

VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 1980s

An innovation announced in **January of 1980** was that all committees of the church be chaired by a Ruling Elder and all would meet on the same evening at the church (the fourth Wednesday of each month) to better report to the Session and to facilitate cooperation among committees.

A new community service was offered in **1980**. The sanctuary was opened to the public for meditation and prayer during the afternoon of Good Friday. This event was staffed by the Ruling Elders who distributed devotional materials to all who came.

On **Sunday, June 1, 1980**, the congregation of Village Chapel celebrated the 25th anniversary of Dr. Crow's ordination to the Gospel ministry. Dr. Crow was ordained by the Louisville Presbytery in June of 1955.

In grateful response to the gift given to him on this occasion (a pocket watch), Dr. Crow wrote the following letter which appeared in the Newsletter for **July, 1980**.

My Dear Friends,

Usually, I am not at a loss for words. But when Fred Wiseman strolled down the center aisle after worship on June 1st, and inquired about a congregational meeting, I was struck dumb. The aftermath of that, with the presentation to me of the beautiful pocket watch, was a joyful surprise. For those of you who were not present, it was a gift in recognition of the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the gospel ministry. More than eleven of those years have been spent in your midst, working with you to accomplish this ministry God has so graciously given us.

All the joys and sorrows, successes and failures, time of fellowship and sacred worship were caught up in that presentation. It represented for me, and I hope for you, the accumulation of time and energy which we have expended to bring the kingdom of God a mite closer. A watch is an excellent symbol of the gift of time which adds up to make our lives, and of that moment when seconds and minutes will give way to an eternity of fellowship with one another and with the Living God. Thank you.

Conrad

During the late summer of **1980**, when garden produce in home gardens was at its peak, the Church began "Share a Crop". Gardeners in the congregation brought their fruits and vegetables with them to church on Sunday. Following the service, members took what they could use and made contributions to the Hunger Program, thus sharing their food fortune with others throughout the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

We thank you for honoring by your presence, dear Lord, our efforts to seek you with all our hearts. Prepare the manger in each life here that Christ may be born anew. Accept our glad thanksgivings:

**for a faith that does not grow old or fade away,
for a Living Savior in whom we have life abundant
and eternal,
for brothers and sisters in Christ who gather to
be refreshed, strengthened, forgiven and sent
on our way rejoicing.
Our Father who art in heaven . . .**

Welcome and Enrollment of the Congregation

Please sign the card at the center aisle and pass to your neighbor. When all in the row have signed, please return to the center aisle, making note of the names of those you do not know, in order to greet them at the close of the service

The Children's Anthems "God is Here, God is Now"
"I Will Give Thanks"

Bela Bantok
Michael Jothen

The Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Richard and Karen Hopkins and their children, Jill and Jennifer

The Scripture Lessons

Isiah 55: 8-13, page 635 in the Pew Bible

Revelation 14, 1-3, page 1080

Choral Response: "Praise the Lord!" "The Lord's Name be Praised"

Luke 19, 37-40, page 913

The congregation will stand to read the Gospel Lesson in unison

The Dedication Sermon "The Song of Mountains the Praise of Stones"

Dr. Crow

Hymn No. 515 "God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand"

The Prayer for Others

The Offering of Gifts

Dedicatory Anthem "Glory and Worship Are Before Him"

G. F. Handl

The Doxology

THE DEDICATION

Presentation of the Organ Mr. Joe A. Hudson, for the Organ Committee
Acceptance of the Organ Dr. Conrad Crow, for the Congregation
Conferring of Appreciation Laura Ingram
Litany of Dedication "From Life to Life Eternal"

Baptism

Organist and Minister "Spirit divine, attend our prayers
 And make this house Thy home,
 Descend with all Thy gracious power
 O come, great Spirit, come!"

People We dedicate this organ to welcome babies in Christ into the household of faith. In company with its glorious sound, may we be faithful to our baptism and profession of faith, growing to the fullness of the stature of our Lord.

Worship

Organist and Minister "Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty
 the King of Creation
 O my soul praise him,
 For He is thy health and salvation.
 All ye who hear,
 Now to His temple draw near,
 Join me in glad adoration!"

People We dedicate this organ to assist us in the true worship of our Lord and Savior. In company with its glorious sound, may we gather on the Lord's Day to hear God's Word, sing God's praise and enlist in God's service.

Holy Communion

Organist and Minister Let us break bread together
 on our knees, on our knees.
 Let us break bread together
 on our knees, on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees
 with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me."

People We dedicate this organ to be the supper music at this sacramental table set for us by love. In company with its glorious sound, may our famished faith be fed with the Living Bread, and the empty reservoirs of hope be filled to overflowing.

Marriage

Organist and Minister “O perfect Love,
 All human love transcending.
 Lowly we kneel in prayer before Thy throne
 That theirs may be the love that knows no ending
 Whom Thou forevermore dost join in one.”

People **We dedicate this organ to the joining of this man and this woman in holy marriage. In company with its glorious sound, may love be pledged, families begun, and tears of happiness be offered for those who here become one flesh.**

The Life Everlasting

Anthem “For All the Saints” Arr. Dwight Elrich

People **We dedicate this organ, Lord, in certain hope of resurrection and the life of the world to come. In company with its glorious sound, let us sing the song of triumph. . . “Oh death, where is your victory? God be praised, the victory is ours in Jesus Christ!”**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Almighty God, graciously accept this organ which we have dedicated unto you, for the honor of your holy name. We praise you that, through music, we can express something of the glory we have seen, the victory we share, and the joy that we feel. Bless your people as they worship. As our offering of praise is enriched by the music of this organ, so may the Holy Spirit lift our song and spirits I living sacrifice to You, the God of all, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE “When in Our Music God is Glorified” C. V. Stanford

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Carillon de Westminster Louis Vierne

Recital of Dedication

William Watkins

Sunday, November 29, 1981

Four O'clock

Fantasia in F minor, K. 608	W. A. Mozart (1756 - 1791)
Ye Sweet Retreat	William Boyce (1710 - 1779)
Prelude and Fugue in D	J. S. Bach (1685 - 1750)
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven Hymn No. 31 (The congregation is requested to sing this hymn as Mr. Watkins plays)	Laude Anima
Cortege et Litanie	Marcel Dupre (1886 - 1971)
A Triptych of Fugues I. Lively with dash II. Slowly, expressively III. Broadly	Gerald Near
Two Settings of "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"	Ivan Langstroth (1887 - 1971) Johannes Brahms (1833 - 1897)
Carillon de Longpont	Louis Vierne (1870 - 1937)

You are cordially invited to a Reception in the Fellowship Hall, following the recital.

The Recitalist

William Watkins is Director of Music and Organist at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. He is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. While there, he studied under Virgil Fox and was awarded the Artist's Diploma. Prior to his present position, Mr. Watkins served two other Washington churches: the First Congregational Church and New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (at which Peter Marshall was the pastor.)

Mr. Watkins has toured extensively as a recitalist and is known as a successful teacher, many of his pupils having won competitions and scholarships. Our very own organist, Carolyn Perrine, is one of his students. Mr. Watkins is a native of Danville, Virginia.

The Organ

Our organ was built by the Reuter Organ Company located in Lawrence, Kansas. The company was started in 1917, and our instrument is opus 2026. It was specifically designed to meet the needs of our congregation and sanctuary. The organ is housed in an oak case finished to blend with the other sanctuary furnishings. The case serves several functions. It is an amplifier and resonator for the music produced by the twenty ranks, consisting of 1,198 pipes, provides protection for the pipes, and increases tuning ability. The two manual console is located on a movable platform to allow the greatest flexibility for services of worship, concerts, and recitals.

