# VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
# 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## "SNIPPETS OF HISTORY"
## 1950 - 2025

Compiled By

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**2025**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Compiling this "History" of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church from its inception in 1950 to the celebration of its 75th Anniversary in 2025 has been an interesting, meaningful, and enlightening experience for me. I have learned a great deal about the Church and have grown in my appreciation of what it has contributed to the members of the congregation, the Presbytery of West Virginia, the community, and personally, to me and my family.

To accomplish the preparation of this document, a "Snippets of History" of Village Chapel, I want to thank a number of people who helped make it possible. I particularly want to recognize Rose Ann Walker, the current Clerk of the Session, who made many years of minutes of the Session available to me in usable form. I am also indebted to Leslie Bremar, the Church Secretary who has made many copies of earlier minutes, Church newsletters (The Villager), and other documents available as I worked to identify meaningful components of the Church's history. I want to thank Patti Salisbury for her compilation of brief histories between 1995 and 2000. I would also like to thank the six ministers who have served the Church for a variety of documents that have contributed meaningful information to the history and evolution of Village Chapel.

I want to thank the members of the Village Chapel family who over the years have served the Church and contributed to its evolution, development, and continued service to our God, our Church, and our community. I also want to thank all those who over the years kept minutes, wrote memos, letters, etc., all of which reflect the "history" of the Church.

History never ends but with the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Village Chapel, the purpose of this document will be complete and hopefully will serve those who in the future want to know about Village Chapel – its history and its movement to the future.

In the year 2000, I wrote a much shorter version of the history of Village Chapel. This is an expansion of that document and continues to celebrate our Church as we continue to "Remember, Rejoice, and Renew!"

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# VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
# 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
## "SNIPPETS OF HISTORY"

**"A church is people as they live, love, hate, marry, worship and die."**

**A BIT OF RELATED HISTORY:**

The above description of a church is from the History of the Presbytery of Kanawha, 1895-1956, Forward, p. 39. On March 23, 2025, Village Chapel Presbyterian Church celebrated its 75th Anniversary. An integral institution of Kanawha City, Charleston, and the Kanawha River Valley, this church, the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, has a colorful and community contributive history!

Kanawha City, a suburb of Charleston, West Virginia, is located on the south side of the Kanawha River--the river separating it from the Charleston city proper. The Kanawha River is a result of the confluence of the New River and the Gauley River at Gauley Bridge located about thirty-five miles east of Kanawha City. It is interesting to note that the New River, with headwaters in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, flows north and is the oldest river in North America and the second oldest river in the world. It is estimated to be between 250 and 375 million years old and was already flowing when the Appalachian Mountains were formed.

Kanawha County, the site of Charleston, the state capital, and Kanawha City, a suburb, was originally created on November 14, 1788 from the western portions of Greenbrier and Montgomery counties, its borders stretching from the Ohio River to the west, to the summit of Sewell Mountain to the east, the Big Sandy River to the south, and the headwaters of the Little Kanawha River to the north. Today, Kanawha County is much smaller than the original version, with an area of 913.38 square miles, and is the fourth largest county in the state of West Virginia.

The name Kanawha is thought to have evolved from the Indian name of a branch of the Nanticokes, a native American tribe who lived in the area bounded by the Potomac River on the north and the New River on the south. As the tribal name evolved over time, it was known/pronounced/spelled as the Conoys, Conoise, Canawese, Cohnawas, Canaways, and Kanawhas. On a 1770 map of the British Empire, the river is labeled as the "Great Conoway" river. In a 1789 survey, the name was spelled Kenhawa and Daniel Boone, an early settler in Kanawha County, in one of his surveys, spelled it Conhawway. The Indian translation of Kanawha is said to mean "The Sheltered Valley". (Stan Cohen, Kanawha County Images: A Bicentennial History 1788-1988, p. 1)

The largest expanse of flat land in Kanawha County lies parallel to the Kanawha River on the south side of the river and southeast of the city of Charleston and became known as Kanawha City. It is interesting to note that the first permanent residents in the area were Daniel Boone and his family, who established a log cabin about 1788 near what is now the upper or eastern end of Kanawha Avenue. Over the early years as Charleston developed as a city, Kanawha City remained mostly farmland until the opening of the Kanawha City Bridge in 1915 providing easy access to Charleston. A streetcar system provided transportation to and from Kanawha City to downtown Charleston.

During the 1920s, the flat land which today houses much of Kanawha City including the area where Village Chapel Presbyterian Church is located, was used as an airfield. During the 1921 Miner's Strike, General Billy Mitchell used the field to station his Army bombers that were heavily engaged in dealing with labor unions and coal strikes in southern West Virginia.

The Libby-Owens-Ford sheet glass plant and the Owens-Illinois Bottle Plant were located at the eastern end of Kanawha City. The Libby-Owens Company built the first six units of its plant in 1916 and 1917 and added six more units in 1918 and 1923, making it the largest sheet glass plant in the world. Ford Motors purchased an interest in the company in 1929, and it was thereafter called Libby-Owens-Ford. The plant made plate window, windshield, and non-shattering glass. Most of its raw materials - white silica, sand, salt and natural gas, were available within a seventy-five-mile radius of Charleston. In 1917, the Owens Bottle Company located its factory in the same area – just across MacCorkle Avenue. This plant merged with the Owens-Illinois Company in 1929 and became the largest bottle making plant in the world, manufacturing bottles, fruit jars, and after the end of prohibition in 1933, beer bottles. Both plants attracted hundreds of workers to the area and resulted in the building of many "company" houses in Kanawha City. The bottle plant closed in 1964 and the glass plant in 1980. Following closure of these plants, the structures were torn down and the area now is occupied by a shopping center, Kanawha Mall, on one side of the main highway and a Lowes and multiple restaurants on the riverside. (Kanawha County Images. A Bicentennial History 1788-1988, p. 160)

For many years, Kanawha City was the site of national guard encampments. The 2nd West Virginia Infantry Regiment of the West Virginia National Guard used the area during World War I and in 1925 they camped in the area encompassed by the Kanawha River, MacCorkle Avenue, 35th and 50th streets.

The Charleston - Kanawha City bridge was located at what became 35th street and to the east of the bridge, toward Morris Harvey College, now the University of Charleston, was the Capital View Golf Course and driving range. This area now is the site of the Memorial Hospital of the Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC).

Across MacCorkle Avenue, at the 35th street intersection, was Exhibition Park that opened in 1916. This facility was replaced in 1949 by Watt Powell Park to house a minor

league baseball club for the Charleston community. Popular names for these teams included the Charleston Senators, the Charleston Charlies, the Charleston Wheelers, and the Charleston Alley Cats. This facility was demolished in 2005 and currently is the site of the CAMC Cancer Center.

At the corner of MacCorkle Avenue and 39th street and continuing east to 40th street are the Kanawha Village Apartments. This apartment community was built after World War II to accommodate veterans. With multiple buildings of three stories and 174 units, this complex continues to provide housing adjacent to the site of Village Chapel.

While the Kanawha City area had many interesting and diverse activities and services, it gradually became a popular residential area. Kanawha City was incorporated into the city of Charleston in 1929.

**KANAWHA CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES:**

To better appreciate the history of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, it is helpful to look at aspects of the development of its sponsoring Church—the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston. Founded in the early 1800's, First Presbyterian Church is the second oldest Presbyterian Church in the "The Sheltered Valley" second only to Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church located in Malden, West Virginia. The first deed for land on what is now Charleston, and the site of First Church was dated November 1, 1821. (History of the Presbytery or Kanawha 1895-1956, Forward, pp. 40-45).

Located in downtown Charleston on the Kanawha River in Kanawha County, the First Presbyterian Church, largely through the work of the Reverend J. Moody McNair, became the founding sponsor of several churches in the area, including four churches in the Charleston suburb of Kanawha City--South Ruffner, South Park, Westminster and Village Chapel.

Reverend McNair came to Charleston May 1, 1940, to accept the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Belle, West Virginia, and to give part of his time to the work of the Cabin Creek Mission. In the course of time, Mr. McNair was installed as an Assistant Pastor at First Church. As a true missionary, he soon became involved in organizing missions which over time, grew into self-supporting churches. South Park and Village Chapel both began as "McNair missions" and evolved into Kanawha City Presbyterian Churches – both are still serving the Kanawha City area as active Presbyterian Churches. South Ruffner and Westminster are no longer active.

**SOUTH RUFFNER CHURCH** was originally opened as the Lick Branch Church Union Sunday School sometime prior to 1890. The school began with an attendance of 25 to 30 individuals composed of Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians who worked together in "great harmony". By 1890 the attendance had reached 75 to 80. Over the ensuing years, the Church was housed in several structures and by 1946 had evolved into the Kanawha City Presbyterian Church with a membership of over 300. In 1947, a permit was granted to build

a new church on the corner of 20th Street and Kanawha Avenue. The new building was formally dedicated on December 10, 1950, though a sign on the front of the church identifies it as the South Ruffner Presbyterian Church with the date, 1948. Today, signage in front of this structure indicates it is now the "Hope Church" with services on Sundays at 9:30 AM and in smaller letters below this it indicates it is the South Ruffner Presbyterian Church with Sunday services at 11AM.

The **WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** was started in 1919 as a mission church, again with the support of the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, to serve a growing Kanawha City community of glassworkers and their families. Meetings were held in the Owens Club Room, which suggests that these took place at the Owens-Illinois Glass Plant. In October 1923, church members began meeting in a home located at 2511 Kanawha Avenue in the South Ruffner area just five blocks from the South Ruffner Church. The Sunday school and church services were held at this location until completion of the church building at its long-term location in 1925. This building was financed by members of the First Presbyterian Church and the Kanawha City Church and was officially organized on August 25, 1925. Westminster celebrated its 75th anniversary in the year 2000 and would be celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2025. Services continued at Westminster until its closure on December 24, 2019. With its closure, several of the Westminster congregation members transferred their church membership to Village Chapel.

**SOUTH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** was built in South Park, another area of Kanawha City--a small community of about two hundred families located in the southwestern area along the narrow valley of Venable Branch, a very small stream which flows to and empties into the Kanawha River in the vicinity of 29th Street. Organized as a "mission" under the direction of Dr. J. Moody McNair, and the First Presbyterian Church, it became South Park Presbyterian Church on May 5th, 1946, with forty-two charter members. Currently, South Park is still an active church and over recent years has participated with Village Chapel to engage in church and community activities.

## VILLAGE CHAPEL - IN THE BEGINNING – THE 1940s

Village Chapel was first conceived in 1946 in the minds of Reverend J. Moody McNair, then the Minister of Chapels of the First Presbyterian Church, Mr. Payne Brown, and Mr. Donald Cork. Enlisting the support of the officers of Charleston's First Presbyterian Church and several interested Kanawha City laymen, these founding fathers were authorized to proceed to establish an "outpost". The sponsoring Church, First Presby, voted to purchase a building site at the corner of 39th Street and Venable Avenue.

Guidance for the development of the new church was provided by a Council, because it was not yet a constituted church. Members of the Council included Reverand McNair as moderator; John C. Arter, Doyne B. Berlien, Payne Brown, Joe F. Burdette, Elmer H. Dodson, Carolyn H. Cork, Donald L. Cork, Marjorie S. Draus, Robert B. McCue, John Mendenhall, Leroy Osborn, Violet S. Pitzer, Joseph S. Soto, Fred Work, and Kenneth Wren. This core of

individuals continued to sustain the church through its early years, and their names are indelibly inscribed in the history of Village Chapel.

The Council appointed a Building Committee composed of Donald L. Cork, Chairman, LeRoy Osborn, Fred A. Work, and Dr. J. Moody McNair, Ex-Officio. A Finance Committee was composed of Joseph F. Soto, Chairman, Earl H. Bailey, John C. Arter, Payne Brown, John Mendenhall, Kenneth Wrenn, Friend C. Cochran, and Robert G. Massey. These committees, under the guidance of the Session's Outpost Committee of the First Presbyterian Church, developed plans which resulted in the financing and building of the new church. Property for the proposed church, valued at $85,000, was financed by contributions from the First Church, a grant from the Home Mission Advance Fund of the Presbytery, contributions of the Village group and other contributing friends.

Martha McNair Shell, the daughter of Reverend McNair, shared this story: "Mother told us that while out in the car one day, she and Daddy (Reverand McNair), were at a stop light in Kanawha City and Daddy pointed to a corner lot and stated 'There ought to be a church there,' thus the birth of the Village Chapel where it stands today." (Letter from Martha McNair Shell, January 27, 2000).

On **September 15, 1946**, through the courtesy of the Kanawha County Board of Education, the first Sunday school classes and worship services of the new congregation were held in the auditorium of the Horace Mann School with forty-seven persons present for the initial service. With a rental agreement in place with the Board of Education, services were conducted by Reverand McNair, and attendance grew to an average of 132 each Sunday. Over time, other activities evolved, including two Women's Circles, numbering approximately thirty-five members each, two Brownie Scout troops and a Junior Choir.

On **April 12, 1948,** the Reverend J. Moody McNair, minister at First Presbyterian Church, wrote the following letter to "Friends" though there is no indication in the historical notes of who these individuals might be:

> It is time for our big forward step toward the proposed church at 39th St. and Venable Ave. I know you will be grateful for the opportunity to take this step with us, and thankful God has made it possible for you to do so.
>
> It is needless for me to point out to you the real need for a church at this strategic place. I think we all realize the great opportunity we have for glorifying God by going forward. We are confident that He will bless what we are doing and will do. His Cause is a glorious Cause and He honors us by asking us to undertake the task for Him. We cannot but rise up and say, "Here am I..."
>
> Let us keep in mind the fact that 18 months ago we had no sabbath school and no morning worship. On September 15, 1946, 18 months ago, we started with 46 people.

We now minister to over 225 in a school building which was not designed for religious purposes. Even in the face of these difficulties we have grown.

NOW - The day of march has come. God's command is "Forward!"

NOW - Approximately $100,000 is needed for the first unit which will comprise the chapel and religious education building.

The First Presbyterian Church purchased the lot at a cost of $10,000 and supplied ministerial service for eighteen months. On August 1, 1948, the Kanawha County School Board ruled that the Horace Mann School "will no longer be available for religious services, hence you see the urgency of the situation.'

On completion of the first unit, it is our hope to have an organized self-supporting church.

It is our desire that the first unit be erected debt free so that the step above can be put into effect. This church is to be a church ministering to the West end of Kanawha City and the major portion of the funds must come from those whom the church will serve.

As one that Christ has blessed in many ways throughout your life, will you not now show your gratitude to Him by making a generous pledge to His Church? By this pledge you will be honoring Him with your substance and providing a church home for hundreds yet unborn. This pledge is so designed as to cover a two-year period, from June 30, 1948, to June 30, 1950.

Thank you in His Name and may His grace and peace be with you always, I am
Your Pastor,
J. Moody McNair

After the fledgling Village Chapel congregation held worship services at Horace Mann for nearly two years, the Board of Education ruled that it would no longer be possible to lease any public-school building for religious services after August 1, 1948. As a result, Village Chapel was no longer permitted to use the school for worship services. Following this decision, the group moved to the clubhouse of the Charleston Boat Club located on the bank of the Kanawha River near 35th Street. Charter members relate that the Club's "refreshments" were covered to create a more appropriate setting for Sunday morning services. Martha McNair Shell shared the following regarding the church meeting in the Boat Club, "Our family would go over on Sunday morning before worship service to clean up the place. I distinctly remember feeling very wicked when I helped pick up beer cans and threw them away during our clean-up duty!" The congregation continued to meet in this rather unorthodox venue until the new church construction was completed in the fall of 1949.

Excerpts from a charter member's (Ditty Mendenhall) letter recalling the church's beginnings remembers "the Sunday Dr. McNair pulled from his pocket a wrinkled $1.00 bill from Bob Phillips (owner of a restaurant on McCorkle Avenue behind the church site) to start the building fund" and "when the boys in Harold Miller's Sunday School class finally succeeded in slipping a nickel in the juke-box between Sunday School and church"!

