the offering was taken by the ushers and they had passed the offering plates to about half the congregation, the plates were filled with bills of almost every denomination and checks in abundance. As a result, the plates were brought forward and emptied, and the other half of the congregation filled them again! The offering for the morning service was \$3756.00. At this same service the Women of the Church presented a check for \$240. The kindergarten a check for \$500. In addition to these donations, a bazaar was held on November 15th in the Church basement. The sale featured homemade aprons, jewelry, clothing, cookies, toys, pies, cakes, candles, Christmas cards, and wrappings. At noon, and again at dinner hour, hamburgers, hot dogs, cookies, coffee and soft drinks were sold. The gross sales came to \$989.38 and after expenses were deducted \$860.00 remained to be added to the challenge fund. Another friend of the Church gave a check for \$1,000 saying he believed in our future and in the work, we were seeking to do for Christ and wanted to be a part of that great work. “Needless to say, we met our January 1st deadline challenge with \$15,300 toward the building expansion fund!” At a congregational meeting on **March 23, 1952**, the authorization to use \$15,207 to construct the addition was approved.

In **April of 1952**, construction of a second floor to the Sunday School building was begun at a cost of \$15,207 with completion projected for July 1st. At about the same time, the Manse Committee proposed the purchase of a six-room house at 3822 Noyes Avenue. This property was purchased at a cost of \$21,000 and was first occupied by the McNair family in **Spring 1952**.

A photograph found in the historical items related to Village Chapel in **1952** identifies a gentleman named Harry Parsons as the Organist for Village Chapel but does not provide any information regarding Mr. Parsons.

In **December 1952**, an “amusing incident reflective of this years’ work” was the response to an offer made by elder John Arter, affectionately known by the membership as “Uncle John” to give each child through the Junior Department, a silver dollar if they had a

perfect attendance at Sunday School for the four months of September, October, November and December. Much to everyone's surprise and most of all to "Uncle John," fifty-five silver dollars were passed out to the children at the Vesper Christmas Sunday

Another interesting note in **1952** indicates that "one of the members of Circle #2 lives in Widen which is in a state of conflict at the present. This necessitates a police escort for her when she comes to circle meetings. The police escort her in and out of Widen. She brings a visitor, a doctor's wife."

It is also interesting to note that another circle member who was "stricken with polio a few summers back" is being sent a magazine from the circle members. She can walk very little using a cane and braces, so she uses a wheelchair most of the time. This lady was very active in the nursery group of the Sunday School prior to her bout with polio.

1952 -1953. A Word from the Pastor:

This has been another good year in the history of the Village Chapel. The last Sunday in March will be another milestone in the life of our Church. We are planning an open house on that day in celebration of our third birthday. We feel that we can take pardonable pride in the fact that we have more than doubled our membership in that length of time. This has been a good year for several reasons which we will list in the following manner:

1. During the current year the third floor to our Sunday School building has been completed and is now in use. This provided us with much-needed space to take care of our increasing Sunday School enrollment.
2. The Village Chapel purchased a manse (3822 Noyes Avenue) for its Pastor and his family, thereby providing a permanent residence for future years.
3. One of the most encouraging things of the present year has been the youth of our Church. We have two groups, the Seniors and the Pioneers. These groups meet every Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. with good attendance and splendid programs at each meeting. The Senior group has been led by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cork and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Boggs. The Pioneer group is led by Mr. and Mrs. James Woodson and Mrs. Wilbur Mason.
4. The Men of the Church have met regularly with an interesting program arranged for each meeting.
5. The Women of the Church are always a joy to any pastor's heart. Our women, we feel, have done and are doing a great job in the whole life of the church. Their work and interest speak for itself.

6. As has been the custom of our Church, we had during the present year a Visitation Evangelism Campaign, which as always was very successful in securing additions to our Church.

The Pastor has been very busy in the past year. It so happens that Dr. McNair likes to visit. He has had plenty of opportunities to do this, because the present year has had more sickness in its membership than in ordinary years. He has also contacted all new people moving into our community and urged them to find a church home and a pastor.