“Over the years Reuter has represented a middle ground of organ builders, neither too conservative for contemporary tastes, nor too Avant Garde for its customers. The primary concern is with building organs which are carefully designed and musically voiced to provide a flexible musical instrument (whether large or small) to meet the diverse requirements of the church service and organ literature. The company has kept abreast of many changes in organ design and building, and its instruments have in many instances contributed significantly to the development of the organ in America.”

ORGAN PLEDGES, MEMORIALS AND OTHER GIFTS*

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Andrews
Appalachian Power Company
Meter Department Employees
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Cartwright
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Mr. William E. Caudy
Charleston High School Class of 1933
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Chevalier
Mr. and Mrs. Fleming Chisholm
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Circle No. 2
Circle No. 3
Circle No. 4
Circle No. 5

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Mrs. Jean Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Barnett
Betty T. Bates
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Beanland
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Beatty
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berchtold
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Mrs. N. Doyle Boggs
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Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Brandt
Mrs. Walter H. Brandt
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brawley
Mr. and Mrs. Hal K. Broughton
Mrs. Clide Browder
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Brown
Mrs. Ellen S. Brown
Edward B. and Karen S. Broyles
Mrs. Ruby Burch
Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Burdett
Mrs. Joe F. Burdett
Mrs. William B. Cabell
Mrs. J. D. Cadle
Dr. and Mrs. B. L. Caldwell
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Miss Kelly Dills
Mr. George A. Dockham
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Mrs. Betty Cook
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Mrs. Joan Cousins
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Mr. R. L. Cozart
Mrs. J. M. Craigo
Mr. Richard B. Crofford
Dr. Conrad G. Crow
Mrs. Marshall G. Crow
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Curnutte
Mrs. Charles A. Curtis
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Mrs. Bruce Davis
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Dr. and Mrs. William L. Harris
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Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Hartley
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hartman, Jr.
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Mrs. Frances Hoffman
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Mr. and Mrs. Tom Holden

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Q. Gage
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Mr. Jeffrey Hague Girod
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grady
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Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hall
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Mr. and Mrs. Roy D. Koch
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Kruthoffer
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Kuhn, Jr.
Rose Kutcher
Mrs. A. W. Laing
Mr. and Mrs. LaFayette Lanier, IV
Mr. and Mrs. Ivar Larsen, Mary and Chris
Dr. and Mrs. William E. Lawton, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Leahy
Mr. and Mrs. Dean R. Leake

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Susan and Ross
Mrs. David A. Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Hudson
Mrs. Dorothy F. Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Hunter
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Mrs. Helen Hussey
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Mr. Charles T. Jones
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Miss E. Frances Jones
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Mrs. Jennette P. Joslin
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Miss Isabel Kimmel
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. King
Mrs. Carrie M. Minotti
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Mrs. Elizabeth Swats Martin
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Mrs. Gomer D. Smail
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Mrs. Dorcas Smith
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Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Smith
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Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Spalding
Mrs. Mary Hodge Spaulding
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Spella
Mr. Donald E. Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Troy Stallard, Jr.
Mrs. Peter Steenbergen
Mrs. Jay Stevens
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Stevens and Beth
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Stock
Miss Zella Stover
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Stowers
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Mr. and Mrs. J. Myron Sturgeon
Mr. and Mrs. W. Frank Sullivan
Mrs. F. R. Summerfield

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Tilson
Miss Nancy Tucker
Mr. Edgar Tullock
Mrs. Trudy Uhrig
Mr. and Mrs. L. Gilbert Vance
Mr. and Mrs. C. Byron Vaughan
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Vaughan
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Mrs. Stephen Voorhees
Mr. and Mrs. Gene T. Waggy
Mr. and Mrs. H. Jarrett Walker
Mr. Jack Weiss
Mrs. James H. West
Mr. and Mrs. Kermit O. West
Mrs. Irving C. Wildman
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Wilkins
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Williams
Mrs. Floretta Williams
Mrs. Greta Williams
Mrs. Charles A. Williamson
Mrs. J. E. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Winston
Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Wiseman
The Woman's Club of Charleston
Mrs. Charles A. Wood
Mrs. Ada e. Wooldridge
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Wrenn
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Wright
Mr. and Mrs. D. Wright
Mrs. James H. Yeager
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. York
Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Young

*This list essentially reflects Village Chapel membership in 1981

Other interesting tidbits gleaned from historical notes from **1981** include the following:

Village Chapel sponsored three basketball teams in the Charleston Recreational League in the winter of **1981**: Junior Midgets, Senior Midgets, and Senior Boys. Mike Jarrett and Bob King served as the coaches for these young men.

The Council of the Women of the Church of Greenbrier Presbytery challenged their sisters in local churches to collect during the months of November and December, two (2) cents per meal for each member of their family and turn this collection over to the church in January. This money was then donated to the Presbytery Hunger Fund. The Village Chapel Session agreed to this, and the women of Village Chapel began their collection in October of 1981. (This tradition continues to be carried on throughout the year with the entire congregation having opportunity to give the requested 2 cents per meal on the last Sunday of the month.)

Village Chapel was one of eighteen area churches engaged in an inner-city ministry involving the Manna Meal program, a food pantry, and a clothing closet, in addition to Covenant House – where “street people” can go to utilize facilities to wash their clothes, take a shower, and find a place to socialize and rest. This facility is open for several hours each day and is staffed largely with volunteers. Members of Village Chapel serve on the Council overseeing this ministry and several have volunteered to help in other ways. Food and clothing have been donated and two members of our church, Mr. and Mrs. James Kuhn, box and transport these donations to the downtown site.

The new organ was installed and dedicated as of the last Sunday in November **1980** and the first Sunday for the congregation to enjoy it was the first Sunday of Advent. The Christmas Program and dinner was held on December 20th and the warm-blooded members of the choir, and other members of the Church, serenaded the Kanawha City area with Christmas carols on **December 22nd**. That year, two services were held on Christmas Eve with a Family Service of Communion at 5:00 p.m. and the Candlelight Communion at 11:00 p.m.

1982 was to become a year of great change for Village Chapel; however, none of these changes were evident in January of that year when the congregation met to elect Elders on **January 17th**. Those elected to the Class of 1985 were: Sharon Curnutte, Gordon Jung, Marc Kramer, Bill Reichard, Charlotte Stallard, and Trippi Wisecup.

The Session, in their January meeting, approved a statistical report for the previous year (**1981**) showing that Village Chapel has 472 members; that it gave \$45,812 to benevolences in 1981; received \$130,000 in pledges; and \$67,314 toward the new pipe organ. The total contributions were \$206,314. The elected Elders were ordained and installed on **February 14th**.

On **April 1st**, the Church welcomed Mr. James W. Kirkpatrick to be a part-time Director of Youth Ministries sharing his services with the Presbytery where he served as a Christian Educator, working primarily with children and youth. Kelly, his wife, and their son, Forrest, came to Charleston from Morganton, North Carolina although Jim grew up in Charleston, graduated from Charleston High School, and went to Glenville State College.