Harry Brawley, in his autobiography, I Boppy, wrote:

> In 1947 the First Presbyterian Church sponsored a new church in Kanawha City at Venable Avenue and 39th Street. Preliminary services were held in Horace Mann School beginning in September of that year. The Rev. Moody McNair, an assistant pastor at First Church, served as the minister. The new church was a success from the very beginning. People of all faiths, including one Muslim family, were interested in having a church in their community, especially for their children. Services were held in the school building for a time and then moved to the Boat Club near the Kanawha City Bridge. The school board was afraid other religious groups would begin asking to use school buildings on Sundays. Having services in the Boat Club, where beer was sold, bothered some members. Beer cases were stacked and covered by a white cloth to form a podium. Boppy began teaching at the beginning of the movement to build the new church. When services were moved to the Boat Club and the objections were heard, Boppy said, "If Christianity could change the cross from being a symbol of execution and death into one of salvation, I'm sure we can sanctify a few beer cases on Sunday. That seemed to pacify the members who were objecting."

Ground-breaking ceremonies for Village Chapel were held on **May 8, 1949**. After the worship service, a large pan was placed in a hole in the ground and those present were invited to pass in review, donating any contribution they wished to the cause. A generous contribution was received in the amount of $1,470.

In the two and one-half years since the first service and despite the difficulties of holding church and Sunday school in a school building and a clubhouse, the congregation had grown from 47 to 95 adults with a Sunday School enrollment of 214.

Donald Cork, Chair of the Building Committee, included the following in the Bulletin for the Ground-Breaking Service:

> Plans for a proposed church building and Sunday school unit were initiated by the Council under the guidance of the Board of Elders of the First Presbyterian Church, and in the promotion of that plan the Church purchased the present building site.
>
> The working drawing for the proposed building prepared by Glenn Hancock, architect, and the Financing Plan developed by the Council were given final approval by the Board of Elders on April 29 of this year, and by the congregation of the First Church on

> May 1. A contract for the construction was immediately entered into with H. B. Agsten and Sons.
>
> It is proposed that upon the completion of the building, the persons associated together as The Village Chapel shall become duly organized and constituted as a Presbyterian Church, U. S.

The Reverend J.M. McNair, D.D. observed in the same Ground-Breaking Service Bulletin:

> The Church is nothing less than the body of Christ—the organism to which He gives spiritual life and through which He manifests the fineness of His power and grace. The Church cannot be defined in human terms. It is the great company of persons whom Christ has saved, in whom He Dwells, to whom, and through whom, He reveals God.
>
> He who is the life of nature and of humanity reveals Himself most fully in the great company of those who have joined themselves to Him by faith. Union with Christ is the real purpose of the Church. This alone transforms the sinner into a Christian, and this alone makes possible that vital and spiritual fellowship between individuals with constitutes the organizing principle of the Church. The same divine life which ensures the pardon and the perseverance of the believer, unites him to all other believers. The indwelling Christ makes the Church superior to and more permanent than all humanitarian organizations, they die, but because Christ lives, the Church lives also. Without a proper conception of this sublime relation of the Church to Christ, we cannot properly appreciate our dignity as Church members. It is a partnership, but a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are yet to be born. May this Church be a refuge where His children can find not only fellowship, pardon, and grace, but where they can also find peace for their souls.

In the six months while the building was under construction, a group of church members constructed tables, shelves, cabinets and other items of furniture. Several members of the church spent many hours making the pulpit, pulpit chairs, and a communion table. The lectern which is now located in the street-side entry to the narthex is a piece of the original furniture built by Friend Cochrane and other men of the church. Church records indicate that Sally Brown, the wife of Payne Brown, donated a leaf from the family's dining table for use in constructing the mahogany top of the communion table. During this time a choir was organized, a piano was donated for the Sunday School, and an electric organ was purchased for the sanctuary (located where the Fellowship Hall is currently).

During construction of the new church a note in the bulletin reminded the membership: We are sure that you have watched daily the progress being made on our new church. It is a great satisfaction to each of you personally to know that this will be your

church. It will be yours because it has come into being by your consecrated efforts and your constant loyalty . . . Please continue to visit the construction project daily and say with justifiable pride, "That's my church!"

The building was completed, and the initial service was held on **November 6, 1949.** At this memorial service, Dr. McNair's sermon subject was "The Glory of the Church" and after his sermon, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated. At this service, fifty-five new members were received. Of these individuals, thirty-four new members were received by letter, nineteen by profession of faith, and two by re-affirmation of faith. Three received Bibles for memorizing the Catechism of the Presbyterian Church. Three children – Elmer Denison Dodson, Janie Martin, and Andrew Chevalier Cork were baptized. The "Cradle Roll" at this time listed the names of forty children under the age of three.

A worship service was held on Sunday afternoon from 2:30 – 3:00 on **November 13, 1949,** to celebrate the Dedication of Village Chapel followed by an open house for all Presbyterian Church congregations throughout the Kanawha Valley to see the newly completed church. The program included the presentation of the keys to the new Church by the builder, H. B. Agsten, and an address by the Reverend George H. Vick, D. D. of First Church.

Printed in the program was a note by Payne Brown that read in part:

> Last Saturday, a group of us met here to get the church ready for the first service. It was like Christmas! We were hanging curtains instead of stockings. The men brought in the pulpit, just completed. Some had brooms. The mop had a busy evening. A jeep made many trips for chairs. Evergreens came from yards to the church lawn. There was a sense of excitement. We were moving in! It was Christmas and a new home. It was like fixing for a wedding. We all walked about and admired the building and the furnishings and the organ. We had seen such things before, but this church is OURS . . .
>
> It is ours who are here today. Ours, because today we are from the First Presbyterian which initiated the enterprise. Ours, because we are friends and neighbors who have given separately of our money and our time. Ours, because some have had three years of working and of waiting. Ours, because some have just come to take part in this work. Ours, because some are just now deciding that here is the place for us, here is something worthwhile to which can devote our best efforts and time, and prayers—here we can put our best because here we find The Best.
>
> This has been an expensive enterprise. Already the First Presbyterian Church and its members have given directly to this work about $20,000, besides furnishing to the Home Mission Committee the funds from which to put $5,000 here. The Church stands committed to $5,000 more and so does the Home Mission Committee. The owner of the Village Apartments made a contribution. The people of The Village

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 (Reverand 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 $1,000, the Church side walk was paved on 39$^{th}$ 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. Reverand 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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parlor Furnishings – Given by an anonymous family of Village Chapel

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

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

Kitchen Equipment – Given by the Women of the Church

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 1970s

**In the 1970s Village Chapel saw many new projects and activities come into being with great involvement of the congregation.**

**January 11, 1970.** An Inquirer's Group was initiated by Rev. Crow for persons interested in exploring the meaning of the Christian Faith and church membership in today's world. Four sessions were held in which the changing task of the church, the place of the Bible, and the call to be Christian in the world was explored.

**January 18.** The Kanawha City churches observed two ecumenical services during the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." The first was held at St. Agnes Catholic Church with the Rev. Mr. Philip Weeks of the Good Shepherd Episcopalian Church preaching the sermon. The second service was held January 21st at Morris Memorial Methodist Church with Father Edward Sadie celebrating Mass.

**February 8.** On this date, a "Race Relations Sunday" was held. The service was preceded with a carry-in supper in the Fellowship Hall. Following supper, a panel of women consisting of Mrs. Sally Richardson, Mrs. Carol Ferrell, Mrs. Ann Williams, Mrs. Joy Kleeman, and Mrs. Bette Hamilton (Moderator) discussed inter-racial relationships and prejudices as it affected them in their separate experiences as Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and Negro women.

**February 22.** A Sunday afternoon program was held with the Rev. James Somerville, Presbyterian minister to the poor working in Boone County, along with representatives of the WV Department of Welfare, social workers from Kanawha and Boone counties, and the Executive Director of the Kanawha County Community Council to explore Sharing of Common Attitudes About Welfare and Poverty, Information from Resource Leaders and Experiences of Poor People Active in Welfare Rights.

**April 5, 1970.** A team of five young men from the Union Seminary conducted the church service on this date and over the weekend, conducted multiple meetings with the young people of the Church to provide teaching and social sessions with them.

**May 15-16**. Thirteen representatives from Village Chapel joined members from South Ruffner, Ruffner Memorial, South Park, and Westminster Presbyterian Churches at a "Consultation on Parish Ministry" which was held at Cedar Lakes.

**September.** The Women's Circle Annual Report indicated that there are nine circles in the Church. During the past year circles purchased five dining room tables to add to those purchased earlier for the Fellowship Hall. The circles also purchased material for draperies for the library and members made the drapes. Representatives from the Women of Village Chapel attended a Study-Planning Retreat at Cedar Lakes in May to discuss the formation of the Southeast Parish Plan, the purpose of which was to build bridges of communication and

trust between the five participating churches: South Park, South Ruffner, Village Chapel, Westminster and Ruffner Memorial. This effort will hopefully develop a plan for cooperative efforts in becoming the servant church with greater opportunities for all members to receive the benefits of training, worship, fellowship, and congregational fulfillment.

**November 1.** Mr. Eric Roth was with us for his first service as our new Music Director. Mr. Roth lives in Parkersburg and will be in Charleston on Tuesdays and Sundays. He and his wife have recently returned from Munich, Germany where he studied on a Fulbright Scholarship. Village Chapel welcomes Mr. Roth to the Church staff and feels very fortunate to have his services.

**December 24**. The Christmas Eve service at 11:00 p.m. lifted the good news of Christ's birth in scripture, carol and song. The Sacrament of the Lord's Super was celebrated around the table, setting the mood for the upcoming observance of Christmas.

**December 27, 1970**. Mr. Crow engaged in a dialogue sermon with Mary White and Joe Settle, college students of this congregation. In the evening, Mr. and Mrs. Crow invited the college-aged young people to the manse for a carry-in dinner and get-together.

**January 17, 1971**. In celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Village Chapel joined with other area churches for a union service, held this year at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Young people from the various churches provided music for the service. Another unity service was held on the following Wednesday evening at St. George's Orthodox Church in downtown Charleston at Lee and Court Streets. The Rev. Father Shaheen conducted a vesper service and afterwards explained the ritual and liturgy of the Syrian Orthodox Church – a wonderful ecumenical experience.

**May 7-9, 1971**. A Church Retreat was held at Bluestone Conference Center with about 100 members of Village Chapel in attendance. Mr. Dan Wheeler, a member of the faculty of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and a friend of Mr. Crow, was the retreat leader. The theme for the event was "Touch and Go" – to be in touch with fellow believers and with God and to go out into the world as witnesses.

**May 23, 1971**. The four Parish Choirs performed under the direction of Village Chapel's choir director, Eric Roth, at Ruffner Memorial Church at 5:00 p.m. A sack lunch plus good fellowship followed.

**June 27, 1971**. As Mr. Crow was on vacation, the service on this day was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Robert G. Newman of Morris Harvey College – his sermon titled, "God on the College Campus" – was a very appropriate topic as Village Chapel has a large number of its young people enrolled in college.

**July 1971**. The Session changed the time for worship service to 10:00 a.m. during the months of July and August with the intent that there would be time for dialogue following the

sermon. This meant that any questions or opinions from the congregation could be voiced, and time given to expanding any general ideas inherent in the sermon.

**November 21, 1971**. Following the worship service, a reception was held in the Fellowship Hall to honor Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cochran, charter members of this church who are moving to St. Petersburg, Florida. At the reception a scroll was presented to Fred and Elsie which read:

> To our fellow Christians in St. Petersburg Beach, greetings! We introduce to you our dear friends, the Cochrans. Friend and Elsie have been leaders from the first days of our church until now. They found a director, brought her to practice and we had a choir, and they sang in the choir this morning. Their swimming pool was open to a Sunday School class and Deacon's meetings. From an extra leaf in Elsie's dining room table, Friend made a Communion Table. He was the first Clerk of the Session and Elsie has served in all phases of the work of the Women of the Church. They came into a diversified group and brought an informed Biblical faith and deep convictions. We have been blessed as they shared their faith and love and fun with us. They are happy people because they have the great certainties of Christ.
> Our love goes with them.

**November 21, 1971**. The installation for the Rev. Michael E. Williams as Parish Minister for the Charleston Southeast Parish was held at the South Park Presbyterian Church. Those participating represented all four churches of the Parish and included:

> Rev. W.W. Branch, Jr., Pastor of the Falls View and Smithers Churches
> Rev. Vernon McGehee, Regional Director of Christian Education, Synod of WV
> Dr. Robert G. Newman, Department of Religion & Philosophy, Morris Harvey College
> Mr. Frank Garred, Ruling Elder at Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church
> Mr. John Aieker, Ruling Elder at South Park Presbyterian Church
> Mr. Payne Brown, Ruling Elder at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church
> Mr. Phil Bridwell, Ruling Elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church

**December 22, 1971.** A group of carolers met at Dr. Bobby Caldwell's house on Noyes Avenue. This has become a tradition over the years and many of our shut-ins and other members of the congregation have welcomed the glad sounds of Christmas carols outside their door. The Caldwell family graciously invited the carolers to come by after the singing to enjoy refreshments.

**Fall 1971**. Sports (Basketball Teams) at Village Chapel:
Village Chapel sponsored two boys' basketball teams-- the Senior Midgets (7th graders) and the Junior High Boys (8th and 9th graders). Their coaches are Tommy Mayne and Jack Schwarz. As Village Chapel had no gym, practices were held at Ruffner Memorial Church gym.

The Girls team (Senior High Girls) practiced at Horace Mann Junior High and were coached by Miss Pam Robertson, a student at Morris Harvey College.

A basketball carry-in dinner was held in the Fellowship Hall with Don Stover, basketball coach at Stonewall Jackson High School, as the guest speaker. On **December 4th** the members of the girls' basketball team held a bake sale in the Fellowship Hall to raise the money necessary for rental of the Horace Mann gym for their practices.

**January 9, 1972**. Following worship, a congregational meeting was called on this date for the purpose of changing the terms of office for elders and deacons from six years to three years and to provide for the annual election of these officers. This change was approved and served as the acknowledged term from this time forward.

**January 1972**. A Children's Choir for kindergarten, first, and second graders was organized with Mrs. Douglas Curnutte as Director. The children met for practice once a week and participated in the Sunday morning worship service from time to time – a wonderful and enlightening addition to the music program at Village Chapel.

**February 8, 1972**. Dr. and Mrs. Alan G. Gordon, members of Village Chapel from 1969 to 1972, were commissioned as medical missionaries of the Presbyterian Church to work in Brazil, South America. Alan and his wife, Alma, had six children – all girls. During their membership at Village Chapel, Dr. Gordon was elected as an elder, Alma sang in the choir, and all of the family were active in the life of the Church. Dr. Gordon was a surgical resident at Charleson Memorial Hospital and Alma was a nurse who also worked as an In-service instructor at Memorial Hospital.

In a letter to the Church, Dr. Gordon shared a cherished event that occurred during his ministry at Village. During a Pentecost Sunday Celebration, Church members and friends were gathered outside where Alan began playing a hymn on his accordion. As he walked to the entrance, the crowd followed along and into the sanctuary, singing and praising God! The story of this event was written up in a Charleston newspaper, serving as another colorful event for our Church. Village Chapel's World Mission Offering on March 19th totaled $4,000 and was used to transport the Gordons to their mission in South America. In addition, it was announced that Village would continue to support the Gordons through the World Missions in the amount of $1,600 annually. Over the years, Village Chapel continued to support the Gordon's work as medical missionaries in Brazil.

On the first two Sundays in **March** a special offering was taken in addition to the regular offering. The monies collected were used to assist victims of the horrific Buffalo Creek flood in southwestern West Virginia-- another wonderful example of Village Chapel's outreach to those in need.

**June 4, 1972**. Rev. Crow preached the sermon at the Baccalaureate Service for the Charleston High School graduating class. This event was held at St. John's Episcopal Church

at 7:30 p.m. Sixteen members of the class were from Village Chapel and included: Debbie Adams, Jeff Anderson, Grant Archibald, Elizabeth Bone, Ann Campbell, Mike Carey, Terri Crow, Beth Griffith, Pat Jacobs, Greg Mason, Christine Milbourne, Kelvin Raines, Mary Ruth Richardson, Eric Schwarz, Donald Tabaretti, and Benny Webb.

On **February 11, 1973**, a congregational meeting resulted in the recommendation to have a unicameral form of government at Village Chapel. This was approved and on **February 25th** twelve members of the congregation were elected to the position of Ruling Elder.

**March 4, 1973**. Members of the Sessions of the four Parish churches met at South Park Church and, following a Lenten breakfast, took a hard look at the degree of commitment and support which they and their congregation gave to the Parish. "The fact that the Southeast Parish receives half its support from Presbytery's Home Mission fund makes it necessary for the Parish to have a life beyond this year."