During 1952, the Women of the Church held memorial services for two of their members who died during the year. As part of recognition for these ladies, a white rose was sent to their families along with a copy of the poem, "The Rose Still Blooms Beyond the Wall", written by A. L. Frink.

Last, but not least, Village Chapel has carried its share of giving to the overall work of our Church throughout the world. This year our benevolent gifts will be more than \$6500, which has done great things for us, whereof we are glad. We follow His will in all things and are grateful for His many blessings to us.

Rev. J. M. McNair, D. D.

Another blessing--Miss Kathryn Hickman (later Kathryn McCrary), a Malden native and graduate of Queens College, a Presbyterian College in Charlotte, North Carolina, was employed in **June 1953** as the first Director of Christian Education. Over the years Kathryn was not only a Village Chapel member but assisted with the music of the church, worked in Christian Education, served on the Session, and was very involved with the Presbytery.

On **January 12, 1954**. Dr. McNair left Village Chapel to accept a call to the First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, Florida.

During the summer months of **1954** when the Church was without a minister, Mr. and Mrs. Payne Brown promoted the idea to have various parties at the Church and picnic outings for the adults, in order "to keep in contact with each other and the spirit of fellowship 'warm' until the fall starts and we will have a new minister".

November 1, 1954. After nine and one-half months without a minister, Dr. McNair's successor, the Rev. Hugh F. Ash, began his duties as Minister of Village Chapel. Prior to coming to Charleston, The Rev. Ash served as an Army Chaplain with the Airborne Unit at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and was described as a "crack pistol shot, university instructor, and television photographer". He had been at Fort Campbell for 43 months of service and made 68 parachute jumps with the men for whom he served as their chaplain. A graduate of King College in Bristol, Tennessee and Princeton Theological Seminary, he served as Captain of the Fort Campbell Pistol Team.

The following message from Rev. Ash was printed in the **November 7** bulletin:

The Ash family brings greetings to you. Before us are the doors of opportunity which we either push open or attempt to circumvent. Let's open them—and in opening them this church will find joy which otherwise would be lost. Around us is this lovely community, the most important part of which is the people. People, who live and love, who hope and have deep longings, who are disappointed and lonely, who hate and despise, who sorrow, who worry. And for all of these, and ourselves, we must discover that life is really for and how we can really live so as to get the most out of it. That's what we are going to do. The Ashes are most pleased to be with you more than you will ever know. Our home is open to you, and we want you to visit us. We want to know when you have problems and when you feel you need to talk to someone. Every church member should consider himself to be a "Committee" responsible for letting your Pastor know when there is an illness or any emergency—no matter what time of day or night. Together we will live, and together we will grow, and together we will know the deepest experiences of the soul and the highest experiences of the self.

November 21, 1954. The Installation Service of Rev. Hugh Fredrick Ash included music by Miss Kathryn A. Hickman (McCrary), organist; sermon by the Rev. George H. Vick of the First Presbyterian Church; Charge to the Pastor by Elder Charles M. Love of First Presbyterian Church; and the Charge to the Congregation by Elder Meredith Parry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The Choir Director for this service was noted as Mrs. Nina H. Brown. Rev. Ash was accompanied by his wife, Helen, and teen-age daughter, Brita.

Under Dr. Ash, Village Chapel continued to grow and soon there was need for two worship services on Sunday mornings, one at 9:00 and the second at 11:00. At the same time, the Sunday School was "bursting at the seams" and to alleviate crowded conditions, the property adjacent to the Church at 3810 Venable Avenue was purchased to be used as additional Sunday School rooms until such time as a more expansive building program could be undertaken. From the first meeting of those 47 people interested in organizing the Church in 1946, the Church membership had grown to 612 with a Church School attendance average of 360.

Under Rev. Ash's tenure, Village Chapel became a social hub for the surrounding community. Early in its development, it served as a meeting place for many organizations. In the mid-50s Village sponsored four Girl Scout troops, two Boy Scout troops and a Cub Scout pack (three dens). The Church sponsored boy's baseball and basketball teams, girl's tennis teams and a rifle team for teenage boys.