On **April 19, 1982**, at a called meeting of the Session, Conrad Crow presented a letter explaining that the congregation of the Great Bridge Presbyterian Church of Chesapeake, Virginia had voted to call him as their minister, and he had accepted the call. Rev. Crow spoke of the grief he and his family felt at this separation and the conviction that “this call is of God”, even as was the call which took him from the church in Louisville thirteen years previously and brought him to Village Chapel. He further shared that it was C. S. Lewis who said, “Christians never say ‘Goodbye’ for there is no finality to our unity in Christ, only continuity.” He went on to say that his ministry brought much joy and maturity to the members of Village Chapel and indeed, to the whole area for he was a “vigorous presbyter and served his church in the larger community with skill and devotion”. He left Village Chapel on **June 6, 1982**, and Dr. William A. Benfield became the Interim Pastor the first of **July 1982**.

An important event occurred in **July of 1982** which was of great concern and interest. This was the historic meeting of the General Assembly and its decision to move toward merging the denomination with that of the United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. to form the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This long-awaited decision would go to the presbyteries for ratification.

Jane King, who had served twenty-six years as the Church Secretary, submitted her resignation effective **September 1, 1982**. In recognition of her long and effective service, a reception was held in her honor on the last Sunday of August. This event was arranged by Susan Perkins, Charlotte Stallard and Sharon Curnutte. The new Church Secretary, Mrs. Richard Wells, is a member of the Perrow Memorial Presbyterian Church. Beginning her work in August, she was able to work with Mrs. King for several weeks to become oriented to her responsibilities.

On a happier note, the Women of the Church prepared a casserole cookbook featuring a collection of Joe Duelli’s favorite recipes. Sales of the cookbook brought in \$1,038.69 minus the cost of printing which came to \$282.10!

In **1983**, with the resignation of Conrad Crow, the Church was without a minister. In the interim, the Rev. J. Harrell Harper served from January 2nd till March 13th, and Dr. William A. Benfield served from March 20th through July of that year until the arrival of the new pastor, the Rev. Frank Mansell, Jr.

The churches of the Southwest Parish served Lenten breakfasts at Village Chapel on the four Fridays preceding Easter of **1983**. On **March 11th**, the breakfast was hosted by the Westminster Church, and the guest speaker was Ethel Caffy Austin. On **March 18th** South Park served as the host church with Rev. Dean Young as the speaker. On **March 25th** Village Chapel served breakfast with Dr. William A. Benfield as the speaker and on **April 1st**, Ruffner Memorial served as host with Dr. Benfield again as the speaker. These breakfasts were attended and enjoyed by sizable groups of people

On **March 31, 1983**, Village Chapel hosted a special Communion Service and Choir Cantata on Maundy Thursday. The choirs of Ruffner Memorial, South Park and Village Chapel combined in a presentation of special music. By action of the Sessions of Ruffner Memorial and Village Chapel Churches, the offering received in this service was donated to the “One Great Hour of Sharing” and used to “help alleviate hunger and suffering in our own land and in other parts of the earth.”

Each year, through the Ecumenical Relations unit of the Women of the Church, the circles were called upon to meet a “quota” from an organization called the White Cross. In **1983**, the WOC were “faced with the largest quota ever received”. The list included:

500 rolled bandages (rolled by hand from sheets)	
1000 gauze bandages (4X4)	2 single sheets, corner ties
2 mattress covers	5 receiving blankets
5 scrub shirts	7 infant sacs
50 bars of motel soap	5 girls dresses (sizes 1-12)
5 spools of heavy thread	3 surgical jackets
2 draw sheets	10 butcher type aprons

The women exceeded the quota of rolled bandages by 257 (a total of 757); 85 gauze bandages (1085); 10 bars of soap (60); and one (6) receiving blanket. Nova Duff, who served as Chair of Ecumenical Relations for **1983**, reported that the women held special meetings to roll bandages, rolled at their circle meetings, and stayed after the monthly meetings to accomplish the task. With the help of four hand-made rollers, made by Jim Arthur, “we well met our quota”. These supplies serve to supply missionary hospitals around the world. In 1983, they were mailed to Bulape, Zaire.

In **1983**, the Women of the Church elected to “dress-up” the parlor by having a couch and chair re-upholstered. They also obtained lamp shades, silk fern, and a wooden cornice board. Draperies were donated by Jennifer Jung-Kilbreath. Money to support this work was derived from the previously mentioned sale of the cookbooks, “Casserole Variety Recipes” by Joe Duelli, a member of the Church. The walls of the parlor were painted by the Building and Grounds Committee.

Also, in **1983**, Dr. Allen T. Cowen, Presbyter of Greenbrier Presbytery, was accorded the status of “Outstanding West Virginian” by the Governor and the Director of the Commission on Aging for West Virginia. Dr. Cowen received a Certificate of Commendation for his contribution to the life and welfare of the State of West Virginia. Dr. Cowan’s family are members of Village Chapel.

A Search Committee chaired by Troy Stallard and composed of Scott Curnutte, Sally Hudson, Julie King, Dean Leake, Kay Smith, Jack Martin, Susan Perkins, Terry Perrine, and Todd Waggy was successful in finding a minister for Village Chapel.

Sunday, **September 4, 1983**, was a great day for celebration! “Giving praise and thanks to God, Village Chapel welcomed its new minister, the Rev. W. Frank Mansell, Jr.” A reception followed the worship service to meet our fifth pastor, the Rev. Mansell, his wife Joan, and their son Frank. The Mansell family comes to Village Chapel from the Bunton Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Service of Installation for Rev. Mansell was held on Sunday, **November 13, 1983**, and was described as “a beautiful and inspiring service”. Members of the Installation Commission were:

Ministers

The Rev. William A. Benfield, Jr. Honorably Retired, who served as Interim Pastor
The Rev. J. Harrell Harper, Honorably Retired, who served as Interim Pastor
The Rev. Donald M. Steele, Pastor, Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Dean K. Young, Stated Supply Pastor, South Park Presbyterian Church and
Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Elders

Mrs. Patricia L. Kennedy, Montgomery Presbyterian Church; Moderator of the Commission,
1983 Moderator of the Presbytery of Greenbrier
Mrs. Kay Long, Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston
Mr. James Sothen, South Park Presbyterian Church
Mr. Nicholas A. Cody, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston
Mr. Troy F. Stallard, Chairman of the Pastoral Nominating Committee, Village Chapel
Presbyterian Church

Guests of the Commission

The Rev. William F. Mansell Honorably Retired member of the Presbytery of Central
Mississippi, and father of Frank Mansell
Mrs. Catherine D. Ellsworth, Elder in the Fair Street Reformed Church in America,
Kingston, New York, and mother of Joan Mansell

Following the installation service a reception, hosted by the Women of the Church, was given to greet the Pastor and his family, visitors, members of the Commission, and all others attending the Service of Installation.

On **October 5th**, Joan Mansell and Steve Jarvis were received into Village Chapel membership. Steve coming by transfer of membership from St. Mark’s United Methodist Church and Joan by transfer of membership from the Bunton Presbyterian Church of Memphis, Tennessee.

In the **September 26th** edition of The Villager, an announcement from Rev. Mansell indicated that for the future, this publication, The Villager, will be published weekly instead of monthly “in order to cut down on the number of announcements put into the Sunday bulletin.” A second announcement indicated to the congregation that “Our service this Sunday will begin in a slightly differently way. The chimes will sound at 11:00 o’clock. This marks the time when we end our conversations and focus our attention on the acts of worship which follow: During the prelude we have the opportunity for silent prayer, to find the hymns and Scripture readings, and to review the order of service. At the end of the prelude the minister will speak a call to worship from the entrance to the sanctuary. He will enter with the choir during the processional hymn.”