In **1973**, Village Chapel had seventeen High school graduates. The names of those graduating and the schools from which they graduated were:

George Washington: Tom Andreas
Charleston Catholic: Kathy Kruk
Charleston High: John Blair, Patti Campbell, Sue Campbell, Bonnie Chevalier, Rich Claymore, Bobbie Sue Coleman, Nelle Dodson, Barbara Harris, Anita Jackson, Jenny Joseph, Jeff Lippitt, Patty Litton, Lynn Priestley, Todd Schwarz, and George Singleton

On **August 5, 1973,** our guest speaker was Mary Lee Daughterty, a member of Village Chapel and the Chairperson of the Task Force on Women in the Church of Kanawha Presbytery. Mrs. Daughterty is an Instructor in Religion at Morris Harvey College. Martha Walker, who assisted Mary Lee in the service, is also a member of the Presbytery Committee on Women.

On **October 14, 1973,** Denny Dodson participated in the worship service. At the time, Denny was a senior at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Also, Denny was the first baby baptized at Village Chapel and grew up in the Church. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dodson, charter members and leaders in the congregation.

**October 25, 1973**. Mary Lee Daughterty and Denny Dodson were examined by the Session and commended to the Committee on Candidates of Kanawha Presbytery as candidates for the gospel ministry.

**November 4, 1973**. The day of observation of Holy Communion was also a day for presentation of the Eagle Award to Explorer Scout, David Miller. A reception in the Fellowship Hall was hosted by David's friends in honor of the occasion.

On **November 25th** the Charter Members still residing in Charleston and attending worship in this congregation were recognized and the members present were asked to come to the Communion Table, and a "Litany for Bidding a Mortgage Goodbye" was read, and the mortgage was burned. Those Charter members present were:

Mrs. Mary Ann Archibald
Betty Lou Arthur Burton
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Arthur
Mrs. John C. Ballows
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Beatty
Mrs. Harry Brawley
Mrs. Elton S. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. W. Payne Brown
Mrs. Joe F. Burdett
Mr. Richie Callard
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Carrington
Mrs. James B. Dilger
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Dodson
Judge John A. Field, Jr.
Mrs. Ivan Gladwell
Mrs. Norman Gordon
Mrs. Mary Darnold Hague
Mr. Edward Joe Hague, Jr.
Mrs. Charlotte Hughes
Mr. Kenath Kettle
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Preston
Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. King
Mrs. Alex W. Laing, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Harold Litton
Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Maloney
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh A. Markey
Mr. and Mrs. James T. McNutt, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Phil J. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil P. Murray
Mrs. Newman H. Newhouse
Mrs. Samuel G. Olver
Mrs. Leroy Osborn
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pitzer
Mr. William C. Reichard
Mr. C. J. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Snyder
Mr. and Mrs. Julian H. Sockman
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Stock
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Suter
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Vaughan
Mr. and Mrs. Kermit West
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Wrenn

On **December 2, 1973**, Village Chapel welcomed the Dr. Douglas Curnutte family as they shared in the Advent worship experience.

At the **December 1973** Luncheon and General Meeting of the Women of the Church, Sister Joyce was the speaker. She is a member of the new prayer community, Mount Taber, located in Spring Hill. As a cloistered nun, the sister regularly spent 10 to 14 hours a day in prayer and praise and has now moved out into the world to help make Jesus a reality in the lives of others. The Joy Gift was also scheduled for this occasion and as the ritual required, each person present attached her envelope to the Christmas Tree.

The Christmas Eve Service was held on **December 24** at 11:00 p.m. The service was a candlelight service during which the Sacrament of Communion was celebrated.

On Christian Student Sunday, **December 30th**, Village Chapel college students were recognized during worship and the following students participated in the service: Nelle

Dodson, Patty Dearien, Pat Jacobs, Eric Schwartz, and Roger Sockman. That evening, the students were invited to a carry-in dinner at 6:00 at the manse located at 4705 Noyes Avenue.

During **1973** a number of organizations used Village Chapel for meetings. Community groups using the church included: Explorer Scout Troop 98, Brownie Scout Troop 524, Jr. Girl Scout Troop 733, Greenmont Garden Club, Rivermeade Garden Club, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Greenbrier Pool Associates, Weight-Watchers, League of Women Voters, Junior League, and several high school and college sororities.

**1973** was a busy year for Village Chapel's Explorer Post 98. With 24 members they met every other Tuesday. The troop was recognized on Boy Scout Sunday, February 11, during the Worship Service. The post went camping one weekend every month during the year. In the spring some of the members attended the Council Explorer Planning Conference at Pipestem Resort. In April they went on a canoeing trip in Ohio. Over Memorial Day weekend the troop manned a "Coffee Stop" on I-64 in Putnam County. Three members worked on the staff at the Buckskin Scout Reservation at Dilly's Mill all summer. They attended camp as a group the week of June 24-30 and one of the Village scouts was elected Chief of the Arrow, a real honor for the post. In September they worked with the Naval Reserve Engineers at the Buckskin Scout Reservation doing painting as their service project. On September 25th they held an Open House in the Fellowship Hall to welcome anyone interested in becoming a member of the Explorer Post. In November they attended the Council Explorer Planning Conference at Virgil Tate 4-H Camp. As noted previously, on November 4th David Miller, a member of the Post, received his Eagle Scout Award during the Worship Service.

On **June 2, 1974,** the Session voted to confer the title Elder-Emeritus on W. Payne Brown and Harry S. Ingram, the first two gentleman in the history of this congregation to be recognized in this way for their long and faithful service to the Church of Jesus Christ.

**June 1974.** The Church recognized Roger Sockman, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Sockman, as he graduated from Marshall University in June, where he received the Department of Speech Award for broadcasting as the new director for Station WMUL Radio. Roger also received the Department of Journalism Award as an outstanding broadcasting journalist.

Congratulations were also extended to Denny Dodson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dodson, charter members of Village Chapel. In June, Denny graduated from Louisville Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky with the degree of Master of Divinity.

**June 16, 1974**. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." And what could be more beautiful than the Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. John T. Johnson on this date. Nella and John have been members of Village Chapel for 17 years and make their home in winter at 3709 Venable Avenue, moving to their summer home "on the farm" in Williamstown, WV (near Parkersburg). Nella wore her 50-year-old wedding gown to celebrate

the occasion. Many members of Village Chapel made the trip to be with them to share in the festivities. Mr. Johnson is a former West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture.

**1974**. A very interesting and lovely art show took place at Village Chapel on Pentecost Sunday. Members of the church and our sister churches in the Southeast Parish were represented in the exhibits. A large crowd turned out to see and enjoy the display of original work done in many mediums. "The hand-made and hand-quilted bedspreads were a joy to behold. There were also flower arrangements, banners, original oil and watercolor paintings, wood carvings – you name it and we have it – even quilling! A truly lovely way to show off the different talents God has bestowed on each of us."

An early historian describes the children's participation in the Sunday service. "It is worth a visit to the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday at Village Chapel to see and hear the Children's Sermon by Dr. Crow. When he invites the children to come to the chancel and be seated around him, they rush up from all sides. They seem to come up out of the floor and the walls. Twenty to thirty children arrive at the chancel steps each Sunday for their special surprise sermon. Sometimes the subject will be seashells, or building blocks, groceries, jig-saw puzzles—and during the Advent season, they light the candles in the Advent wreath and hear about each candle in turn. Each session offers a powerful lesson which the adults seem to enjoy as much as the children."

**November 1974.** To celebrate Rev. Crow's birthday, Sharon Curnutte wrote a Birthday Song in his honor entitled:

"When It's Corn-Shucking Time in West Virginia, the Crows will Be Home to Roost"

Listen, ye people, while we tell you a story
It's about a man who we all know
And his name is Conrad Crow.
It was on a day some years ago
That this future pastor was born
But little did his parents know
Of the life that lay before.

Engineering turned out not to be his thing
He was destined to be God's man
And lead us to Christ's love.
Varied are his activities.
He plants seeds in the sun
And harvest potatoes, beans and squash
'Till gardening seasons done.

Hiking with his son, singing inspiringly too
And taking hayrides in the cold
With the temperature thirty-two.
He is always there when we need help,
He feeds our minds each week.
He wants us to be 'one in Christ'
And our fellowship complete.

So, we honor him tonight, and his family too
They care for us and work for us
We share with them and love them too.

**December 1974**. Dr. Douglas Curnutte, a member of the congregation at Village Chapel and a Ruling Elder, brought to church and administered to all who wished to receive it, flu vaccine. Those receiving the vaccine, in turn, made a special gift to the Alan Gordon Fund to continue to support his service as a medical missionary.

**October 12, 1975.** Never a dull moment at Village! On this day when Sunday morning worshipers entered the sanctuary, they found a tall, lovely bride in her wedding dress and veil, seated by her handsome bridegroom and their attendants. In a 9:45 service the couple had been married by the Rev. Drs. Conrad Crow and Albert C. Winn together with the Jesuit Priest, Fr. James Minkus. Organ selections were given by Mrs. David L. Shuman. The newlyweds will reside in Newton, Massachusetts.

Village Chapel, incorporated as a Church in 1950, celebrated its 25th Anniversary on **October 19, 1975**. The celebration began with a 9:45 a.m. Sunday School session featuring displays of photographs of historical moments in the life of the Church. The 11:00 service featured a sermon by Rev. Dr. Conrad Crow entitled, "A Chip Off the Old Century." The worship service was followed by a dinner in the Fellowship Hall. At 1:00, Harry Brawley, a long-time member, Sunday School teacher, and husband of Charter member, Betty Brawley, presided over a program devoted to recollections of the earlier history of the Church and forecasts for the future. Mr. Brawley was also honored for his service. Payne Brown served as Chairman of the Silver Anniversary observance. As a part of the celebration, letters from the three previous ministers, J. Moody McNair, Hugh F. Ash, and James R. Kennedy, were presented. Snippets from each:

> **McNair J. Moody**. . . I thought that I had the best church one could have. It was a new church, and everyone a new member – You were so willing and eager to do anything you were asked to do. I remember you would say – "I have never done anything like that before – but I will try" – and try you did – and always it was a good job . . .
>
> **Hugh F. Ash** . . . I remember only beautiful things about Village Chapel and the wonderful people we learned to know so well between 1954 and 1959. As I look back on those years, they were particularly important to me, for it was a time of growth and

development in my own ministry. The love and affection extended to me at that time were very important. Large adjustments were being made from the life of the military to the life of a private citizen, and pastor of the church. God opened the door for us to share together during that period of my life, and for this I am most grateful . . .

**James R. Kennedy** . . . Other situations that stand out in my mind include the large number of young people who attended college. I believe one year we had 79 young people furthering their education in college and university. Along this same line, our midnight Christmas Eve communion services remain vivid. The picture still is fresh in my mind – scores of young couples, as well as others approaching the church at 11 p.m. in the falling snow as they made their way across the lawn . . . As we look back upon our nine years at Village Chapel, it seems that this was the most satisfying of all my pastorates. We, therefore, are eternally indebted to the people of that fine congregation . . .

In an article published in the Charleston newspaper, Dr. Crow brought forth the activity of the newly formed coalition of four Presbyterian Churches – Village Chapel, Westminster, South Park and Ruffner Memorial. "The first visible effect of cooperation was the calling of a parish minister. The Rev. Mike Williams, who served as stated supply minister at South Park and as assistant minister at Village Chapel . . .One significant result, according to Dr. Crow, has been the building of trust between fellow Presbyterians who before were virtual strangers to one another. Eventually the idea of cooperation will be extended to other denominations to a greater degree, including sharing in union services such as on Thanksgiving and pulpit exchanges . . . Some of these hopes include service to nursing homes in the community, preparing a "rite of passage" for the adolescents as they join the church so that they may become a real force in the formative years, and establishing a memorial burial society for persons who wish to have a simple religious service and burial without pomp and great expense."

The Village Chapel Staff at some point in Rev. Crow's ministry included these individuals:

Rev. Conrad G. Crow, Minister
Rev. Michael E. Williams, Assistant Minister
Mrs. Jane King, Church Secretary
Steve Ramsey, Choir Director and Organist
Mrs. George Struthers, Assistant in Christian Education
Mrs. Madeline Pleasant, Custodian
James Burnette, Custodian

**August 28, 1976**. The four Parish churches (Village Chapel, Westminster, South Park and Ruffner Memorial) held their annual picnic in Kanawha State Forest. These picnics were just one of several joint services among the Presbyterian churches.

**November 1976**. To celebrate the death of Alfred B. Carrington, a member of the Session at the time of his death, an outdoor bulletin board was erected. Many members of the Church and friends of the Carrington family contributed toward the cost of this project which helped to make Village Chapel more "visible" in the Kanawha City community.

**Undated events, 1976.** It was learned from the Office of Greenbrier Presbytery in **1976**, that this agency would be vacating space (in the house next door to the Church) it had rented from Village Chapel for several years to "move to more commodious quarters". Village Chapel will miss the opportunity to serve the larger church by hosting the many meetings of Presbytery task groups and getting to know the members of other churches.

The Task Group for Assistance to Widows and Widowers met regularly during the year, ascertained needs among older members of the community and quietly met them wherever they could. No fanfare was exhibited by this group as many of the situations with which they dealt did not require knowledge by anyone except themselves and so they carried out their mission as Christ suggested – without drawing attention to themselves and giving God the glory.

The Long-Range Planning Group looked at future uses for the Fellowship House (next door to the church) since the Presbytery Office moved out. They made recommendations about parking around the church and conducted a survey to determine how many cars are parked in the vicinity of the church on Sunday. As a result, the Church voted to spend $10,000 on various renovations to the Fellowship House and asked the Buildings and Grounds Committee to have angle parking lines painted in the off-street parking areas, hoping to make more advantageous use of what space is available.

**August 1977**. The four Southeast Parish churches joined forces for a Vacation Bible School held over the dates of August 2-6, using the Shalom material. There was an average enrollment for the week of 62 children.

**December 28, 1977.** As a tribute to Robert M. Eberbaugh, following his death in 1976, members of the Church dedicated a sculpture in his honor done by Dr. Cubert Smith, Chairman of the Department of Art at West Virginia State College. Dr. Smith was a personal friend of Mr. Eberbaugh and because he was a widely known and highly accomplished artist in many mediums, he was commissioned by the Church to sculpt the memorial.

At the dedication of this sculpture, Elmer Dodson, former mayor of Charleston and a ruling elder at Village Chapel, spoke of Bob Eberbaugh, the Man. Dr. Smith spoke of his friend, Bob Eberbaugh, the Artist.

"As the draped white cloth fell from the memorial under Mrs. Eberbaugh' s hands, there was a deep and reverential silence. Then, just as at a new exhibition of paintings or sculpture at an art gallery, a low murmur breathed from the church, a murmur of approbation and awe, wonder and admiration. The sculpted form – an abstract human form, radiating

power and strength and beauty just as Bob Eberbaugh radiated the warmth of mankind in his earthly life—invited his friends to touch and feel and caress it as though they were clasping hands with the ruling elder in a moment of fellowship." (Charleston Daily Mail).

**March 1979**. "Who can forget the winter of '79 with its bitter cold and fuel shortages!?!" Village Chapel did its part by not heating the sanctuary and having services in the Fellowship Hall from January 30th till March 6th. All thermostats were set at 65 degrees, even when the Day Nursery and offices were in use.

**1979** brought a number of important additions to the Church. A ramp was installed at the side entrance. A dusk to dawn light was installed at the front corner of the Education Building and the roof over the parlor and kitchen was replaced for the sum of $3,775. Lora Ingram, in gratitude to the congregation for their care during her illness, presented the Church with the wall clock in the Fellowship Hall.

On another note, the organ was said to be "operating at only 50% capacity and continues to be of great concern and anxiety." Carolyn Perrine is the Organist and Sharon Curnutte the Choir Director.

In early **1979**, Rev. Crow received an invitation to attend Merrill Fellowship Meetings for the spring term at the Harvard University Divinity School. This opportunity (Fellowship) is granted each semester to four persons from any denomination who have completed more than five years of service in the ministry. Those selected take up residence in Cambridge, Massachusetts for one academic term. The Session voted to give Dr. Crow sabbatical leave to accept the Fellowship and as a result, Dr. Crow was away from the pulpit from January 29th to March 24th. During his absence, members of the congregation took over the pulpit and congregational visitation.