The women of the Church had nine circles meeting monthly with a joint monthly luncheon and program. The men of the Church held a monthly dinner meeting. The Church kindergarten was conducted five days a week with sixty-one children enrolled and four teachers. Music for the growing Church was provided by the Chancel Choir and the Junior Choir. Nursery facilities were provided in three groups on Sunday mornings with extended church school sessions for six, seven and eight-year-old children.

An important addition to the Church during **1954** was the Nelle R. Dodson Memorial Library, established to honor the mother of Elmer Dodson who donated \$500 to fund this project. With the assistance of Ms. Lucy Steele, a noted Church Educator, Elmer and Polly Dodson were able to duplicate the collection held by Ms. Steele's home church, the First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, North Carolina. The library offers a very fine collection of Christian literature. With the death of Mr. Dodson in 1982, the library was renamed the Dodson Memorial Library and memorial funds were used to enlarge the holdings. The collection includes about 2,500 books and serves as a research library for the Church.

May 1955. Volume 1, No. 1 of what was to become the "Villager" was published by the Senior High Fellowship under the title of "You Name It". This first edition contained a request for HELP! In naming the newsletter, announced new officers, provided information about vacation church school, a women's Bible study, men of the church dinners and the names of forty-eight new members welcomed since the beginning of the year. It provided information about the Church tennis team and the boy's baseball team. It contained the announcement that anyone needing a babysitter so they could attend church functions could contact an individual to make arrangements for babysitting. Calvin, the "Church Mouse" was introduced in this edition. Calvin has a "lovely home behind the organ sound box" and encourages Villagers to use the library! Lastly, the publication included a monthly calendar. Mrs. Thomas B. Carmichael was announced as the winner of the "You-Name-It Contest" and as a result, the Church publication will hence forward be known as the "The Villager".

In **July 1955** the kindergarten rooms were redecorated. Teachers painted the furniture and new curtains and rugs were made and/or purchased. New books and records and large wooden farm animals and wooden figures of the Nativity were purchased. In addition to birthday parties, Halloween and Christmas parties, the children made two trips in the spring of 1955. At the conclusion of their "farm unit" they toured the local Valley Bell Dairy on the west side of Charleston and were treated to ice cream and chocolate milk after the tour. At the conclusion of a "unit on wheat", the children toured the Conlon Bakery in Kanawha City (located where City National Bank is today). The children enjoyed the tour very much and were treated with hot rolls from the bakery afterwards. As a result, "plans are being formulated for spring trips to the Coca-Cola Plant and a train trip to St. Albans".

At this time in the early Church, the youth activities were extensive and varied. These included a Senior-High Fellowship (no membership number noted); Pioneer Fellowship for high school students (50 members); Boy Scout Troop #98 (32 members); Explorer Post #98 (9 members); Cub Scouts (35 members); Girl Scout Troop #89 (14 members); Girl Scout Troop #83 (16 members); Girl Scout Troop #54 (18 members); Brownie Troop (12 members); Intermediate Troop #256 (11 members); Boy's Rifle Team (6 members); Baseball Team (18 players). The Baseball Team won the area Championship for **1955**.

March 1956. A copy of The Villager indicates the Church's desire to purchase the house next door to expand Sunday School facilities. An Easter "Love Offering" which in previous years had been dedicated to welfare services was instead contributed to this effort with the exception of \$50 to be used for overseas relief. The remainder of the Easter offering was put toward purchasing the house which will make five rooms, a full basement, and an unfinished attic available for various uses. This edition of The Villager also recognized thirty-five young people who had completed the communicants' class and were received into the Church. An announcement regarding Easter Sunday indicated there would be services at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00.

April 24-25, 1956. For the first time, the Kanawha Presbytery met at Village Chapel with overnight lodging provided. Luncheon and dinner on Tuesday and a luncheon on Wednesday were served by three of the women's circles. The speaker at the evening session on Tuesday was Dr. Marshall C. Dendy, Executive Secretary of the Board of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church, U. S.