In a subsequent edition of The Villager, Mr. Mansell thanked the congregation for making his family welcome and goes on to say, “It will be helpful to me if you will continue to identify yourselves by name when we meet. If I think I know your name, I’ll try to use it. Please forgive me when I get it wrong. Some of you have already asked how I prefer to be addressed. I hope that ‘Frank’ is a comfortable way for most of you. Some, I know, prefer to use a title and last name; if that’s the case for you, “Mr. Mansell” is appropriate. Just for the record, I am a “Jr.” and our son is Frank III.”

A later edition of The Villager includes the following: “TIME, TIMES, AND HALF A TIME -- I use these words from Revelation 12:14, not to interpret that passage of scripture, but to introduce a note about my schedule. I want to be available to you, the congregation, and will be available at any time, day or night, that there is an urgent need. Under normal, more routine circumstances, I prefer to reserve the morning hours for study, sermon, and worship preparation, and the like. Afternoons will vary depending on the need to see about things in the office and the need to see people or be involved in work away from the building. Beginning next Tuesday from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. This ‘Pastor’s Hour’ or ‘Vestry Hour’ as it is known in the Church of Scotland, is a time you will know you can get in touch with me either in person or by phone. It is after our regular church office hours.”

On **November 5, 1983**, Mr. Mansell attended the Presbytery meeting in Bluefield where he was examined and received into the Presbytery. In The Villager on **November 16th** he announced, “It’s official now! With the Installation Service last Sunday evening, we are now officially related to one another as minister and congregation . . . as minister, officers, and congregation we have the challenge to see our new relationship as an opportunity to be a new Church. We have the opportunity to make a fresh start as God’s people in this place. We have a firm foundation in our history. We have talents, strength and enthusiasm among our members and officers. Now we are ready to consider and get on with the new things God may be calling us to do. I trust that you will join me and your other officers in careful thought and fervent prayer as we seek to lead us all in faithful worship and study, fellowship and service in the days and years ahead.”

In **1983**, Jim Kirkpatrick, the Director of Youth Ministries, was recognized as a Certified Director of Christian Education by the General Assembly Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church. This certification serves to ensure that Mr. Kirkpatrick has met the highest standards set for those who work as professional educators in the church.

Over **1983**, the Jr. and Sr. Highs of our church demonstrated that they were very faithful, active, and caring. They met each Sunday evening for supper and a program which could involve study, recreation, service or worship. Approximately 25 young people participated on any given Sunday. Events over the year in which they participated include: the basketball program, skiing trips, visiting youth of other churches and entertaining young people of other churches here at Village Chapel, preparing a dinner for the VIPs (Senior members of our church and community), dressing up for Halloween and taking their “party” to the Pediatric Ward at CAMC to share with hospitalized children, cut wood and stacked it for members of the church, raked leaves, cleaned yards, washed and waxed cars. It was a great year!

At some point in either late **1982 or early 1983**, Goals for Ministry and Mission were developed and adopted by the Church. This work is verified in the following document:

VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Charleston, West Virginia
GOALS FOR MINISTRY AND MISSION
Adopted 1983

Village Chapel will design and implement programs which will provide opportunities for all persons to participate in the Christian caring and sharing activities of fellowship, recreation, communication and consolation.

Village Chapel will provide an atmosphere conducive to worshipping God and celebrating the sacraments.

Village Chapel will provide varied and effective educational curricula for all age groups.

Village Chapel will design evangelism, outreach and church growth program which will provide Bible study, spiritual growth and visitation.

Village Chapel will provide a strong program of service to the community consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Village Chapel will maintain, renovate and improve existing facilities and equipment and, when appropriate, acquire new assets to meet the needs of the congregation.

On **December 22nd** eight senior high youth helped with toy distribution at the Salvation Army. Under the direction of Kay Smith and Kathy Blank, toys were dispersed to over 200 families. The youths helping in this worthwhile cause were Ellen Thurston, Kay White, Chris Smith, Rod Smith, Ron Cole, Scott Curnutte, Steve Curnutte, and Jim Sims.

Articles in The Villager provide wonderful information regarding the activities of the youth of the Church. In the **January 18, 1984**, edition it was announced that “Children who have been baptized are welcome to participate in the Lord’s Supper at such time when their parents determine it would be helpful and meaningful for them to do so.” To help parents in making this decision, Frank Mansell provided opportunity for them to meet with him to talk about this subject. On **February 21st**, Junior High students went to the Hilltop Nursing Home to visit with the residents there and to provide a bit of humor and programming for them. A bit later in the spring on **February 29th** the Senior High Youth in Service indicated they were available and volunteering to do yard work, wash and wax cars, etc. The announcement stated they “will give preference to the older members of the congregation when providing these services.”

Beginning on **March 7, 1984**, a series of worship services during Lent were held at Morris Memorial Methodist Church from 12:05 – 12:35. Services were led by one of the ministers from seven different churches in Kanawha City. Participants were invited to bring a sack lunch and remain after the service for fellowship.

On **March 11th** nine young people including Chris Allen, Becky Coleman, Quint Gage, Chad Hall, Lora Hamb, Brian Joseph, Dan Joseph, Jennifer Joseph, and Jennifer Stewart began a Confirmation Class in which prior to being confirmed, they would consider together what it means to be a Christian and a member of the Church.

March 17th the Fellowship Committee hosted an evening of food, fellowship and fun with an “International Night”. All ages were invited to enjoy food, music, stories, costumes, and slide shows of far-away places. Attendees were encouraged to bring favorite snack foods from another country.

On **March 25th** Westminster Presbyterian Church celebrated the installation of Dean Young as their pastor. Village Chapel Elder, Kathryn McCrary, served as Moderator of the Commission of Presbytery appointed to install Mr. Young and Frank Mansell preached the sermon.

April 14th provided the congregation opportunity to engage in a Progressive Dinner beginning at 6:30 with appetizers at Mike and Linda Jarrett’s residence, moving on at 7:30 to Jim and Suzanne Simm’s for a salad. At 8:15 the group progressed to Bob and Norma Cochran’s residence to partake of the main course and concluded the evening at Richard and Carolyn Steven’s home where they enjoyed dessert!

In the spring of **1984**, the Session authorized the 2 cents a meal program making this opportunity available to the congregation every three months. Local needs in the community were allocated 25% of the income; 50% was channeled to ministries of the Presbytery to meet the needs of persons throughout West Virginia and 25% was donated to the Hunger Program to carry on the worldwide ministry of Village Chapel. In the previous year, \$37,132.60 was contributed by members of churches in our Presbytery. Of this amount, \$9,283.15 went to local churches; the Presbytery received \$18,566.35 and the Presbyterian Hunger Program received \$8, 522.02. Monies were distributed in West Virginia to the Mullins Itmann Food Bank, the Kenova Good Samaritan Center, the White Sulphur Springs Community Food Pantry, the Point Pleasant Lord's Pantry, the Richwood Food Pantry, and Hinton Food Pantry to name a few recipients. "The 2 cents a meal program provides a wonderful opportunity to share our blessings with hungry people both locally and abroad."

On **May 3rd**, it was announced that the congregation would be using a "new procedure" to elect the Church Officer Nominating Committee. Seven of the nine people on this Committee would be elected by the congregation from a list of 14 nominees. The remaining two members would be named by the Session. Subsequently, the Nominating Committee elected was able to prepare a slate of eleven individuals from which six would be elected in a vote conducted on **September 12th**.