Following Rev. Crow's sabbatical, he wrote a response to the question, "What have you learned after five weeks on sabbatical?" and his response was:

> It's a fair question for anyone who is presumably using time and space wisely in order to become more effective in ministry. There are a few facts and historical truths I could share with you. For example, the Reformers in the 16th century pruned away much of the ceremonial from worship, reducing baptism to a water ritual, the Eucharist to communion and ordination to the laying on of hands. (A far cry from the high Episcopal church I attended Sunday where the incense censer was swung not only over the altar but over the Bible before reading of the gospel.)
>
> But what I have learned has less to do with facts and more to do with revelation and discovery. I had not realized that when one leads worship in a particular church Sunday after Sunday for 24 years, what is happening in worship elsewhere goes unnoticed. The riches of other traditions, which might instruct our own, are not known. That, plus the simple rush of Sunday following Sunday, and the sign of relief

which accompanies the completion of another sermon, leaves little room for anything else. Because people have always been worshippers, and because showing worth to God has a direct bearing on self-estimation, intention and action, I hope to bring back and share the zest for the worship of God in Jesus Christ. Not to say, "This is the way to worship", but to invite some of you to explore and create ways to celebrate more fully the sacraments, and to acknowledge in a spiritual way the significant events in the cycle of life.

All in all, the experience is cumulative, the benefits multiply, relationships deepen. If I am not able to tell you in so many words <u>what</u> I have learned, I trust it will be evident in my life <u>that</u> I have learned and have grown a bit more into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

The Lord's Peace
Conrad

**July 22, 1979**. Pew Bibles were used for the first time, and the congregation was invited to purchase and designate 100 of them as memorials or to honor family or friends by ordering them through the church office at a cost of $2.50 each. An additional 100 Bibles were given by the Men of the Church to honor Payne and Sally Brown and Virginia and Harold Miller, long-time members of our Church.

**August. 1979**. The Session called George Losko to be he Director of Christian Education. He immediately began his work in this role and quickly became a busy addition to the staff. His wife, Barbara, and their one-year-old daughter, Melissa, resided in the house next to the church. On August 26th there was an Installation Service for George, and a reception in the Fellowship Hall followed the service.

Information regarding George indicated that he was born in Pennsylvania, attended Pikeville College in Kentucky and received the Master of Divinity degree from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in 1976, with a specialization in Christian Education. He worked for 2 ½ years in the First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Arkansas. George has a wealth of information which will help any teachers, youth leaders, or persons looking for assistance with books, film strips, etc. His official job description notes that he is "to create a nurturing environment by creating and maintaining effective educational programs for all members of Village Chapel.

**September 10, 1979**. Village Chapel was entertained by a group from Lynchburg, Virginia, THE AGELESS WONDERS, consisting of men and women with average ages from 72 years and UP! These traveling performers proved that adulthood can be truly wonderful. The enthusiasm and joy they demonstrated in presenting their songs, dances, jokes and musical instruments of every description was wonderful and proved them worthy of the national acclaim they enjoy.

Another major event in **1979** as noted in the following statement from the Organ Committee is recorded as:

After three years of intensive work and extensive research this Committee presented its report and recommendations – first to the Session, then to the Congregational Meeting in September. The motion made and passed by the congregation at that meeting was as follows:

> "That a Capital Fund Drive in the amount of $125,000 for the purchase of a pipe organ, musical instruments and renovation of the chancel area be approved."

The generous response of the congregation, pledging some $95,000, enabled the Session to sign a contract with the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas, for a 21-rank pipe organ, with delivery and installation scheduled for the late summer of 1981.

It was the culmination of a dream that wind through pipes might replace the undependable sounds of our ailing, and aged, electronic organ. Joe Hudson was the Chairman of this hard-working committee, while William A Coffey kept the Finance Committee at its task until the Capiral Fund Drive was successful.

Other members of the Organ Committee were Sharon Curnutte, Mary Ross, Don Pitzer, Katheryn McCrary, Terry Perrine, and Carolyn Perrine, organist. Conrad Crow pastor, and Lawton Posey, consultant, served as ex officio members.

The year **1979** ended with the demise of the large gas-fired heating unit for the sanctuary. An urgent letter was sent to the congregation (likely from Conrad Crow):

> "When our sanctuary was built in 1963, a wonderful heating machine was installed. It had pumps and pipes, motors and magnets, valves by the dozens, and a gas flame that went . . . ROAR! It served us well through hundreds of Sundays, cooled the fevered brows of bridegrooms and warmed our toes on Christmas Eve. But, alas, time takes its toll of mice and men and furnaces. The ROAR is no more."

There followed an urgent appeal for funds to replace the heating unit, in answer to which the congregation pledged nearly $8,000. Volunteers from the Building and Grounds Committee assisted in tearing out the old unit and installing the new. Two weeks after the old unit died, the new, simpler and more economical unit was in place and operating.

In addition to these additions, under the very capable leadership of Col. Gordon Jung, U.S. A. ret., this committee helped install the air conditioning unit for the sanctuary, spent many Saturdays trimming the shrubbery, painting, cleaning gutters, and generally keeping the facilities in tip-top shape! The year, **1979,** proved to be a busy and expensive year for the Village family!!

In **1979**, a memorial gift was given by the family and friends of Mr. O.H. Rhodes -- a beautiful white brocade funeral pall with the symbol of the cross on it.

The **1980** Committee Reports to the Congregation included a "Statement from the Session" which represents a significant charge to the Church:

> The Village Chapel Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Southern) which has some 4,000 churches located in 60 presbyteries, with about 880,000 members. We are members of the Presbytery of Greenbrier which has 125 churches within its borders in West Virginia; and of the Synod of the Virginias, which includes most of West Virginia within its boundaries.
>
> The Session of our congregation is composed of 18 Ruling Elders in three Classes with a Class elected each year by the congregation. Several years ago **(February 25, 1973)** the congregation voted to go to the unicameral form of government, hence we do not have a Board of Deacons.
>
> The Session recently did a serious study of the Scriptures to present guidelines to the congregation and those seeking to unite with our congregation. In order to be a Christian, a member of Christ's Body, growing in spiritual maturity, the Session would set forth these guidelines from the Scriptures:
>
> 1. The regular praise and worship of God, particularly on the Lord's Day.
> 2. A growing faith through the study and interpretation of Scripture, particularly through the Sunday Church School.
> 3. The good and generous stewardship of time, talents, and possessions.
> 4. A practicing life of prayer.
> 5. An attitude of servanthood in ministry to the sick, bereaved, and those with special needs.
> 6. A personal witness and outreach to share Christ with others.
>
> As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are charged to love one another, to weep and rejoice together, to pray for each other and equip ourselves for the work of ministry. To that end, may the Lord richly bless, keep and use all those who are members of Village Chapel.

## 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.

As has been done several times before, the combined choirs of Ruffner Memorial and Village Chapel presented a service of Communion and special music on Maundy Thursday of this year (**1981**). The service was held at the Ruffner Memorial Church.

The last week of **July (27-31st**) was the time for the Vacation Church School. About 75 children attended, and 25 teachers, aides and helpers worked throughout the week-long event. An exciting, discovery learning experience was had by all.

On **October 16, 1981,** Village Chapel offered best wishes to Sam Graham on his 93rd birthday, congratulating him upon his years of service to the Church community.

The new organ was delivered (in pieces) in late August, and installation began in October, culminating in the dedication and a recital on **November 29th**. "There is general agreement that it is a magnificent sound which has been added to our worship, and one that will continue to be an inspiration to our congregation for years to come." The dedication of this instrument was long but very interesting:

## Worship and Organ Dedication November 29, 1981with a Dedication Service of the Reuter Pipe Organ and a Recital of Dedication

**The Chimes**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Choral Introit** | "Now Let Heaven and Earth, Adore Thee"<br>from Cantata 140, Sleepers Wake | J. S. Bach |
| **Organ Prelude** | "Sleepers Wake! A Voice is Calling" | J. S. Bach |
| | Zion hears the watchman singing<br>And all her heart with joy is springing<br>She wakes, she rises from her gloom,<br>For her Lord comes down all glorious,<br>The Strong in grace, in truth Victorious,<br>Her Star is risen, her Light is come!<br>O come Thou blessed Lord,<br>O Jesu, Son of God<br>Alleluia! | J. S. Bach |

Minister: "O Lord, open Thou our lips"
**People: "And our mouths shall show forth Thy praise."**

**Processional Hymn, No. 15** **"**Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

**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" Bela Bantok
"I Will Give Thanks" 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 Al 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<br>(1756 – 1791) |
| Ye Sweet Retreat | William Boyce<br>(1710 – 1779) |
| Prelude and Fugue in D | J. S. Bach<br>(1685 – 1750) |
| Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven<br>Hymn No. 31 | Laude Anima |

(The congregation is requested to sing this hymn as Mr. Watkins plays)

| | |
|---|---|
| Cortege et Litanie | Marcel Dupre<br>(1886 – 1971) |
| A Triptych of Fugues<br>1.Lively with dash<br>II. Slowly, expressively<br>III. Broadly | Gerald Near |
| Two Settings of "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming | Ivan Langstroth<br>(1887 – 1971)<br>Johannes Brahms<br>(1833 – 1897) |
| Carillon de Longpont | Louis Vierne<br>(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*

Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Albert
Amherst Coal Company Employees
Mrs. Max E. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Andrews
Appalachian Power Company
Meter Department Employees
Mr. and Mrs. F. Arnett
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Arrington
Mrs. John Arter
Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Bagley
Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Barber
Mrs. Alfred B. Carrington
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Cartwright
Mrs. S. Frank Caudy, Jr.
Mr. William E. Caudy
Charleston High School Class of 1933
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Chevalier
Mr. and Mrs. Fleming Chisholm
Circle No. 1
Circle No. 2
Circle No. 3
Circle No. 4
Circle No. 5

Mr. Lewis E. Barickman
Mrs. Jean Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Barnett
Betty T. Bates
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Beanland
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. Beatty
Mr. B. T. Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berchtold
Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Berry
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bisher
Mrs. Paul Bittenbender
Dorothy N. Blair
Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Bland
Mrs. N. Doyle Boggs
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Bond
Mr. and Mrs. William Brackenridge
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
Mrs. J. B. Callard
Mrs. Margaret P. Carey
Mr. and Mrs. Earl B. Carr
Mr. Charles Dillon
Mrs. J. Arnold Dillon
Mrs. J. C. Dillon
Miss Kelly Dills
Mr. George A. Dockham
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H. Dodson
Mr. and Mrs. W. Lynn Dolly
Mrs. Frances A. Dudderar
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Duelli
Mrs. E. H. Eagan
Mrs. Robert M. Eberbaugh
Circle No. 6
Mr. Fred A. Clark
Coal Operators Association
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Coffey
Mr. and Mrs. Ron C. Cole
Mr. James H. Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. John Collis
Mrs. Mary P. Colvin
Mr. James S. Conley
Mrs. George Connell
Mrs. Betty Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Copenhaver
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Copenhaver
O. Courtney
Mrs. Joan Cousins
Mrs. Katherine S. Cottrell
Dr. and Mrs. Allen T. Cowan
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
Mrs. D. P. Currey
Mrs. J. D. Currey
Danny's Service Center
Mrs. Bruce Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent J. DeFelice
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Dent
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dickerson
Mrs. James B. Dilger
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Dillo
Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. John Prince Harris
Dr. and Mrs. William L. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Hartley
Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hartman, Jr.
Mrs. John Hillman
Hilltop Home for the Elderly
Mrs. Frances Hoffman
Miss Zemma Holcombe
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Holden

Mr. and Mrs. Edward I. Eiland
Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Ellingwood
Mr. and Mrs. Joe W. Ellis
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Ellis, Jr.
Mr. William E. Faas
Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Farley
Mrs. T. C. Fennell
Judge John A. Field, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Field
First Baptist Church of Hinton
Mrs. John R. Flanagan
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Fogelsong
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Fox
Mrs. Lillian P. Frink
Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Fuller
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Q. Gage
Mr. Joe Gies
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gilbert
Mr. Jeffrey Hague Girod
A. Goshorn
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grady
Greenmont Garden Club
Mrs. William Grizzell
Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Gunnoe
Mrs. E. J. Hague, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Donold D. Haddox
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hall
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hall
Mr. Frank H. Halstead
Mr. and Mrs. H. Ray Hambrick
Mrs. R. S. Hamrick
Mr. and Mrs. Warren K. Hanscom
Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Hargett
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. King
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
Mr. and Mrs. Sam R. Holshouser
Susan and Ross
Mrs. David A. Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Hudson
Mrs. Dorothy F. Hughes
Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Hunter
Mary Lee Hunter
Mrs. Helen Hussey
Miss Betty Hutchinson
Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Inghram
Miss Phyllis Isaac
Mr. and Mrs. Ray N. Jackson
Mr. G. Patrick Jacobs
Mr. Robert Jameson
Mr. Walter M. Jameson
Mrs. Frank P. Jarrett
Miss Mary Sue Jarrett
Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Jarrett
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Jarvis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Johnson
Mr. Charles T. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Jones
Miss E. Frances Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Laurence G. Jones
Mrs. Jennette P. Joslin
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon C. Jung
The Kanawha Valley Bank
Kelly, Gidley, Blair & Wolfe, Inc.
Mr. Kenneth A. Kettle
Miss Isabel Kimmel
Miss Blanche C. King
Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. King
Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. King
Mrs. Carrie M. Minotti
Mrs. Elsie M. Moore
Mr. Junius T. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Moore, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Moore
Mrs. George S. Morgan
Mrs. James L. Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Morgan
Mrs. Harry F. Morris, Jr.

Mr. C. Russell Lewis
Mr. John C. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Lippitt, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. L. Harold Litton and Mark
Mr. and Mrs. A. Paul Livesay
Mr. and Mrs. George Losko
Mrs. J. R. Louis
The Zella H. Lowen Family
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Lynn
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon R. MacDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Macfarlane
Mary R. Malone
B. Mann
Mr. and Mrs. Winston L. Mann
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas M. Marshall
Avis Martin
Mrs. Elizabeth Swats Martin
Dr. and Mrs. Jack R. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Luther E. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Marvin, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur J. Mason
Miss Betsy McCrary
Mr. and Mrs. William W. McCrary, III
Mr. and Mrs. George R. McDonald
Mr. and Mrs. David McFarland
Mr. and Mrs. James T. McNutt, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. L. B. McQuaide
Mr. and Mrs. James A. McWhorter
Mr. Patrick Michaelson
Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Michaelson
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Michaelson, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Michaelson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Miller
Mr. Horace Revercomb
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford J. Ross
Mrs. D. Jackson Savage
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Schanzenbach
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schwarz
Dr. Jay Schwarz
Mrs. Winona H. Schwender
Mrs. J. Keith Seaton
Miss Jean Ellen Seidel
Mr. and Mrs. Langdon C. Morris
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Morse
Mr. and Mrs. Basil Mullins
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Murphy
Mrs. Juanita S. Murphy
National Bank of Summers County
Mrs. R. B. Neville
Mrs. N. H. Newhouse
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Norman
Mr. V. W. O'Dell
Mrs. Samuel Olver
Dr. and Mrs. Ernest N. Pennington
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Perkins
Mrs. Hazel B. Perrine
Dr. and Mrs. T. Ray Perrine
Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Pitzer
Mrs. Madeline Pleasant
Mr. Louis Porenly
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Powell
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Prager
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Preston
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Preston
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Priestly
Mr. and Mrs. K. D. Pugh
Mr. Steven Ramsey
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Rapp
Mrs. Frances Rees
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Reeves, III
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Reichard
Mike and Vicki Rhodes
Mrs. Olve H. Rhodes
Mrs. Kay Rice
Mr. and Mrs. Philip E. Risk
Risk's Plaza Employees
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Suter
Mrs. John Swats
Mrs. Frank L. Taylor
Mrs. and Mrs. Robert Taylor
Anna M. Temavan
Mr. Richard J. Temavan
Mrs. Mitchell J. Thabet
T. Thaler
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Thurston

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sellmer
Mr. John J. Shonk, III
Mr. and Mrs. Herchiel Sims
Mr. and Mrs. James Sims
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Singleton
Mrs. Edna Slyh
Mrs. Gomer D. Smail
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Smith
Mrs. Dorcas Smith
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Smith
Mr. Otis Smith
Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William W. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Snyder
Mr. and Mrs. Julian H. Sockman
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Soto
Mr. and Mrs. Louis S. Southworth
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
Mrs. Charles F. Strenz
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
Village Chapel Prayer & Discussion Group
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 Christas 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 1**983**, 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 mattress covers
5 scrub shirts
50 bars of motel soap
5 spools of heavy thread
2 draw sheets
2 single sheets, corner ties
5 receiving blankets
7 infant sacs
5 girls dresses (sizes 1-12)
3 surgical jackets
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 26**th 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 worshiping 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 PURPPOSE 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** | **EDUCATION** | **SERVICE** | **MINISTRY** |
|---|---|---|---|
| All Services | Sunday Church School | International | Contact with Members |
| Sacraments | Vacation Church School | Community Service | & Non-Members |
| Music | Membership Classes | Benevolences | Church Rolls |
| Special Seasons | Etc. | Etc. | Care & Support |
| Etc. | | | Etc. |

| **FELLOWSHIP** | **STEWARDSHIP** | **PROPERTY** | **PERSONNEL** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Congregation Activities | Money, Time, Talents | Maintenance | Employment |
| Recreation | Budget Management | Renovation | Evaluation |
| Retreats, | Special Offerings | Insurance | Salary Review |
| Etc. | Etc. | Etc. | 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**eview 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 43rd 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."