April 28, 1956. Sixty-seven four and five-year-old students of Village Chapel kindergarten made a train trip to St. Albans. Most wore engineers' caps they had made from paper bags and bandanas around their necks. The railroad presented them with buttons at the station. They spent most of the ride exploring ashtrays, window shades and reclining chairs, trying the water fountain, and squealing with delight. They returned home by automobile after experiencing a really different learning experience!

On **September 4, 1957**, a "Going to College Supper" celebrated the beginning of the 1957 college year for 40 Village Chapel students going off to college that fall. Colleges and the number of students attending included: Marshall (2), Davis & Elkins (1), Potomac State (2), Concord (2), WVU (9), Morris Harvey (2), Queens (1), King (1), Virginia Intermont (1), Miami of Ohio (1), Miami University (2), Penn State (1), University of Cincinnati (2), VPI (4), Mary Washington (2), Purdue (2), Fork Union Military Academy (1), University of Alabama (1), Hampton-Sydney (1), Florida State (1), and Hollins (1). The menu included "Long Bobs", scalloped potatoes, tossed salad, iced tea and pie and was followed with a service which offered Grace (Mr. Ash), Welcome (Mrs. McCrary), Words of Wisdom (Mr. Brown and Mr. Ash), and a Service of Worship (Tom Mayne, Mr. Ash, and Linda Soto).

Mrs. Hazel Dunn, a graduate of the music school of Ohio University, came to Village Chapel in **January 1957** to assume the duties of organist, and a beautiful new pulpit Bible was presented to the church by an anonymous donor.

The year **1957** saw Village Chapel continue to grow in membership. Also in this year, a Memorial Calendar system for providing flowers for the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship was inaugurated.

On **February 15, 1959**, Dr. Hugh Ash accepted a call to go to the DeLand, Florida Presbyterian Church.

July 20, 1959. An article in the Charleston Daily Mail announced that “the Rev. James R. Kennedy has accepted a call to the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, 39th Street and Venable Avenue, effective Sept. 1. Members of the Hinton Presbyterian Church, where he has served as minister for some time, approved Mr. Kennedy’s change after Greenbrier and Kanawha Presbyteries earlier had approved his transfer. Rev. Kennedy succeeds the Rev. Hugh F. Ash who left the church in January to accept a pastorate at DeLand, Florida.

The 49-year-old minister, James R. Kennedy, a native of Chester, S.C., held pastorates at Spartanburg, South Carolina and Whiteville, North Carolina. He has taken courses from Union Theological Seminary in New York. His wife, Mary, is originally from Shepherdstown, WV. Father of four, his two sons are now preparing for the ministry. Renick Kennedy is a theological student at Union in Richmond, while David is a pre-ministerial student at Davidson College, Davidson, South Carolina. A daughter, Mrs. Julius W. Melton, Jr. is with her husband in Geneva, Switzerland, where he is a student at Geneva University. Another daughter, Rebekah, will enter junior high school this fall in Charleston. In addition to serving on several committees in the Greenbrier Presbytery, Mr. Kennedy is chairman of the Council on Higher Learning for the West Virginia Synod, Presbyterian Church, U.S. A.

On September 6, 1959, Reverend Kennedy delivered his first sermon as the new Pastor of Village Chapel. Reverend Kennedy selected as his text, “A Face That Sustains.”

October 18, 1959. A service of installation was held for Rev. James Renwick Kennedy with a Commission of the Presbytery that included: Rev. R. W. Kirkpatrick, Assistant Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Rev. J. S. MacKorell, Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church and Rev. Joe B. Overmyer, Pastor at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Village Chapel Staff and Church Directory were included in the Bulletin:

THE CHURCH STAFF

Church Telephone – WA 5-7265
Minister, James R. Kennedy, 3822 Noyes Avenue (Manse)
Assistant to the Minister & Director of Youth Work, David B. Conley
Director of Children’s Work, Mrs. E. J. Hague
Secretary, Mrs. Paul M. King
Director of Music, Mrs. Elton Brown
Organist, Mrs. Wm. W. McCrary
Church Treasurer, Mr. Harry C. Huff
Caretaker, William B. Dadisman
Pastor’s Aide, Mrs. Harry C. Huff

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Clerk of the Session, Friend C. Cochran
Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Doyne B. Berlien
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).