In mid-**May 1984**, those working as teachers in the Sunday School and leaders in the Youth Fellowship were recognized. Those honored for their service included: Harriett Hoy, Vickie Vaughan, Betty Arthur, Julie DiVita, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Dianne Ellis, Mary Arnold Dillon, Karen Gage, Joyce Holden, Debbie Dent, Lynn Kramer, Perry Field, Betsy Thurston, Sharon Curnutte, Harold and Betsy Preston, Dean Leake, Mike Jarrett, Steve Jarvis, Troy Stallard, Harry Brawley, Jane King, Clark Thurston, Bobby Caldwell, Denny Dodson, Jim and Karen Smith, Bill and Kay Smith, Kathryn McCrary, Bob and Julie King, Kathy and Greg Blank, John and Milessa France, Larry and Brenda Jones, and Ron and Nancy Cole. Over the years, this group of individuals provided outstanding teaching and learning for the young people of Village Chapel.

During **1984** a number of changes were made to the Fellowship Hall. An alcove was closed to provide a music storage area. The area which was originally the main entrance to the sanctuary was converted into a storage area for tables and chairs. Shutters were added to the Venable Street windows and a new tile floor was installed.

Renovations were also made in the Education Building – space was remodeled to create new offices and an equipment room with the Church Office and the Youth Ministry Office on the right side of the hallway as you enter from the front entrance and the minister's office on the left. New carpeting was laid in the hallways and stairwells. Three Women of the Church, Mary Lee Jung, Betty Arthur, and Hazel Kuhn, redecorated the restrooms. Also, in **1984**, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Cooley donated a microwave oven for the kitchen, a much-needed addition!

Another notable event in **1984** - under the Personal Faith and Family Life Committee, chaired by Helen Coffey, the Women of the Church formed a Prayer Chain to strengthen the prayer life of the Church and to aid persons with urgent needs.

A policy statement on the use of the kitchen was adopted and incorporated the statement, "No non-Village Chapel groups may use the Church kitchen for any purpose unless Village Chapel WOC members are involved in the activity of the group."

On **August 12th**, Village Chapel's organist, Caroline Perrine, presented an organ recital at St. Matthews Episcopal Church as one of five concerts offered during that summer. On a related note, the loan which provided funds to purchase the organ for Village Chapel was completely repaid!!

Under Kathy Blank's guidance, in **November 1984**, the Children in Worship group which included Daniel Curnutte, Campbell Palmer, Philip Britton, David Leake, Marisa Ellis, and Jonathan Jarrett wrote the following prayer:

Dear Father in Heaven, who has the best name in the world,
Someday we will be with you, and your force will be with us. Help us with our faith, forgive us for doing wrong and forgive others of our community. Help us to be kind to our family, our friends, and to you, our God. We want to come to heaven with joyful hearts, for peace, and to be with you. Praise the Lord.

Amen

In December of **1984**, the Session voted to extend the Church's call to Jim Kirkpatrick, Director of Christian Education (DCE), through the end of 1985 – his three-year agreement with the church would otherwise have ended on April 1, 1985.

Over two academic years, Village Chapel contributed, along with other Presbyterian churches in the area, to assist a student lay minister from the Cameroon, David Yebila, with expenses incurred as a student at the West Virginia Institute of Technology. David is pursuing a degree in electrical engineering and hopes to pursue theological education upon completion of his current degree. A sum of \$2200 is needed for tuition and fees each semester. Contribution to this effort helped Village to support an international mission project.

End-of-year data for **1984** indicated the average attendance in Sunday worship services was over 225 with Church School attendance over 100 members.

In **January of 1985**, members of the Junior High Fellowship completed a project the group had been working on for some time – a Church Birthday Calendar. This document sold for \$3.00, and the proceeds were donated to supply food for the underprivileged in Ethiopia.

On **January 27, 1985**, the pastor of the Westminster Church was the guest worship leader at Village Chapel as part of a pulpit exchange among the four Presbyterian churches collaborating in the exchange. On this Sunday, Frank Mansell led the services at Ruffner Memorial. Don Steele, the pastor at Ruffner, led the service at South Park and Westminster. This exchange of ministers was viewed as another way that Village Chapel could express its unity with the larger church.

February 17th was the date on which opportunity was made for the congregation to make a special contribution in support of the Church's mission work among Korean people as the Presbyterian Church in Korea celebrated its 100th birthday.

The establishment of a Book Exchange which was set up in a corner of the Fellowship Hall was announced on **March 6, 1985**. "If members or friends have books that they would like to share with others, bring them to the Church and place on the mobile cart in the Fellowship Hall. These books should be easy to read and will not be returned to the owners. The rules for the Exchange are: Select, Read, and Return so that we can keep the cycle going."

On **March 28th**, the VIPs meeting hosted Mrs. Barbara Williams, Administrative Assistant in the Social Security Department, to speak on "Social Security as a Family Affair." Mrs. Williams, a native of Charleston, attended local schools and the University of Charleston. Her primary functions include involvement with policy making, problem solving, and problems people have with Social Security. VIP members were encouraged to "Bring a sandwich and a friend!"

In the spring of **1985**, members of the Senior High Youth Fellowship traveled over 200 miles to visit the Hare Krishna Temple outside Moundsville, WV. It was a "most curious and informative experience providing an opportunity to see a contrast with the way we worship."

The **May 1st** issue of The Villager contained a poem written by Helen W. Settle, a member of the congregation:

SPRING

God made the Spring to come each year,
To fulfill the promises we hold so dear,
The tiny seed that has slept so long,
Is bursting the ground in rows all along,
The flower beds, if we could only hear,
Must be saying, "Look at us, for we will bring much cheer."
Spring has come at last, this is true,
But we must live all the year, Our Lord for you!

A review of the minutes of a meeting of the Women of the Church (WOC) held on **May 2, 1985** indicated that the group was given information by Rosalie Dillon on “The Gift of a Lifetime” and stressed that for the next five years, one of the goals of this organization should be to prepare those members of the congregation in their mid-years, i.e., 50’s & 60’s, to enable them to develop programs that minister to the older members of the congregation.

In **June of 1985**, the Junior High Group went to Bluestone for their summer camp. A trip to Myrtle Beach, capped at 14 individuals, was offered for the Senior High Group. The total cost of the trip for the Senior Highs going to Myrtle Beach was \$125 plus spending money!

The **June 19th** issue of The Villager contained the following Statements of Faith as written by three junior high students preparing for their confirmation:

“I believe in one God, the forgiver of my sins, the Creator of all the world. I believe in God’s Son, Jesus Christ, whom God sent down from Heaven to die on the cross to forgive our sins. I believe in the Holy Spirit. The three together form the trinity of the church.”

“I believe in God and Jesus. I believe God makes everything. He is the ruler and we should obey him. I believe Jesus is God’s Son and he helps make decisions and they work together. That’s what I believe!!”

“I believe that God was the creator of heaven and earth. I believe that Jesus was God’s only son. I believe that Jesus is a step down from God. I believe that you don’t have to go to church every Sunday to be a good Christian.”

During **1985** a concerted effort was made to engage the congregation in a variety of activities including a Hobo Convention, Games and More, a progressive dinner, the annual retreat at Bluestone, a Father’s Day Picnic at Kanawha State Forest, an Ice Cream Social, a Carry-on Supper Cruise on the P. A. Denny, a dinner/auction, and a Christmas Dinner which was catered so the ladies of the Church could relax – a “first” for Village Chapel!

On **September 8, 1985**, Sandy and John Bowles and their three children joined Village Chapel. Although both were “raised” in Presbyterian Churches and they were married in the First Presbyterian Church of New Martinsville, they had not been active in church since their marriage in 1960. Their three children, Michael, Beth, and Dan had been coming to Youth Fellowship at Village and as Sandy loved to say, “We need to join that Church, they are raising our children!!”