One of the Session members stated that "as a congregation we are intolerant. Hymns, music, sermon, prayers are criticized with little regard for the time, interest, energy spent in planning and carrying out many of these areas of our worship services."

Minutes of the **February 1990** Session meeting included a motion to allow Pat Jacobs and an anonymous donor to acquire and donate four dogwood trees to the Church. These would be planted on the 39th street side of the Church with one in the backyard. The motion was approved and the trees were obtained and planted. (In 2024, a "wayward" vehicle hit and destroyed one of the three trees on the 39th Street side of the church. Todd Wright, the minister at the time announced to the congregation that the tree had "given its life" to save the church area behind it.)

The Worship Committee reviewed and revised the Wedding Policy, and it was presented to the Session for approval at the March 1990 Session meeting.

Concern was expressed about needing more pew cushions. As a result, members of the Worship Committee explored options for increasing the number of cushions as there was a memorial gift of $100 designated for that purpose.

In response to an issue identified by the Leadership Effectiveness Task Force survey regarding hymns in the worship service, the Worship Committee reviewed a chart of hymn usage for the past twenty years. As a result, a special effort was made to use a "favorite" each Sunday and subsequent newsletter articles provided information about hymns in worship. A new hymnal (Blue) was published in the summer of 1990, and the Session recommended the solicitation of memorial gifts of new hymnals with a target of 150 books which could be purchased at a pre-publication price savings of $12.50.

The **April 1990** minutes of the Service Committee report to the Session indicated that the 2 cents a Meal contribution received from the Presbytery of West Virginia in 1989 was $84,991.00 – an impressive figure when congregations are asked to give so little!

The **April 1990,** Women's News proclaimed, "USED EYEGLASSES WANTED!!!" and indicated that as part of a peacemaking project, Presbyterian Women were soliciting used eyeglasses. These were to be brought to the Spring Gathering and from there would go on to the Synod Gathering and finally, to be taken to Central America for distribution by the Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity. A later issue of Women's News reported that 60 pairs of used eyeglasses were received at Village Chapel.

A report from the Pastoral Task Force presented an interesting discussion of Prayer during the worship services. Reverand Mansell explained that Presbyterians are not "spontaneous" in regard to prayer – nor do they have a set liturgy. Therefore, when preparing for prayers during the worship service, he uses a "theme" approach, and a 50/50 ratio in regard to prayers he has written and prayers he has selected from other works. Often, he will make changes in prayers as the worship service progresses. When one of the task force

members questioned why Village Chapel members criticized this part of worship, another responded that our "members come from a wide and varied range of worship experiences/denominations".

In the same discussion, a member of the Task Force questioned "how much are we going to bend and change for this congregation as there may be some people who will never be fulfilled at Village Chapel. Perhaps they need to take a valuable possession, their Church membership, and find a church that more closely meets their needs – aways knowing they can return to Village Chapel." At this point, Polly Dodson, a charter member of the church, stated that she "is and will be a Village Chapel member for life."

On **June 24, 1990**, Harry Brawley was honored for his service of 43 years as a Sunday School teacher at Village Chapel. Harry was very active in the Church and was highly regarded as a teacher. He also had a great sense of humor as early in his career he wrote a parody of the Ten Commandments (based on society's tendency to water down the message). Here is his version of the Ten Commandments:

1. I am the Lord, your God, and I have done a lot of nice things for you. I would appreciate it greatly if you didn't worship anything or anybody else—unless you're in love, in business, or in politics.
2. Please don't make any idols to bow down to. That embarrasses me, and I might be upset with your grandchildren or great-grandchildren. But don't tell them. They think I'm square.
3. And watch your tongue. Please don't swear and use my name unless you are an athletic coach.
4. It would be nice if you could do all your work in six days and save one for me – unless your county option votes the other way. After all, look at what I did in just six days.
5. I'm sure your parents would be pleased if you would be nice to them. I realize they are fuddy-duddies but be patient with them and I'll let you live longer.
6. Please don't kill anybody unless it is in the national interest.
7. You really should keep your marriage vows unless you are at a convention, or your mate is out of town.
8. It is not nice to steal unless you do it legally.
9. Also, it is not nice to tell lies when you are under oath.
10. And don't go around green with envy because your neighbor has a better house, a prettier wife, a maid and butler, and better-looking horses. Do what he does, and you can have them too.

These suggestions the Lord made to you. He would appreciate it if you would give them your sincere attention and follow them as closely as your personal prejudices and greed will allow.

A Shepherd Program with the purpose of insuring that every member of Village Chapel is under the care of an elder was instituted and Guidelines for Shepherds published in the **August 1990** Session Minutes. The Guidelines for this program, as presented, indicated:

1. The most important part of this program is that each member of your "flock" knows that you are their shepherd and initially, a personal note or phone call should be made to introduce yourself. After the initial contact, a one-on-one visit should be made with each member so that you can get to know that person and his or her needs. This visit may take place at the member's home, at lunch after Church, or in any other setting that may be appropriate.

2. Consider having a group event for your Shepherd group within the first three months.

3. If you discover that a member of your group has specific needs that are not being met through the Church, report back to the Ministry Committee or to the Pastor as seems appropriate.

4. Be available in times of celebration, crisis, change, sickness, and grief. You are not expected to provide support by yourself but will hopefully bring the resources of the Church in to help in a difficult situation.

5. As part of your ongoing commitments to your members:
    a. Make periodic contact (suggested frequency every three months)
    b. Be aware of the Church attendance patterns of your members and contact them if the pattern changes significantly (you will be provided with Sunday attendance rosters to do this.)

NOTE: As a Shepherd, you are not expected to provide personal services, such as driving people to the grocery store and doctor's office, unless you choose to do so. The Ministry and Service Committees are compiling the names of members of our Church who have volunteered to perform such services.

To assign Shepherds, church membership was plotted out on a map of Charleston and divided into 18 districts of approximately equal size. Elder assignments were made based upon where the elders lived.

In the **August 1990** meeting, the Session approved signing a contract with Heartland Nursing Home (located at 39th Street and Chesterfield Avenue) that provided that Village Chapel would become an emergency shelter in case of need for their people.

RALLY DAY was held on **September 2nd** with an Opening Assembly beginning at 9:40 and breakfast organized by Vicki Cunningham. There were red balloons, signs and short programs focused on the theme of "Promise" including a puppet show and the singing of "I Am a Promise". The Church School Teachers were introduced prior to everyone going to their classes. The Teachers and Youth Advisors were installed during the Worship hour.

The new hymnals were placed in the pews and dedicated in the **September 23rd** Worship Service. While the goal for the new hymnals was 150, there were 205 available for the congregation– another demonstration of Village Chapel's "giving for the good!" With availability of the new hymnals, it was assumed that the old red books would be removed; however, as the new books did not contain some of the favorite and much used hymns of Village Chapel, it was suggested that they remain in the pews as a "supplement" to the new blue hymnals!

A brass Advent wreath, stand, and hangings were ordered at the cost of $1,285 and paid for with funds donated in memory of Lynn Priestley.

A letter from Kathryn McCrary was provided to the **October 1990** meeting of the Session stating that Frank Mansell, III had been voted by the Youth Sub-Committee of the Committee on Christian Nurture as a nominee for Youth Advisory Delegate to the 1991 meeting of the Synod of the Trinity meeting June 18-20, 1991. The Session voted to endorse "young Frank's" nomination.

In **January 1991**, to continue to respond to congregational negative views of the elders as voiced in the 1989 survey, elders-elect participated in five training events and completed written examinations. Each of the new elders shared where they felt they were in their pilgrimage of faith.

The Worship Committee continued to look at strategies for including members of the congregation in worship leadership including ushering, greeting, and participating in reading the liturgy.

Over the weekend of **March 1-3, 1991**, the Church held a Lenten Retreat with the theme, "What Does Love Require". The leader for this event was Richard W. Fiete the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Morgantown.

In **April 1991**, Frank Mansell led New Members of the Church in a series of classes over four Sundays during the Sunday School hours. These classes were designed to introduce new members of the congregation to the Presbyterian Church and particularly, to Village Chapel.

Mildred Wrenn and Evelyn McClure began to assemble worship bags for young children staying with their parents for the service. These were available to be picked up prior to the Worship service and returned as the children left after the service.

The Presbyterian Women redecorated and refurbished an "adopted" room at Sojourners. In addition, they will add pictures and curtains to make the room more "complete".

Worship in the Park was held on **June 9th** at Coonskin Park. The congregation was asked to meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to organize transportation. The Worship service was held at 11:00 with a picnic lunch afterward. Activities for both the youth and adults were provided. Becky Lippitt was instrumental in planning for this event.

In the fall of **1991**, there were 35 Village Chapel students enrolled in college. The list of colleges and universities included: WVU (7); Marshall (3); VPI (2); UC (2); Radford (2); UK (2); Wofford (1); Davis & Elkins (1); UVA (1); PITT (1); USC (1); Wake Forest (1); Grove City (1); Davidson (1) American U (1).

**1992** presented some special celebrations for Village Chapel. The choirs of Village, Ruffner, Kanawha, Bream, and Westminster combined to present Vivaldi's "Gloria" with a string quartet, flute, trumpet, and organ accompaniment. An offering of $614 was received from approximately 260 people in attendance.

Another event was a costumed tableau of the Last Supper staged for the Maundy Thursday tableau of the Last Supper with men from Village and Ruffner.

On **October 10th**, the church hosted a progressive dinner. Appetizers were served at the home of Alan and Nancy Johnston; the main course at the home of Ken and Jane McNeil; and dessert at Jan and Vicki Cunningham's home. Participants selected the dish they wanted to prepare and take to the home where it would be served.

During the month of December, electric "Welcome" candles donated by the Bowles family were placed in the windows of the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

In **1993**, a new format for Vacation Church School was highly successful. The new intergenerational, evening program enabled many adults to participate both as teachers and as students.

The Session approved the hiring of Kerri Preslar as Director of Christian Education at a salary of $32,500 per year. It was recommended that a support group be available for the new DCE. It was also recommended that a computer be provided for Ms. Preslar.

After 30 years of service at Village Chapel as our custodian, Madeline Pleasants retired. This lady was a treasure, having served the Church since its opening on Venable Avenue.

In lieu of the congregation placing flowers in the Church in honor or memory of someone as has been done in years past, people were encouraged to make a gift to one of the service ministries supported by the Church. Donors and those honored were then listed in The Villager the week prior to Christmas. The Ministry Committee's Annual Report for **1993** stated that: "Our emphasis has been on person-to-person relationships with fellow Church members and visitors. We have sent letters, made phone calls and visited members who have missed church frequently. We have tried to greet visitors warmly and have often sent notes or made follow-up calls and, in several instances, it really made a difference when these individuals returned for services.

In **February 1994**, the Church received a gas bill of $900!! On the positive side, the house located next door was rented as of February for $500 per month thus increasing the church's monthly income a bit!

On **February 28th**, Mike Misiti and Greg Blank volunteered to spend the night at Coonskin Park to be "first in line" on **March 1st** to reserve the desired picnic shelter for Worship in the Park!

A Lenten Retreat was held on **March 4-5th** with Ruffner Presbyterian Church. Dee Koza, a church educator from Savannah, Geogia presented a program on "Signs and Symbols of the Faith." The congregations gathered for dinner at Ruffner on Friday evening followed by the program. On Saturday morning the group met at Village for a light breakfast and continuation of the program. Saturday evening there was a gospel sing by Ethel Caffe-Austin and "make your own sundae" dessert served by the Junior High Fellowship.

On **March 31st** a joint Maundy Thursday service was held with the other churches in the parish - South Park, Westminster, and Ruffner. The evening began with a carry-in supper at 6:30 with the Worship service to follow. Communion was served with worshippers invited to gather in groups of 15-20 around the communion table which was placed at floor level. Frank Mansell was the presiding minister assisted by Village Chapel elders. The Elements were passed from one person to the next as they stood around the table. Anyone not comfortable in coming forward in this way could ask to be served in their pew without "calling attention to them". Readers (a man and woman) from each of the four churches read the Passion Narrative and extinguished candles when indicated. One individual was assigned to carry the Christ candle from the sanctuary and return it at the appropriate time. Members of the choirs from the four churches were invited to serve as a joint choir to sing the selected anthems: "Were you There?" and "O Holy Jesu".

In the spring of **1994**, Church School attendance averaged 76 and Worship attendance averaged 158.

In **June of 1994,** the Church met at Kanawha State Forest for its annual "Worship in the Park". The men cooked hot dogs and hamburgers and everyone attending brought their favorite picnic dish. After the worship service and picnic, those in attendance played a variety of games and/or had a great exchange of conversation!

Frank Mansell, III was approved as an "Inquirer" leading to "Candidacy" for the Ministry. For the **August 17, 1994,** Session Meeting, John Noah, a member of the Presbytery's Commission for Ministry, was in attendance. Mr. Noah explained that he was in this meeting to explain the Session's responsibilities to Frank Mansell III as he began his seminary experience as an Inquirer. The Book of Order states that "the Session of Village Chapel will support Frank both financially and as friends. Frank will be undergoing testing as to his vocation or calling and his knowledge of the Bible and the Session will be responsible for finding out what and how he is doing." There will be annual conversations both with Village Chapel and with the Presbytery and Presbytery will make the decision as to when he becomes a Candidate. Howard Salisbury served as his Liaison.

J. Moody McNair, the first pastor of Village Chapel, died in Bradenton, Florida on **October 29, 1994,** at the age of 89. Rev. McNair relocated to Florida 40 years ago from Village Chapel Presbyterian Church in Charleston, West Virginia. He retired in 1969 as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota. He was a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Scottish Rite, and a past chaplain for the Sahib Shrine Temple. He was a member of the Board of Directors of The Salvation Army and a member of the Rotary Club in Sarasota.

Up until **September of 1994** the organ was tuned twice each year by Randall Dyer who traveled to Village Chapel from Tennessee. However, a "very competent" tuner, Christopher Nagorka, became available in Charleston and the Worship Committee authorized Carolyn Perrine to contract with him to tune the organ four times per year at a cost less than the twice-yearly tunning that had been done since the installation in 1981.

On **November 3rd** a Health Fair featuring Nursing and Sports Medicine students from the University of Charleston was held. Services provided included:

Eye screening
Laboratory testing using "P22" which screens cholesterol, blood sugar, and electrolytes.
Hearing screening courtesy of the Beltone Corporation
Blood pressure screening
Evaluation of arm and leg joints
Provision of information on Elder Programs such as CAMC's "55 Plus Program" and Elder Assist Devices
Selected health information on heart disease prevention and management

On **November 20th** an Advent Festival, "Christmas Around the World," was held from 6:00 to 8:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Tables featuring a different country (Denmark, Germany, Mexico, Kenya, and England) were set up and featured each country using maps, items from that country and offered specific crafts. For example, Mexico featured the "Eyes of God," poinsettias and a pinata for children to break. Food and music from each of the countries made the evening very special!

Glenna Adams, a member of the Presbyterian Women, won First Prize for a doll she dressed for the Salvation Army in preparation for the Christmas distribution of toys to needy children. She received recognition for this honor at the December PW luncheon.

A 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, with 244 in attendance, was held with candle lighting, communion, and special music by the adult choir. Frank Mansell, III assisted with the service.

On Sunday, **January 8, 1995**, Village celebrated Epiphany ad the Baptism of the Lord with communion. New elders for the class of 1997-- Leigh Ann Johnson, Patti Salisbury, Brian Pratt, Cathy McClung, and Rose Ellen Sockman were ordained and installed, and previously ordained elder, Larry Jones, was installed.