At the **September 19, 1985**, meeting of the Women of the Church, Lora Inghram was honored with a Life Membership in this organization, an honor bestowed from time to time as an expression of appreciation for faithful service to Christ and to the Church. Lora was a member of Village Chapel for twenty-four years and a constant attendee of both Sunday School and Worship. She served as a Circle Chair, Bible Moderator, member of the Women's Council, and Community Action Chairman. She served as an elder and a member of many local and Presbytery committees. She worked with the Salvation Army and represented Village Chapel in the United Church Women, a program she vigorously endorsed. "This is the first time we have honored someone in our Church in this way," Jane King remarked when she had the honor to pin Lora.

Jim Arthur built a new stand for the sculpture dedicated in memory of Bob Eberbaugh back in 1977. This artwork was originally located adjacent to the right sanctuary aisle but was moved with the new stand to a location between the doors where the congregation enters the narthex.

In **1985**, two of the early church pillars died -- Payne and Sally Brown had moved to Florida and following their deaths, they were honored with a memorial service on **November 24, 1985**. The note which follows was titled "IN MEMORY OF PAYNE AND SALLY BROWN" and was written by Harry and Betty Brawley:

Payne and Sally Brown! They were a unique couple. Not just extraordinary – unique. An educated theologian who earned his wings as a banker, Payne occupied a very special place in Presbyterian life for all who knew him. As for Sally, she was the perfect wife for Payne. She was indeed "a help mate for him". Sally, who spent her early years in China, was ideally qualified to add luster and character to their marriage. Childless themselves, they gave a home to two lovely daughters, Sarah and Jeannie.

Both had a keen sense of humor which kept them afloat even in troubled waters. It is an understatement to say they were pillars in the Church. The Church has never been the same since they left. No doubt the Heavenly Hosts are smiling more broadly now that Payne and Sally are there. Rest in Peace

Following the memorial service, the Worship Committee commissioned a permanent banner designed and made by Penny Kehde, a local artist, to be hung over the organ console to honor these "Saints of the Church". The contents of the banner represent many artifacts of the Church including the cross, fish, a descending dove, an open Bible, the sun of righteousness, the olive branch as an emblem of peace, loaves of bread symbolizing Jesus as the Bread of Life and much more was presented to the Church and dedicated to Payne and Sally Brown. "We feel this would honor these Saints of the Church in a beautiful way." (This banner hung in the in the chancel over the choir for over 30 years but was taken down with the advent of the Covid pandemic when it became necessary to provide services virtually and the banner was removed to provide space for a projection screen.

In **January of 1986** classes for individuals willing to volunteer at Hospice were offered at the Memorial West Virginia Training Center. Subsequent classes designed to assist those wanting to become Hospice volunteers were held in the Church parlor. Seven individuals signed up for the classes.

The **January 22nd** edition of The Villager announced that “Thanks to the good work of the Building and Grounds Committee, with Ron Cole, Moderator, arrangements for parking near the church have been made, a new flood light installed over the outside doors of the sanctuary and a rheostat for the chancel lights have been put in place. A leaking roof was repaired in the Sanctuary, a new water cooler was installed, 6” of insulation was installed in the ceiling of the Fellowship Hall and a new gate was installed going into the alley. A work crew installed storm windows on six windows in the Education Building and B. J. Chaney, one of our custodians, washed many of the windows in the building. Our thanks to Bill Reichard, Bill Chevalier, Rick Hanna, and Ron Cole for arranging for and doing this work.

On **January 29th**, Harry Brawley was scheduled to do a presentation on the History of Charleston, sharing his slides and commentary following a dinner for the Men of the Church. However, because of the great interest expressed in this program, it was opened to the entire congregation. Mr. Brawley was called upon to share his photographs and information on Charleston very frequently.

At the February Session meeting, upon application from the Treasurer, it was moved and seconded that the Trustees and the Treasurer be authorized for entry into the church’s safety deposit box. The motion carried. Further, it was moved and seconded that Evelyn McClure, a member of the Church, be appointed Assistant Treasurer. The motion carried and Evelyn continued to serve in the position for many, many years, taking care of the weekly offering.

On **Friday, March 21st** Village sponsored a “SOCK HOP” referred to as “a blast from the past” popular in the 1950’s. “Bring your favorite records of the period, brush up on the jitterbug and the twist, and be sure to dress appropriately (saddle shoes and white socks).” Kay Smith and Charlotte Stallard served as the chaperones while Bill Smith and Troy Stallard were the D. J.’s for an event which provided a lot of fun for those attending!

Thank You to the Senior High Youth who planned and led worship on **May 11th**. Comments following the service were very positive. For example, “I am greatly encouraged about the health and future of the church.” and “They had something to say and said it well.”

In the spring of **1986**, A special “Thank You” was made to Sharon Curnutte, Charlotte Stallard, and Rebecca Palmer who made the new red stoles worn by the choir on Pentecost Sunday.

During the spring and summer of **1986**, there was interest in Village Chapel providing an afterschool program for elementary age children; however, after much research and discussion, it was decided to postpone this service as there did not appear to be sufficient interest to make it worthwhile.

In order to conform with the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA), it was determined that Village Chapel must become a corporation and elect the necessary trustees. These individuals will have the powers: to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, for the church; to accept and execute deeds of title to such property; to hold and defend title to such property; to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the church, all subject to the authority of the Session and under the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For Village Chapel it became necessary to elect three members of the congregation to serve as trustees in accordance with the Book of Order. Each shall be elected for a three-year term and will not be eligible to serve another term for a period of one year after the expiration of a term of active service. As a result, the Session recommended that the congregation adopt the procedure as noted and also recommended that in order to set up a rotation of terms of trustees, the present trustees be assigned to these classes: Jack Martin, 1985; Bobby Caldwell, 1986; Polly Dodson, 1987. As with classes of Elders, the class indicates the last full year of a term of service.

June 28 to July 4 was announced as the dates for the **1986** Youth Conference at Montreat. Those attending from Village Chapel will stay together in the selected facility and the cost of transportation, room and board, and registration is included in the \$190 fee. Kelly and Jim Kirkpatrick will accompany the group.

July 1986 brought an interesting issue to the forefront. A Neo-Nazis Training Group had set up a site near Mill Point, West Virginia within the Presbytery of Greenbrier's jurisdiction. This community described itself as a "church" (The Cosmotheist Community) and was moving to create a community to "train a new generation to pick up the torch and become warriors for our cause." The leader of the group, William Pierce, is the author of "The Turner Diaries," a fictional account of a Neo-Nazi takeover of America which reportedly describes a process of "exterminating" blacks and Jews. Village Chapel, as a church within the Greenbrier Presbytery, was asked to concur with the Presbytery's opposition to this group and to encourage members of the congregation to write to the Governor and to local newspapers in opposition to this movement.

During the spring and summer of **1986**, the Men of Village Chapel held monthly dinners with the Women's Circles taking turns preparing and serving the food. However, in the fall, the women felt they could no longer continue this service, and the men's dinners stopped. About 20-30 men attended these gatherings.

The Session at its meeting on **January 21, 1987**, recognized the life and passing of Rev. James Renwick Kennedy who served Village Chapel from 1959-1968.

On **February 11th**, it was announced that the 2 cents a meal donation would be collected on the last Sunday of each month in contrast to the previous donations made three times per year.

Denny Dodson, who grew up as a member of the church and recently ordained as a minister, was the guest worship leader on **Sunday, April 26th**. On this Sunday donations of food and clothing were accepted for distribution through the Clothes Closet and Food Pantry, ministries of Covenant House.

In April, the Presbyterian Women organized a Kitchen Committee consisting of Phyl Livesay, Helen Eberbaugh and Mary Lee Jung. One of the first things this group did was to purchase a Bunn commercial coffee maker for the kitchen.

A special recognition and thanks were given by the church to Rick Hanna, Bill Chevalier, Bill Reichard, Gordon Jung, Delane Randolph, Dean Sockman and Rich Callard for spending Saturday, **May 30th** installing shelves for trophies, installing baseboard, repairing and painting walls in the library and parlor, and repairing tabletops.

Kathryn McCrary, a member of Village Chapel was among a group of 15 elders commissioned as lay preachers at the **June 2nd** meeting of the Greenbrier Presbytery. As a result, Kathryn became eligible and very much in demand to provide pulpit supply across the Presbytery.

To continue relationships with the Church's college students, the names of these individuals were divided among the circles. Members of the Women of the Church organization would send cards or letters to their assigned student to remember them on their birthdays and special holidays.

David Yebila, the Presbyterian student from the Cameroon, who came to Charleston in 1983 to complete a degree in electrical engineering at West Virginia Institute of Technology has now graduated from that institution. Over the years of his enrollment at Tech, several churches, including Village Chapel, provided funding to help him succeed. David looks forward to returning to his home. The folks at Ruffner, where he became an affiliate member, are gathering funds to help him to do so and Village Chapel is encouraged to assist as well.

1987 Summer Session minutes indicate Jim Kirkpatrick will be leaving Village Chapel to accept a call to the Waldensian Church in Valdese, North Carolina as their Christian Education Director. Jim has been very dedicated and successful in working with the youth and youth leaders at Village Chapel over his years of employment here.

In September of **1987**, a program called “Family Ties” was initiated. On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, families gathered from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for a variety of activities. There was something for everyone regardless of age including: Bible study, group discussions, family flicks, crafts, games, and a nursery for the infants. “This program has been very well received. Our Church is growing and is very much alive.”

The Session, in its **April 1988** meeting, received a request from an Alcoholic Anonymous group to use the church for weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. As this day would pose a problem for members of our choir who be arriving at 7:30 for their weekly practice with possibly no parking available, it was moved that this group be asked to consider another evening and if that could be arranged, their meetings would be approved. The group changed their request to Friday evenings and has continued to meet at Village Chapel over the years.

On **April 20, 1988**, the Session adopted the following statement of Purpose and Goals:

PURPOSE AND GOALS
Village Chapel Presbyterian Church
Charleston, West Virginia

THE PURPOSE OF VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS TO INVITE PEOPLE TO COMMIT TO JESUS CHRIST AND TO PROVIDE THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP, TO STUDY, AND TO SERVE CHRIST, IN A COMMUNITY OF CARING PEOPLE.

To accomplish this purpose ...

1. **COMMITMENT.** Village Chapel will share with people in the surrounding community the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ and invite them to profess faith in God through Jesus Christ and to commit themselves – their time and resources – to worship and to serve in Christ’s name. (ALL COMMITTEES) *
2. **WORSHIP.** Village Chapel will provide worship opportunities for the people of our community to declare the Glory of God, to celebrate the presence of God’s grace in our lives, and to communicate with God through prayer, preaching, and music. (WORSHIP)
3. **STUDY.** Village Chapel will provide opportunities for learning what God has said and done, the life and teachings of Jesus, and what God expects of us. (EDUCATION)
4. **SERVICE.** Village Chapel will serve the people in our community and beyond through the personal efforts of members; through strong congregational ministries; through support for Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly ministries; and through community ministries with other churches. (SERVICE)

5. CARING. Village Chapel will strive to be a fellowship of caring people, who know one another and support one another in all circumstances of life. (MINISTRY & FELLOWSHIP)
6. SUPPORT. Village Chapel will provide the necessary financial resources to support the above goals, to provide for appropriate staff, and to maintain adequate facilities and equipment for ministry and mission. (PERSONNEL, PROPERTY AND FELLOWSHIP)

*The committees in the parentheses are responsible for the item for which listed.

ORGANIZATION FOR MINISTRY AND MISSION

The SESSION: 18 Elders and 1 Minister elected by the congregation

Moderator: Minister

Clerk: Elder

Treasurer(s): Elected by the Session

Advisory Members: Youth, DCE, Youth Ministry Director etc.

COMMITTEES AND THEIR FUNCTIONS:

WORSHIP

All Services
Sacraments
Music
Special Seasons
Etc.

EDUCATION

Sunday Church School
Vacation Church School
Membership Classes
Etc.

SERVICE

International
Community Service
Benevolences
Etc.

MINISTRY

Contact with Members
& Non-Members
Church Rolls
Care & Support
Etc.

FELLOWSHIP

Congregation Activities
Recreation
Retreats,
Etc.

STEWARDSHIP

Money, Time, Talents
Budget Management
Special Offerings
Etc.

PROPERTY

Maintenance
Renovation
Insurance
Etc.

PERSONNEL

Employment
Evaluation
Salary Review
Office Equipment
Etc.

This document was incorporated into the Manual of Operations.

The summer of 1988 was difficult as on **August 15th** the church was struck by lightning causing a fire that left a great deal of smoke and water damage to the education building and the Fellowship Hall. The roof of these structures was essentially destroyed. Church members and neighbors went into the damaged structures and retrieved papers, books, and furnishings that otherwise would have been lost. A crew of college students offered to string up temporary lights and stay the night to guard the church. Repairs and renovations to the damaged church occupied a great deal of time and cost for the church.

One month later, on **September 18th**, a Kanawha City man was involved in an incident when his foot stuck on the gas pedal of his car, sending it through a Jiffy Lube garage located on the corner of 39th street, over a curb, and into the wall behind the Church. The car went through the open front door of the garage, now a car wash site, then crashed through the closed back door, across the alley, and into the wall. The Church suffered no damage.

In **September of 1988**, the weekday nursery school which had been in operation since the opening of the church in 1950 was discontinued. This action was taken primarily because of falling enrollment and increasing concern regarding the potential for legal issues.

In looking at the need to increase parking for activities at the church, in the fall of **1988**, Mr. Mansell requested that a committee comprised of Rick Hanna, Betsy Thurston, and Ron Cole gather information about the possibility of moving the house located at 3810 Venable to another location. They were to investigate the cost of a lot, the cost to move the house from its present location and the cost to place it on a new site.

In September **1988**, a part-time Position Description for the Director of Christian Education was prepared and the search for a replacement for Jim Kirkpatrick was scheduled to begin in December. In April **1989**, the position was offered to Findley Sutton and she accepted.

Over **1989**, Village Chapel provided assistance to the Samaritan Inn and to Covenant House through monetary contributions. The Samaritans purchased and renovated a building that when completed, would house 14 residents. The Inn provided a residential recovery program that helped men transition from homelessness to independent living. It offered support services, including career coaching, employment opportunities, and access to medical and mental health resources. The men in residence were expected to meet with the social worker twice weekly to report on their progress.

On **March 15, 1989** fifteen young people completed the activities required for confirmation and joining the Church. In a meeting with the Session, each individual gave a brief statement of what it meant to become an adult member of Village Chapel and answered the formal questions for reception into the roll of adult members. The conferees included Mike Frisk, Stacey Stallard, Chris Callard, Ryan Field, Laura Jarvis, Bill King, Heather Berry, Beth Anne Carney, Bruce King, Erica Maier, Rich Jarrett and Emmy Jones were received on Profession of Faith. Patrick Thurston, Danny Bowles, and Brian Smith were baptized and received on Professional of Faith.