The Church Officer Nominating Committee and the Session recommended that the procedure for election of the Church Officer Nominating Committee be revised. The proposed plan eliminated having a congregational meeting at which seven persons are elected from a slate of 14 nominees. Instead, five members of the committee are named by five established groups in the church; the remaining two will be selected by the congregation. The Session will continue to elect two members of the outgoing class to serve as Moderator and Vice Moderator of the committee. The Minister serves as the 10th member. The procedure in summary:

<u>Members of the Nominating Committee</u>
The Nominating Committee in any given year shall be:

> Two elders from the out-going class of the Session; seven members at large, none of whom shall be active elders; and the minister who has voice but no vote. (Book of Order G-14.0201b)

On **January 15th** the Church family celebrated the Baptism of Erin Elizabeth Chiparo, five-year-old daughter of Jeff and Beth Chiparo.

On **January 22nd**, Village participated for the first time in the National "Souper Bowl Sunday" program. The congregation was invited to donate $1.00 to the youth who were collecting money in soup pots OR they could donate a can of soup. The total amount collected was $136.83 which was given to Health Rite of West Virginia.

Christian Unity Sunday on **January 29, 1995,** was celebrated with a Worship Leader exchange among Village Chapel, Ruffner, Westminster and South Park churches. Frank Mansell led the Worship Service at Ruffner and the Interim pastor at Westminster, A. D. Ellison, led the service at Village.

Congratulations were extended to Whitney Perrine, a sophomore at George Washington High School, who was selected eighth chair in the West Virginia All State Band.

A Long-Range Planning Committee, has been instituted to help Village Chapel determine "What are we as a congregation being called to do?"

Ongoing activities for **1995** include weekly meetings of both Senior High and Middle School youth groups, children's choir, adult choir, five Presbyterian Woman's circles (meeting monthly) VIP's senior program (meeting monthly), men's volleyball, women's volleyball (with Bream), and four church basketball teams (senior high boys, senior midgets, and two instructional league teams). A Bridge Club sponsored by the Shepherd's Center, Narcotic Anonymous, a girl scout troop, and a rug hooking group continue to use Village Chapel facilities.

**February 5th** saw 68 members of the congregation brave severe winter elements to participate in worship. As the choir was limited, "We all formed a choir and sang a cappella."

On the weekend of **February 9-11**, the Senior High Youth Fellowship went on a ski trip to Snowshoe, West Virginia.

The Long-Range Planning Committee met with established groups within the congregation beginning **February 19th**. The Committee shared activities to date and listened to what the membership had to say in response to the basic question, "What is God calling us to do?"

In March, "Walking with Africans, A Lenten Journey" retreat was held on **March 3-5** in conjunction with Ruffner Memorial and Westminster Churches. The event began with a dinner at Ruffner which featured African foods and a presentation by Lemar Williamson, a missionary engaged in theological education in Zaire from 1966 to 1991. Dr. Williamson now resides in Montreat, North Carolina. On Saturday morning, at Village Chapel, Dr. Williamson led the participants in a study of Jesus' Lenten Journey. On Saturday evening, Ethel Caffie-Austin, a nationally known African American pianist and vocalist, provided a spiritual music program. On Sunday morning Dr. Williamson preached a sermon "The Christian Life – A Lenten Journey" at Westminster. Recipes of African foods were made available to those attending this wonderful cultural awareness experience.

On **March 12th**, Tom and Sandra Wilkerson were welcomed as members of Village Chapel. The Wilkersons are the parents of Cindy Hanna, who with her husband, Sam, and children, Samantha and Jamie, are also members of Village Chapel.

The "Gift of Belonging" was the theme of the Middle School Presbytery Youth Retreat held at Cedar Lakes Conference Center just outside Ripley the weekend of **March 17-19.** Participants from Village Chapel were Mandy Sampson, Stephanie Withrow, Emily Danzer, Lindsey Tyree, Clark Campbell, Kari Preslar (DCE) and Tammy and Dave Jenkins (Youth Advisors). Others with leadership responsibilities were Nathan Gerencir and Kathryn McCrary.

Kari Preslar submitted her resignation as Director of Christian Education with her work ending on **April 30th**. The Personnel Committee accepted her resignation and officially terminated her employment on **May 14, 1995**. This arrangement would allow Kari two weeks' vacation and permit her health insurance to continue for one month.

Special recognition was given to Gracie McClung and Keri Blank, the top two sellers of Girl Scout cookies in the Kanawha Valley in **1995**. Gracie sold 635 boxes and Keri sold 370. Both girls are members of the Girl Scout Junior Troop that meets bi-monthly at Village Chapel. Kathy Blank and Sharon Moriarty are the Troop leaders. Gracie is the daughter of Mike and Cathy McClung and Keri is the daughter of Greg and Kathy Blank.

On Maundy Thursday, **April 13th**, the churches of the parish – South Park, Westminster, and Ruffner gathered at Village Chapel for fellowship around dinner tables, and afterward for Worship around the Lord's Table. Worship leaders represented the four congregations.

The Village Chapel annual "Village Chapel at Bluestone" Conference Center was held the weekend of **April 28-30th**. The theme for the weekend was "Strengthening Relationships" and was led by Frank Mansell and Peacemaking Task Force Members, Mark and Mary Jo Swartz and Bobby Caldwell. A program for children was led by Kathy Blank and Missy France. Eighty members and friends participated in this event.

Twelve graduating seniors were recognized during the Worship Service on **May 7th**. A cross made of nails on a leather thong was presented to Ryan Cunningham, Nathan Gerencir, Jonathan Hardman, Sam Henderson, Jonathan Jarrett, Carolyn Spella, Philip Britton, Daniel Curnutte, Marisa Ellis, Chuck Flannery, Geoffrey Gage, and Aleshia Perry. Church Sunday School Teachers and Youth Advisors were also recognized on this day.

As a **1995** Spring Project, each of the women's circles bought school supplies for the children in residence at the Davis Stuart home. Dottie Joslin delivered 150 lbs. of items donated to the facility in Lewisburg.

The Presbyterian Women had a special Mother's Day Banquet on **May 11th**. The Coordinating Team hosted the dinner, and the Men of the Church cooked and served the meal. Carolyn Perrine, along with several church members, planned and presented a special musical program following dinner.

On Pentecost Sunday, **June 4th**, Village celebrated the birthday of the Church with Communion and the release of red balloons. A fellowship time with cake and ice cream followed the Service. The WITNESS OFFERING was received on this day in support of the mission of the Church in our country and throughout the world.

The 1995 summer seminary intern, Robyn Garrison, began her work with Village Chapel on **June 7th**. Robyn brought with her a warm personality, a willingness to learn and lots of energy and enthusiasm.

The **1995** Sunday in the Park on **June 18th** was celebrated at Kanawha State Forest. An informal Worship Service began at 11:00 a.m. followed by a picnic lunch and games for all ages. There was no church school on this day.

**July 10 – 14th** saw a daily average of 75 children and 25 teachers participating in the **1995** Vacation Church School. Village Chapel, Ruffner, and Kanawha United Presbyterian Churches joined together mornings from 9:00 to 12:15 at Village Chapel. Classes were available for participants ranging from 2-year-olds to adults. Robyn Garrison opened each morning with a song and a skit as we learned about "Awesome Adventures: God's Amazing Deeds". On Friday the weather cooperated so lessons, recreation, and art were held at Coonskin Park with a picnic for families at noon.

Beginning on **July 18th**, members and friends were invited to participate in a FAMILY TIES program. On five consecutive Tuesday evenings, those involved gathered for simple dinners and broke into groups for a time of learning. Adults met for a Bible Study led by Frank Mansell, while Robyn Garrison, Vickie Cunningham and Patti Salisbury led children ages kindergarten through high school in "Faith and Action" projects such as preparing bag lunches for homeless people at Manna Meal; visiting the recycling center; visiting Shawnee Hills Mental Health group home; participating in a photo scavenger hunt looking at "God's creations" within walking distance of the Church; and preparing care baskets and visiting folks at the Hilltop Home for the Elderly.

Our summer intern, Robyn Garrison's last day was **August 20th,** and a special reception was held after the Worship Service to say "thank you" for all she has given to Village through the summer programs. She has been a Joy!!

We shared in the sorrow of Mike Misiti's family at his death on **September 26th**. Mike, at age 38, died at home after a long illness. A very special guy, he spent his life helping families who faced the challenges of living with physical and orthopedic handicaps. Mike was a good father and husband blessed with a great sense of humor. He was an elder in the class of 1995 at the time of his death.

In **1995** Village Chapel developed a three-year Strategic Plan for the Church. This work is reflected in the following document:

## VILLAGE CHAPEL STRATEGIC PLAN
## July 1995 – June 1998

**Statement of Purpose:**

**Village Chapel Presbyterian Church is a congregation of God's people. We know God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We are called to do God's work in the world. Our mission is to accomplish God's work through evangelism, service, and prophetic witness (God's message to society). To equip ourselves for this mission: We worship God. We study God's Word. We minister to one another.**

**EVANGELISM**

Sharing with all people that God loves them and inviting them to become members of the body of Christ.

To establish an Evangelism Task Force by October 1, 1995, as a strategy to implement the following objectives:

A. To improve the effectiveness of each Village Chapel member in sharing with everyone in the Community "the good news" to the glory of God (on-going)

1. Provide opportunities for personal spiritual growth
2. Continually emphasize the importance of "people inviting and welcoming people" one-on-one relationships, personal invitations
3. Purposefully incorporate newcomers into the "fellowship of believers"

B. To maintain and improve facilities which invite, welcome and comfort people. (on-going)

1. Address parking issues: intermediate solution may be to provide valet parking Through the senior high youth program (needs immediate action)
2. Explore feasibility of a "family life center program" multi-purpose facility possibly off-site or jointly with another church or group
3. Explore the best utilization of property next door to church
4. **Report to the Session on B2 and B3 above by June, 1996**

C. To make known Village Chapel's presence and participation in the community (on-going)

1. Explore strategic advertising /communication of special events/programs via The newspaper and other media
2. Explore usefulness of a multi-purpose informational brochure about the VC Congregation and programming
3. **Report to the Session on C1 and C2 above by June 1996**

This plan presents structure and direction for the Village Chapel congregation to follow for the next three years (**1995-1998**). Two task forces, the Evangelism Task Force and the Member Assessment Task Force, will continue to meet with different committees to implement this plan.

The missionaries to Brazil, Alan and Alma Gordon, were guests at Village Chapel's Mission Dinner on World Communion Sunday, **October 1st**. The focus of their work is through the Good Samaritan Clinic in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The Gordon's and their daughters were members of Village Chapel when they were commissioned to missionary service with the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1972.

Beginning **October 8**, Felicia Stewart Hoyle will serve Village Chapel as the Christian Educator/Pastoral Assistant on a part-time basis

A Thanksgiving Offering was received on **November 19th** for the Davis Stuart Chaplain's Ministry. Davis Stuart is the Presbyterian Therapeutic Residential Center for emotionally disturbed young people in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

On **December 3rd**, the Appalachian music group, the Presby Pickers, were engaged to lead a worship service of Scripture and music for the Advent/Christmas season. Invitations were extended to all the Presbyterian Churches in the Charleston area.

On **December 16th**, Judge John A. Field, Jr., a former member of the Church and the father of Bill Field, died at his retirement home in Naples, Florida at the age of 85. Judge Field was born in Charleston and graduated from Hampton-Sidney College and the University of Virginia Law School. As a young lawyer, he practiced with the firm of Brown, Jackson and Knight. He entered the political scene becoming a member of the Charleston City Council. He ran for the office of state attorney general and was defeated by Wally Barron, who would go on to become the governor. Under Governor Cecil Underwood, he was appointed tax commissioner and in 1959, President Eisenhower appointed him to a federal judgeship. He later became a senior judge for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection was held on **December 19, 1995.**

On **December 24th,** two beautiful new candlesticks were used for the first time during the Christmas Eve Service. These were memorials to Ray Jackson and Paul Livesay.

On **December 31, 1995,** we welcomed Frank Mansell, III as our minister of the day! Young Frank is a second-year ministry student at Princeton Seminary and a third-generation Presbyterian minister following his father and grandfather in service.

In 1996 Village Chapel began the year with 327 active members. Throughout the year the Church gained 8 members for a total of 335. However, the year 1995 saw several members move to other cities or states and a year of several losses to death. The total active membership on December 31, 1995, was 324 with 321 White and 3 Black members. The average attendance at Sunday Worship was 156; the total Church school enrollment was 119. The Session numbered 18 with 9 men and 9 women.

An accumulation of 21 inches of snow fell over the first weekend in January **1996** interfering with Church activities. No services were held on **January 7th**. On January 14th Village Chapel gathered for a worship service that included the Lord's Supper and the celebration of Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus. The Communion Offering on that day was used to provide funds for ministry in the community through the Good Samaritan Fund, a fund to help individuals coming to the Church for assistance with utilities, transportation, food, etc.

New elders for the **Class of 1998** included Warren Danzer, Jane King, Sam Hanna, David Campbell, Ken McNeil and Martha Foster. These individuals were ordained and installed. Vickie Cunningham was ordained and installed to complete a one-year term.

A Special Worship Education series on "Understanding the Sacraments" was held for children in grades one through six in January. Through games, stories, filmstrips and other activities, children learned about the sacraments of baptism and communion. A luncheon was held for parents and children on the last Sunday of the series.

On the last Sunday of **January 1996,** members of the congregation were invited to donate $1.00 to participate in a nationwide program to help ease hunger. The Youth Group collected $112. 47 for "Souper Bowl Sunday" and this was donated locally to Manna Meal. "Souper Bowl Sunday" began in the Senior High Fellowship of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina in 1990. Village Chapel began celebrating it in 1995.

Dr. Terry Perrine was featured in an article on "Waiting for the Doctor" which appeared on **January 15th** in the Charleston Gazette. Another Village Chapel member, Martha Walker, was the focus of an article in the Sunday Gazette-Mail about her experiences in the West Virginia Legislature. Martha is the sister of Jane Harich.

We shared the sorrow of the friends of former member Mary Sue Jarrett of Columbus, Ohio who died on **February 16th**. Frank Mansell led a graveside service at Sunset Memorial Park on February 20th. A number of furnishings in the sanctuary, including the stained-glass windows over the main doors, were given by Sue and her parents, Frank and Mabel Jarrett.

On Sunday **March 10th**, the Presbyterian Women led the service, "Celebrating the Gifts of Women". This day was suggested by the PUSA to remember and celebrate the gifts of women in the life of the Church. Robyn Garrison, our 1995 summer intern, returned to Charleston for the weekend to preach. Kathy Blank and Susan Perkins were liturgists. Ushers were Evelyn McClure, Polly Dodson, Glenna Adams, and Mary Lee Jung. Since March 10th was also Girl Scout Sunday, Keri Blank, Gracie McClung, Laura Joslin and Meridith France received the offering. At 6:00 p.m. Sue Ellen Hall spoke about the Mission of the Church in China and Indonesia at a carry-in dinner.

A Workship/Retreat on "Spiritual Growth" was held in the Fellowship Hall, Saturday, **March 30th** from 10:00 to 3:00 led by Dr. Carole Riley, Executive Director of the Spirituality Program at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA.

On **April 4,1996,** a Maundy-Thursday Worship Service was held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 55th Street and Noyes Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. Music was provided by the combined choirs of Village Chapel, Westminster, South Park and Ruffner Churches. The Service was led by members and ministers of the four churches.

On Good Friday, **April 5th** at 7:30 p.m., a Tenebrae Service with the reading of the passion narrative and the extinguishing of lights was held at the Kanawha City Baptist Church. A Tenebrae Service is a Christian Service that commemorates Jesus' Final days. The word Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness". Music was provided by the combined choirs of Village Chapel Presbyterian, Morris Memorial United Methodist and Kanawha City Baptist Churches.

Our annual congregational retreat was held on the weekend of **April 25-26** at the Bluestone Conference Center with more than 60 people participating. Bluestone retreats are always a wonderful experience of Christian fellowship; eating and playing together, discussing our life as Christians, informal worship in an outdoor setting; singing around a campfire, and all ages caring for one another!

Congratulations were extended to Patricia and Chris Johnson on the birth of their son, Alexander Staton on **April 19th**, and to Tommy and Fred Wiseman who celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on **April 22nd**.

On Saturday, **May 4th**, the Youth Fellowship held a car wash. Working hard from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., the youth raised $172.50 and split the proceeds between Project Graduation at Capitol and George Washington High schools and the Ronald McDonald House.