Throughout **1989**, much of the Church's time and energy was focused on the repair, restoration, and remodeling necessitated by the lightning strike and fire. Westminster Presbyterian Church and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church graciously provided hospitality for several of our groups following the fire. The cost to repair the damage required the Church to borrow money to restore the structures. In addition, it was necessary to replace a piano,

the sanctuary carpet, and media equipment. A Capital Fund Drive was very successful in raising the funds needed for these projects.

The Presbyterian Women luncheon scheduled for **May 18, 1989** was actually a Mother-Daughter dinner and all women in the Church were invited to come and bring a mother and/or a daughter(s) to enjoy a special evening of fellowship. Those who did not have a mother or daughter available were encouraged to “adopt” one for the evening. Special cupcakes were provided for the event to celebrate the birthday of Presbyterian Women. The cost of the dinner was \$3.50, and babysitting was provided.

The **May** issue of Women’s News provided some interesting information including the “definition” of a CIRCLE:

- C**enter all plans and work in Christ.
- I**nterpret the Church – its mission and work.
- R**evue your commitment and contribute your share.
- C**reate a spirit of real fellowship.
- L**et your work be a labor of love.
- E**nlist every woman for Christ.

In **July of 1989**, the Church secretary, Nancy Cole, resigned. The Personnel Committee conducted a successful search, and Linda Meadows began her work as the new secretary on **August 21st**.

Prior to **October 1989**, the Women’s Circles were simply referred to as numbers, i.e. Circle 1, Circle 2, etc., however, at the November 3rd meeting of that year, the circles selected “names” for their individual circle. The circles met on the second Thursday of the month at the time and place indicated in the list below. The September issue of Women’s News provided a list of the five Circles indicating the circle number and name, meeting time, hostess, and location:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| #1 DEBORAH | 10:00 Perry Field, 4306 Kanawha Avenue |
| #2 SARAH | 10:00 Rose Ellen Sockman, 601 43 rd Street |
| #3 REBEKAH | 12:30 Church Parlor |
| # 4 RUTH | 7:30 Church Parlor |
| # 5 DORCAS | 7:30 Polly Dodson 4314 Noyes Avenue |

The **October** meeting of the Presbyterian Women featured a time of sharing talents, treasures and thoughts. The ladies were invited to “display something you made, reading something you wrote, singing, playing an instrument, or anything you like. Or, you may have a treasure to share – something from a special excursion, a personal collection, or a gift or family heirloom that you cherish. Or, you may have some thoughts to share – something you read that was inspirational or humorous. Whatever! Come and share!!”

Each year the Presbyterian Women would take part in or contribute to a community service project. Some circles continued their service project throughout the year while others had a seasonal focus. For example, Circle #2, Sarah, in **1989**, continued its tradition of auctioning white elephant items in their December meeting. For this activity, each of the women would bring a beautifully wrapped package and the members would try to guess what was in each package and would bid on it. The money collected was donated to a worthy community project. In **1989**, the earnings from the “auction” were given to Patchwork as \$10.00 gift certificates for Charleston Town Center. As an additional service, the Sarah Circle provided a home cooked dinner of ham, sweet potato casserole, Jello salad, and cookies for the Patchwork residents.

Patchwork, a crisis center for youth and their families---provided temporary shelter for homeless and runaway youth, and an alternative for institutionalization. In support of Patchwork the Service Committee, with added support from the Women of the Church and Village youth groups, made visits to Patchwork, provided food and clothing and donated furnishing such as rugs, pictures, and mirrors. Patchwork provided shelter for about 350 youth per year – ages 11 to 17 years old. The number of youth housed at this facility averaged 5 to 6 per day with an average stay of approximately 6 days. Currently, this organization is known as Daymark Patchwork.

Sojourners, a shelter for single women, mothers, children and intact families is located at 413 Shrewsbury Street and is affiliated with the YWCA. The Shelter operates at capacity for most of the year – usually 30 to 45 residents, including 10 to 15 children. The residents are provided three meals each day and have access to sleeping, bathing, and laundry facilities. A full-time case manager assists residents in developing management plans for their lives. The length of stay at the shelter varies from several days to several months depending upon need. Over the years, the church has contributed to this community service by donating articles of clothing, toiletries, and for a number of years “adopted” a room for which it provided furnishings and annual renovations.

In addition to Patchwork and Sojourners, the Service Committee in **1989** supported a number of community agencies including Covenant House, Union Mission, two pantries (food to First Presbyterian Church and clothing to St. Mark Methodist Church), the Men’s Shelter, and Samaritan Inn. Village Chapel also supported service projects of the Presbytery – thus impressively demonstrating the Church’s community service and outreach.

Another service project completed each year by the Presbyterian Women was the “Dressing of Dolls” for the Salvation Army. This project was completed in **November**, and the dolls were then available for Christmas distribution.

A significant activity conducted by the Session in **1989** was the administration of a survey relating to many aspects of the Church which resulted in the return of 211 of 374 completed surveys. Some of the items receiving “Acceptable” ratings were the choir, accessibility, the sanctuary, youth fellowship, and hospital visits by the minister. Items “Needing Improvement” included vacation church school, effectiveness of the DCE, fellowship opportunities, effectiveness of committees, and effectiveness of the minister. Items rated as “Unacceptable” included the selection of hymns, sermons, effectiveness of elders, inspiration and following up on inactive members. As a result of the survey findings, members of the congregation were asked to volunteer to work with Session committees to work toward “revitalization” of Village Chapel. A Pastoral Leadership Task Force was put in place to hear the concerns voiced by the congregation and to take steps to enable the congregation, session and staff to be more effective in ministry and mission.

VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 1990s

Session minutes of **January and February, 1990** contained discussion from the Pastoral Leadership Task Force that was established at the end of **1989**. Members of the Task Force included Ron Cole, Brenda Jones, Gordon and Mary Lee Jung, Jane King, Becky Lippitt, Katie Martin, Bill and Kathryn McCrary, DeLane Randolph, and Clark Thurston. The minutes indicated that this group continued to meet to identify the best approaches to deal with concerns of the congregation. For example, in looking at survey comments related to worship, it was stated that the service “needs to be brought to order in a more ‘orderly’ way – too much talking.” Frank commented that “we’ve used the prelude and chimes and regardless of order, people still talk.” A recommendation was also forthcoming from the Worship Committee that a period of silence/meditation after the sermon would begin immediately. In the meeting, there was continued discussion as to “What is the most effective way for me (Frank) to relate to committees?”

In regard to music in the services, which had been identified as “unacceptable”, Frank outlined how he chose hymns for a worship service: 1) seasonally appropriate and 2) the theme of the service and added that he has a real sense of personal integrity for the overall picture of Sunday’s service. It was suggested that it might be helpful to have a few lines in the bulletin about why a particular hymn was chosen. The service on January 21st was conducted with NO music which resulted in mixed comments, such as: “I like the music much better than silence.” “The service is nothing without music.” And another: “I loved the silence. I think a person can worship more in a quiet place. However, I wouldn’t want this all the time because I think music adds a lot too.” “Please don’t have hymns anymore without music. Just tone the organ down during the benediction and after so we could talk with any visitors we have.” “The leader of the Worship Committee should be hanged. I come for the joy and sound of music. I cannot believe that this church would attempt such a stupid act on worship.”