On the evening of **May 5th**, the Village Chapel Children's Choir presented the musical, "Jonah: A Whale of a Tale". Rose Ellen Sockman was the choreographer, Sharon Curnutte, Director, and Caroline Perrine was the pianist. The children participating were Tyler Perkins, Adam Cook, Grace McClung, Keri Blank, Laura Joslin, Luke Mafazy, Elizabeth Perkins, Emily Salisbury, Raya Mafazy, Elliott McNeil, Billy King, Joey McClung, Kevin Blank, David Salisbury, Mark Flannery, Byron Dodson, Brian Misiti, Julia McNeil, Erin Chiparo, and Lisa McClung.

Pentecost Sunday was celebrated in Red on **May 26th**. Everyone was invited to celebrate the birthday of the Church by wearing red and attending a reception following Worship Service where red velvet cake and red punch was served. Our summer Seminary student, Stephanie Hanson, from Princeton Theological Seminary began her twelve-week Internship with Village Chapel on this date.

**June 9th** was to have been the annual "Picnic in the Park" when the congregation would have gone to Kanawha State Forest for a worship service followed by a picnic and games. However, rain forced a change of plans, so everyone gathered at the Church for worship and an "indoor picnic" in the Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations were extended to the following high school graduates for **1996**: Barry Cunningham graduating from Virginia Episcopal School; and Joey Boyles and Peter Markham graduating from Capital High School.

The following elementary age children attended camp at Bluestone Conference Center in Hinton, WV: Gracie and Joey McClung, Abby Cable, Jenny Hanson, Keri Blank, Emily and David Salisbury, Elliot McNeil, Billy King, Carter and Meridith France, Sarah Buckalew, Adam Cook, Kristen Parks, and Taylor and Bobby Johnston. Stephanie Hanson, our Summer Intern, and Patti Salisbury attended as volunteer staff and Nathan Gerencir attended as a counselor. Kirk King attended the Youth Conference at Montreat.

The Session, in **June 1996**, adopted the recommendation of the Service Committee to make the Covenant House AIDS/HIV Residential and Resource Program a ministry supported by Village Chapel.

A "Family Ties" program for youth and adults was held on Tuesday evenings two weeks in July and August. Light suppers beginning at 6:00 p.m. were provided and programs included visitations to Barlow-Bonsall Funeral Home, Covenant House, and Health Right of West Virginia.

A Wedding Brunch honoring Frank Mansell, III and Debbie Main was held at the Church on the morning of Saturday, **July 20th** in the Fellowship Hall. Frank is the son of Frank and Joan Mansell, our Pastor and his wife. Young Frank and Debbie were married on August 31st in Martinsville, Indiana.

A reception was held following Worship on **August 11th** to thank our summer intern, Stephanie Hanson, for sharing her warmth and gifts with us this summer. Stephanie returned to Princeton Seminary on August 15th.

Village welcomed Amy Cliser as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry in September of **1996**. Amy contracted to work part-time--6 hours per week, primarily on Sundays, with the Youth Groups.

Frank Mansell wrote an article that was published in the Charleston Gazette-Mail on **September 1st** entitled "The Family Name is Christian".

On **October 6th**, World Communion Sunday, Worship Service was held as an ecumenical service at Village Chapel. Planned jointly by Kanawha City Baptist, Morris Memorial Methodist, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and Village Chapel, the service included the combined choirs from the four churches and the four ministers shared in presiding at the Lord's Table. The offering received was given to the Union Mission. A time of Fellowship followed the service.

The annual Progressive Dinner was held on Saturday, **October 19th**. The Fall Harvest theme began with appetizers at the home of Dr. Garry and Lucy Brown; the main course at the home of Bill and Perry Field; and dessert was served at the home of Dr. Ken and Jane McNeil.

On **October 13, 1996,** we welcomed Jack and Sheila Grimm into active membership and the following week, on October 20th, we welcomed Mike and Joanie Panger and their son, Alex, and on the same day, welcomed Garry and Lucy Brown and their children, Sarah and Jacob. We shared the joy of Margaret Morgan who celebrated her 90th birthday on October 20th.

In mid-October, the Service Committee sponsored a "Towel Day" to collect and provide towels and washcloths for Covenant House, Sojourners, and the Aids residences.

Helen and Bill Coffey were featured in an article about retirement in the **October 1996** issue of Mid-Atlantic Country.

An Advent workshop for adults was held on **November 17th** from 1:00 to 4:00 titled, "Unplug the Christmas Machine" and was based on the popular book by the same title. Led by Felicia Stewart Hoyle, this workshop helped us examine our values and dreams and to explore ways of changing our practices to make them more in line with our beliefs.

Sunday evening **December 15th**, we gathered for our annual Christmas program and dinner at 5:30 p.m. Music by the children's choir, a skit by the Youth, a display of Creches, carols and a carry-in dinner provided a wonderful opportunity for worship and fellowship.

As of **December 31, 1995**, Village Chapel had an active membership of 324. There were 14 total gains and 34 total losses throughout the year ending **1996** with a total of 304 as of **December 31, 1996**. The average attendance at Sunday worship was 153.

At the end of **December 1996**, the church staff consisted of Frank Mansell, Jr., Minister; felicia Stewart Hoyle, part-time Educator/Pastoral Assistant; Amy Cliser, part-time Youth Organizer; Linda Meadows, Secretary; Sharon Curnutte, Choir Director; Carolyn Perrine, Organist; and B. J. Chaney, Custodian. The church was guided by a Session of 18 members serving through the following eight committees: Education, Fellowship, Personnel, Property, Ministry, Service, Stewardship, and Worship.

New elders elected for the **Class of 1999** were: Jeff Chiparo, Demetrice Hardman, Tish Hodovan, Sarah Sears, Mark Swartz and Tom Wilkerson.

A Worship Exchange of ministers from Westminster, South Park, Ruffner and Village Chapel took place on **January 26th.** Frank Mansell led the service at Westminster and South Park and Bob Osborne was the pastor at Village Chapel.

In the first two months of **1997**, the roof over the kitchen and parlor was replaced, and windows in the Fellowship Hall were also replaced using funds set aside in 1996 for this purpose. The windows were replaced with a generous gift to the Church in memory of Rosalie Dillon.

Madeline and Brent Pleasant celebrated 50 years of marriage. Madeline was employed at Village Chapel until her retirement in 1993. Their picture appeared in the Charleston Gazette on **February 16th**.

On **March 19th** the Session welcomed into active membership the young people who have participated in the Confirmation Group this year: Jason Campbell, Matt Sampson, Sarah Bown, Clark Campbell, Emily Danzer, Peter Grimm, Laura Hanna, Penn Markham and Sara Misiti.

Sandy Bowles attended a Seminar on Local Church History at the Montreat Conference Center **April 22-25th**. Sandy will be working with others as Village Chapel moves toward its 50th Anniversary in 2000.

A special offering was collected for Bluestone Conference Center in the amount of $722 to go toward the cost of replacing water and gas lines at the facility. Also, the Youth Fellowship held a car wash on **May 3rd** to benefit Bluestone Conference Center and raised $188.00.

Village Chapel high school graduates this year included: Brooke Campbell from Capital High School and Whitney Perrine from George Washington High School. College graduates and the institution from which they graduated were Cris Callard (Hamden-Syndey); Davin Field Crenshaw (U. of Richmond Law School); Frank and Debbie Mansell (Princeton Theological Seminary); Jennifer Kelly, granddaughter of Phebe and Bob Trost (Marshall); and Erin LeClere, granddaughter of Betty LeClere (Lenoir Rhyne. Beth Bowles received the M.A. in Spanish from Vanderbilt and Susan Perkins received a master's degree from WVU.

On **June 27th and 28th**, Beth Chiparo participated in the 5th Annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The event was a 16-hour team walk/run to support the ACS.

Brooke Campbell was named to the All-State High School Tennis Team and Sarah Brown was honored as the student athlete with the highest academic average at Roosevelt Junior High. Rebecca Funkhouser's design of an advertisement for Parkway Supermarket won First Place among 5th graders in the Newspaper in Education Competition. Village Chapel youth are high achievers!

Village Chapel had two interns over the summer. For four weeks, **June 22** to July 18, Bridget Nichols worked with the Vacation Church School, worship leadership and pastoral care. Elizabeth Terrill, a 3rd year seminary student at Princeton Theological Seminary was at Village **July 20 to August 30th**. Elizabeth preached on three of the six Sundays she was here and was involved in pastoral, educational, and administrative ministries.

The "Christmas in July/August" event involved the congregation buying book bags and school supplies for approximately 60 children. These bags were provided for elementary students in Kanawha City schools.

Frank Mansell was recognized in August by the American Red Cross on **August 11th** for collective donation of 9 gallons of blood. John Bowles was recognized as an 8-gallon donor.

On **September 8th**, Frank Mansell wrote a thank you letter to Robert and Veronica Hamon of Scott Depot thanking them for the Communion pitcher, cup, and plates which they made for Village Chapel. He indicated that they would be used for the first time and dedicated to the Glory of God on Sunday, October 5th.

On Rally Day, held **September 7th**, the theme of "Celebrating Jesus" was continued. A pancake breakfast was provided prior to the groups being dismissed to Church classes.

On **September 21st** the congregation elected the following to serve on the Session for 1998: For elder (3-year term) Garry Brown, Candy Hawley, Harriet Hoy, Jack Grimm, Chris Johnson and Steve Perkins. Helen Singleton was elected for a one-year term to complete Jane King's last year. Jack York was elected as trustee for a 3 year-term.

On World Communion Sunday, **October 5th**, Village Chapel dedicated a new West Virginia handblown crystal communion set and a quilted table runner in memory of Beverly Burdette Cartwright, a former member. Also, John Mark, an elder from the Nyeri Presbytery in Kenya read the scripture at the 11:00 service in both English and Swahili. A joint service was held at 5:00 p.m. at Morris Memorial United Methodist Church with the congregations of Village Chapel, Kanawha City Baptist, and Good Shepherd Episcopal participating.

On **November 19th**, the Session approved Wedding Fees for Member Families which included:

| | |
|---|---|
| Use of the Sanctuary for rehearsal and wedding | No Fee |
| Damage deposit | $200.00 |
| Minister Suggested honorarium | $100.00 |
| Organist | |
| Rehearsal and wedding | $100.00 |
| Extra rehearsal time | $ 30.00 |
| Custodian Wedding only | $ 75.00 |
| Removal of decorations | $ 25.00 |
| Opening Building | $ 25.00 |
| Wedding and reception at church (2 people @ $200 each) | $ 200.00 |
| Reception | |
| Use of Fellowship Hall | $ 60.00 |
| Use of kitchen | $ 40.00 |

These fees do not include washing dishes or cleaning the kitchen after a reception. This is the responsibility of the caterer or those planning the reception.

On Sunday evening, **December 7th**, Village Chapel's choir joined with the choir of Kanawha United Presbyterian Church for a special evening service presenting "A Day of Dancing". The music by Lloyd Pfautsch is from Medieval England and was accompanied only by a bassoon, flute and drum. Sarah Misiti, Emily Danzer, and Julia Danzer did interpretive dance as the choir sang.

The Junior and Senior Fellowships hosted a Colonial Christmas Tea for the Senior Adults on **December 14th**. Dressed as colonials, invitations were made on parchment and delivered by the youth who at the event performed readings, sang and played piano pieces.

Over the year, the Presbyterian Women have supported the Church, the Presbytery, and local and world community missions in many ways. Midred Wrenn and Evelyn McClure made 224 stuffed bears and 226 stuffed dolls for children who were patients at CAMC Women and Children's Hospital. They also produced 147 cancer recovery bags. PW members volunteer to stuff stockings or wrap packages for the Salvation Army at Christmas. PW volunteers work at West Virginia Health Right, Covenant House and help with the Christmas Dinner at the Men's Emergency Shelter. They collect labels to send to the Davis-Stuart Children's Home in Lewisburg. This year, three of the circles raised and donated $722.00 toward the Church's Good Samaritan Fund which provides assistance for utilities, food, and gasoline to needy people who come to the Church seeking assistance. Another circle made up 19 boxes of supplies for Bosnia at an approximate cost of $400. Another circle raised $153 for Meals on Wheels. In April circles asked each member to give $5.00 for the mission project, "Blanket the World with Love" and as a result $215 was collected to purchase 43 blankets for this program.

Members who died in **1997** included Faith Dilger (January 13th), Paul M. King (February 24th); Wilbur J. Mason (March 29th), Mary D. Southworth (April 8th) Aileen Southworth (May 23rd ), Michael D. Bowles (June 10th); Virginia Baker Wilson (June 11th); Elizabeth Fields (July 11th); Gordon Preston (August 12th) and Lois A. Farley (August 19th).

The average attendance for Worship services in **1997** was 145.

Session members for **1998** included David Campbell, Martha Foster, Sam Hanna, Warren Danzer, Helen Singleton, Ken McNeil, Jeff Chiparo, Demetrice Hardman, Tish Hodovan, Sarah Sears, Mark Swartz, Tom Wilkenson, Candy Hawley, Jack Grimm, Chris Johnson Harriet Hoy, Garry Brown and Bobby Caldwell.

Records from **1998** present a follow-up to the 1995-1998 Strategic Plan as the Session met on January 10th to review the plan, review reports submitted to the Session in 1996-97 and to develop the Session's focus for 1998. For example, the implementation during this time of the "Passing the Peace" during worship is seen as a mechanism for greeting one another; fellowship before and after worship and the Care of Members Committee were other examples of the church dealing with the previously identified need to improve relationships and provide for personal spiritual growth.

As in years past, Village Chapel, under the able leadership of Rev. Frank Mansell, continued to be an active congregation, seeking to do God's will within the community. The Church supported many local and far-spreading works including Manna Meal, the Clothing Closet, Sojourner's and Covenant House. In February, the Senior High Youth raised $207.76 and 59 items of canned goods that were donated to the Food Pantry through the Souper Bowl Sunday event.

Another activity completed by the Senior High group was a "clean-up the neighborhood" in which on a bright sunny afternoon six young people and their two adult advisors, went into the Village Chapel neighborhood and picked up ten bags of trash.

Another example was organized by Sarah Sears – the "No Frills Walk for Meals," a route of about three miles from the Church to Kanawha Mall. Other churches were invited to participate and local businesses donated water and bananas for the hikers. About 100 walkers participated and raised $1,850 which was donated to Charleston Manna Meal (75%) and the remaining 25% to Church World Services (Crop Walk organizers).

In the summer of **1998,** as in past years, the "Christmas in July" provided school supplies for 50+ children through the Keep-A-Child-In-School program and at Christmas the "Angel Tree" was again held to provide opportunity for the congregation to donate gifts for needy children.

Through donations from the congregation and partial support from the 2 Cents A Meal collection, the Village "Good Samaritan Fund" disbursed $9,591.62 through **1998** in response to 366 requests for assistance. These funds provided food, rent, utilities, transportation, and medical expenses of those "walk-ins" seeking help.

The **1998** Lenten Season began with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Worship service. Frank Mansell led a Bible Study on "The Great Ends of the Church" and special services were planned for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. On Palm Sunday during the message time, the congregation stood and responsively read with Frank, selections from the Gospel of Mark describing the events of Holy Week. The Maundy Thursday evening service was a joint service planned and led by ministers, elders, and musicians from Village Chapel, Ruffner, Ruffner Memorial, South Park, and Westminster Presbyterian Churches.

This year our Summer Intern was Amy Salmon. Amy had completed her first year at Princeton seminary and spent the summer engaged in a variety of education, worship and administrative activities here at Village Chapel.

During **1998**, Rev. Mansell made a conscious effort to develop relationships with other churches and to promote joint worship services and not just with the Presbyterian churches in the area – looking at ecumenical services, particularly on World Communion and Maundy Thursday. He suggested in a note to the Worship Committee that Village consider doing more with Kanawha City Baptist, Morris Memorial, and Good Shepherd Episcopal Churches.

Kathryn McCrary, a long-time member and former employee of the church, retired as the Associate Presbyter: Director of Christian Education in **July 1998**. To honor her long-time service to the Church and the Presbytery, a reception was held at Village Chapel on **June 27th.**

The **1998** Vacation Bible School was a combined effort with Kanawha United Presbyterian Church. There were 100+ children participating and many adults and youth served as teachers and leaders. A service project for this VBS was the collection of neckties and nickels for the people of Kenya.

Seventeen Village Chapel youth attended summer camp at Bluestone Conference Center and two adults served as volunteer staff for this event. Three older youth, Sarah Brown, Sara Misiti, and Clark Campbell, along with their Youth Advisor, Vicki Frisk, attended the Presbytery Triennium at Purdue University.

In October, a member of the congregation, Robert Bruce King, was appointed as a federal judge on the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. Sworn in on Friday, October 23rd, hundreds of dignitaries and well-wishers packed two courtrooms at the new Robert C. Byrd Courthouse in downtown Charleston. Senators Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller had nominated Mr. King for the post, and both were on hand for the ceremony.

**November 8th** was a special joy as we celebrated with Frank Mansell, III during his Ordination Service as Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Young Frank moved to Charleston 15 years ago when his father accepted the call as Pastor here at Village Chapel. We have watched young Frank grow into a fine young man and have supported him throughout his college, seminary, and studies abroad. The service was followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

The Advent Season of **1998** saw the youth of the church plan, prepare, and host a "Country Christmas Tea" for the older adults. Frank Mansell led a Bible Study on Monday evenings. The Christmas Program on **December 20th**, featured Sharon Curnutte on piano and Carolyn Perrine on the organ playing beautiful duets. A Christmas Eve Service was held at 9:00 p.m. and was well attended.

During **1998**, fourteen people read through the entire Bible, including Erin Chiparo, who at age 9, did so by reading three different versions of Children's Bibles.

Other fellowship activities during **1998** included the annual "Village Chapel at Bluestone" for family and friends the last weekend of April, and the annual "Picnic in the Park" an informal service and cookout at Kanawha State Forest in June.

In **1998**, the Presbyterian Women were very active with five Circles, each having 10 - 15 members. These groups meet monthly September through May for Bible Study and fellowship. The officers for 1998-1999 were Sharon Curnutte, Moderator; Cindy Hanna, Vice-Moderator; Phyl Livesay, Treasurer; Patty Harding, Secretary; Dianne Ellis, Spiritual Enrichment; Helen Singleton, Mission Interpretation; Becky Lippitt, Leadership; and Patti Salisbury, Historian.

Just as in previous years, the PW have supported funding projects such as the Birthday Offering, the Least Coin Offering, and the Thanks Offering. In 1998 the PW contributed $50 each to the Heifer Project and Meals on Wheels and made donations to the Presbyterian Church Camp and the Davis Stuart Children's Home.

Two members of the group, Evelyn McClure and Mildred Wrenn again sewed and stuffed cloth bears and dolls which were given to the children who are patients at CAMC's Women and Children's Hospital. This year these ladies made 238 bears and 127 dolls. They also made 186 Cancer Recovery Bags for the American Cancer Society, a job they have been doing for about 30 years.

Mary Hague died November 29, 1998. Her son, Bradford D. Hague, wrote a letter to Rev. Frank Mansell thanking him for his "words of comfort and prayers" for his mother as well as Frank's remembrance of her during worship services. Mary founded the Village Chapel kindergarten in her home in 1950 with the support of Dr. J. Moody McNair, the first pastor at

Village. She moved the kindergarten into the Church the following year and served over the years as Director of the Kindergarten, Superintendent of Sunday Schools, and deacon until 1984 (the kindergarten continued until 1988) when she moved out of state to live with one of her sons. In honor of his mother and her work with the Village Chapel kindergarten, Mr. Hague made a monetary contribution in her honor asking that it be "used for the direct benefit of the youth of the church". This trust fund, known as the Mary Darnold Hague Memorial Fund, was designated to be used to send a youth to Camp Miniwanca in Michigan each year to develop leadership skills. Over the years, it has been used to send youth to a variety of leadership events.

Village Chapel began **1999** by ordaining and installing the following six elders the second Sunday in January: Vickie Cunningham, Mike Carey, Kathryn McCrary, Sheila Danzer, Jean Blair and Mike Panger (Class of 2001). Other Session members were: Candy Hawley, Jack Grimm, Chris Johnson, Harriet Hoy, Garry Brown, Bobby Caldwell, Jeff Chiparo, Demetrice Hardman, Tish Hodovan, Sarah Sears, and Tom Wilkerson. This same Sunday the Annual Congregational Meeting was held to receive reports from Committees and staff for 1998, and to receive the budget for 1999 as adopted by the Session, and to approve the terms of call for the minister.

A confirmation class met over a three-month period (mid-January through mid-April) with 13 youth and 13 adult covenant partners exploring Christian discipleship as members of the Church. Frank Mansell, Felicia Stewart Hoyle and Vicki Frisk served as leaders. The young people, ready to make a profession of faith as part of their confirmation, were welcomed publicly on Palm Sunday, March 28th. The youth participating were: Keri Blank, Adam Cook Grace McClung, Laura Joslin, Erin Snyder, Bethany Robertson, Jessica Tetrick, Kate Dobson, David Hoy, Julia Danzer, Corena Maiden, Maggie Sears, and Luke Mafazy. Erin Snyder and Luke Mafazy were baptized as part of their profession.

On the last Sunday of January, Village participated in an exchange of worship leaders as part of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Frank Mansell preached at Westminster and South Park Presbyterian Churches; Esber Tweel, rector at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, preached at Village Chapel with Felicia Stewart Hoyle serving as Liturgist; Tim McGhee, pastor at South Park and Westminster, preached at Good Shepherd. Also on **January 31st**, Samuel Reilly Stickler, son of Alatheia and Dan Stickler was baptized with the Rev. Rodney A. Foster participating. Rodney is Samuel's grandfather living in another state. Samuel's grandmother, Martha Foster, and brother, Adam Cook, are members of Village Chapel.

A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner was held at 6:00 p.m. on **February 16th** and a special evening worship service followed at 7:00.

The Theme for the yearlong 50th Anniversary celebration was 50th Anniversary: Remember, Rejoice, and Renew which was the title of the history of Village's first 50 years written by Sandy Bowles. The year **1999** was a very special year as the Church celebrated a yearlong anniversary beginning in March and continuing until the actual "birthday" in March of **2000**. During that entire year, archives of the church were on display and special emphasis was placed upon the anniversary activities.

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration, the Presbyterian Women encouraged every member of the congregation to contribute a recipe to be included in a cookbook which was published in March. A "tasting" after worship on **March 14th** allowed the church family to sample many of the recipes contained in the Cookbook. Sales from the book produced $1,948.19 and were donated toward the $40,000 goal needed for a Habitat Partnership as Village Chapel's gift to the community in honor of the 50th Anniversary was to build a Habitat House during June of 1999.

On **March 21st**, the choirs of Village Chapel and Kanawha United Presbyterian Churches combined to present "Requiem" by Gabriel Faure, accompanied by organ and strings. This performance also included the premier performance of "O Radiant Light," an anthem composed for the 50th Anniversary of Village Chapel by Mark D. Templeton, a student at the University of Charleston. Soloists included Deborah Lucas, Roger Lucas, Howard Salisbury and Rick Cook.

A Maundy Thursday service was held on **April 1st** with the combined leadership of ministers, elders, and musicians of Ruffner Memorial, South Park, Westminster and Village Chapel Presbyterian Churches. Also, for the third year in a row, Village provided an Easter meal for those in the Covenant House AIDS Residential Program.

Jim and Kelly Kirkpatrick were invited to attend and have a leadership role in Village Chapel's weekend at Bluestone on **April 23-25** as part of the yearlong celebration. Jim worked with the youth at Village previously and Kelly was active in the Church as a teacher, elder and choir member. Jim and Kelly brought their youngest son, Reid, with them and everyone enjoyed the reunion and fellowship.

The children's choir performed the musical, "Moses and the Freedom Fanatics" on Sunday **May 2nd**. Choir members included: David Salisbury, Jared Hawley, Philip Mullins, Mark Flannery, Samantha Hanna, Lisa McClung, Brian Misiti, Erin Chiparo, Will Anderson, John Anderson, Jacob Hoyle, Jamie Hanna, Alex Cook, Allyson Robertson, Alex Panger, Sarah Hawley, and Corey Dobson. In honor of the 50th Anniversary and the 18th year of musical plays, some Close Encounters alumni who are still in junior or senior high school locally participated.

Pentecost worship on **May 23rd** included Holy Communion, recognition of high school graduates (Mandy Sampson and Chris Field), a printed listing of Charter members and a carry-in luncheon. Several charter members still living and participating in Church activities were: Lou Arthur, Betty Arthur Burton, Jim and Betty Arthur, Betty Brawley, Dick Callard, Joni Haynes, Jane King, Harold Litton, Eloise Litton, Hugh Markey, Don Pitzer, William "Bill" Reichard, Paul Snyder, Ruth Snyder, Jules Sockman, Rose Ellen Sockman, Polly Dodson, Tommie Wiseman and Mildred Wrenn.

A Committee chaired by Mike Carey worked diligently to plan a very special contribution to our community – a Habitat Build and on Saturday, **June 5, 1999**, Village Chapel, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity began a two-week blitz build on a house located on 58th Street in the upper end of Kanawha City. After months of planning and working hard to raise the necessary $40,000 required to purchase building materials and other expenses, construction began. (The Church raised $34,414.45 in cash plus in-kind contributions of materials and labor from businesses that were valued at $5,585.55.) Village Chapel provided workers daily and Presbyterian Women helped by providing lunches and snacks, water, and juices for the crew. PW solicited donations of foods from area businesses for specific needs or days. They also acted as "hosts," signing people in as they arrived each day. Workers received caps and T-shirts with a Village Chapel/PCUSA logo. Fourth grader Julia McNeil drew the T-shirt logo with the theme of "People Helping People". A dedication service was held with the family that would occupy the house on Saturday, June 19th as Village's anniversary gift to the community was completed. Rounding out the two-week blitz build, the Church held its annual "Worship in the Park" at Kanawha State Forest with a picnic and wonderful end to an amazing two weeks! The Vacation Bible School curriculum was Habitat for Humanities' "Under Construction" and a friend of the Church brought a front-end loader for the kids to play on. The Vacation Bible School received gifts totaling $100 to plant a tree on the property where the house was built and this was done in November 1999.

In the **Summer 1999** edition of SITE LINES, the Newsletter of Mountaineer Habitat, an article entitled "The Village Chapel Presbyterian Church Blitz-Build" was included. Excerpts from this article shared the following: "Who would believe that a church with an average Sunday worship attendance of less than 150 could raise enough money and provide enough volunteers to blitz-build a Habitat House? The people at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, that's who! For over a year the members of this small church planned to do something dramatic and bold to celebrate the congregation's Fiftieth Anniversary. They choose Habitat for Humanity as the tool they would use to 'work out their faith' and gave the gift of partnership to four of God's people in need. The site was a small lot on 58th Street in Kanawha City. If not for the partnership of the Kanawha Mall who provided us with the elbow room required for a blitz-build, the project would not have gone as smoothly. The next-door neighbors, Habitat homeowners, Barry and Charlotte S., also helped us have room for our hospitality tables and tents to set up. During one of the hottest June weeks in history, the house was framed and put under roof. The day the shingles were put on, the official temperature in Charleston was 98 degrees – and the temperature was surely 20 degrees hotter on the roof! 'Consider it a blessing to suffer for the sake of Christ.' The volunteers kept

on working; the hospitality crew kept on bringing water and the house continued to be built in spite of the unbelievable working conditions. Despite the weather, the build was completed just as the dedication ceremony was scheduled to begin. Project coordinator, Mike Carey, remarked at how surprisingly easy the project was to pull off. Village Chapel's Pastor, The Rev. Frank Mansell, Jr., said that it was tempting to exclaim, we did it!', but he hearkened the words of the Psalmist, 'unless the Lord builds the house, its workers labor in vain.' He noted that this was indeed a work of God through God's people and that it was God's blessing that made the project successful. Mountaineer Habitat for Humanity would like to lift up Village Chapel as an example of how congregations of any size can be involved in a big way with our ministry. Every church that has undertaken a sponsored house project has been blessed by the experience. As Mike Carey writes 'In the end, I truly believe that our congregation received more than Marlena and the boys (the homeowners to be). The joy our congregation experienced as we all came together on this project was immeasurable.' Thank you, Village Chapel!!!"

On **June 5th**, Jules and Rose Ellen Sockman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at Village Chapel. Rose Ellen was also a 50-year-choir member.

For the **summer of 1999**, Village Chapel enjoyed the presence of another seminary student as a summer intern, preaching, visiting, learning and helping with Vacation Bible School. Matthew Camlin, a student from Princton Theological Seminary was a welcome addition to the summer staff.

Christmas in July again provided backpacks, school supplies and small personal items for at-risk children through the Keep-A-Child-In-School program. An "Apple Tree" with children's names was placed in the narthex on **July 25th**. Church members would select an Apple and purchase school items for that child and return them to put under the tree or in the vicinity by **August 15th**.

Children from the Church attended the summer camp program at Bluestone Conference Center near Hinton, WV. Those attending included Keri Blank, Grace McClung, Joey McClung, Elliott McNeil, Julia McNeil, Syndey Clark, Jacob Hoyle, David Salisbury, Emily Salisbury, Julia Danzer, DJ Funkhouser, Rebecca Funkhouser, Philip Mullins, Mark Flannery, Sarah Wallace, Nick Wolfe, and Heather Wolfe. Adults participating were Patti Salisbury, Carol Funkhouser, and Fifi Wolfe.

Over the summer months, pictures of Village Chapel members and friends were taken in order to prepare a 50th Anniversary Pictorial Directory to be available in March 2000. On **September 12th** the congregation was invited to be in a picture taken of the congregation in the sanctuary. This picture will be a "50 years later" picture to put beside the picture taken in 1949 in the original sanctuary.

Rally Day was held on **September 12th** and began with a breakfast at 9:15 a.m. After a short program, the children were dismissed to their classes with their teachers. The theme the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study of "Psalms for a New Millennium" makes one aware of the year 2000 and will be carried over into worship services. On September 19th there was a special recognition of all those who have taught at Village Chapel over these 50 years.

A World Communion Service was held on **October 3rd**. Seven churches participated: Kanawha City Baptist, Morris Memorial United Methodist, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, and Ruffner Memorial, Westminster, South Park and Village Chapel Presbyterian Churches. On the following day, October 4th, the congregation was invited to come to an evening reception to meet Samuel Mwaria and Nancy Kaigua who are members of a four-person delegation from the Presbytery of Nyeri who have been visiting churches in the Presbytery since September 17th.

On **October 3rd** the Presbyterian Women and Village Chapel lost a very special friend, Rose Ellen Sockman. Rose Ellen was a charter member of Village and was active in Presbyterian Women from this group's beginning. She was active in both Kanawha Players and the Charleston Light Opera Guild. Cindy Hanna offered a special tribute in memory of Rose Ellen Sockman at the October PW Coordinating Team meeting.

The 2nd Annual "No Frills Walk for Meals" set up by Village Chapel member Sarah Sears and the Service Committee, again sponsored a 3-mile walk through our neighborhood to raise money and awareness of hunger in our community. For **1999 t**he effort raised $2,242.34 with 75% donated to Manna Meal and 25% to support the Church World Service Organization.

For the five Mondays in November, Frank Mansell led a Bible Study. **On November 14th**, a Celebration of Music Bulletin insert listed persons who have sung in the choir or served as directors and organists over the last 50 years. On November 21st the choir sang the anthem "Praise the Lord O Jerusalem". This anthem was sung at Thanksgiving each year for the first 30 years in the history of Village Chapel.

As part of the year-long anniversary celebration, the advent candle lighters represented the generation during which they joined the Church: Week 1 Bob Campbell, Jr. (1965) and his daughter, Brooke Campbell (1993); Week 2 Bill Chevalier (1965) and his daughters, Bonnie Cable (1969) and Cathy McClung (1970), and Cathy's daughter, Grace (1999); Week 3 David Joslin (1957) and his daughter, Laura (1999).

Village Chapel continues to support the community in many ways including: the Samaritan Fund; 2 Cents A Meal; Peace Offering; Joy Offering; the Souper Bowl of Caring; Manna Meal; Food Pantry; Clothing Closet; Keep A Child In School; One Great Hour of Sharing; WV Health Right; Covenant House; Religious Coalition for Community Renewal, Union Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Literacy Volunteers, and the Salvation Army.

The following was included in the **December 21st** issue of The Villager:

This
Christmas
end a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten
friend. Dismiss suspicion,
and replace it with trust . . . .
Write a love letter. Share some
treasure. Give a soft answer. En-
courage youth. Manifest your loyalty in
word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the
time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong. Try to be understanding.
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think
first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind, be gentle
Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence
Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your
gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of
a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak
your love.
Speak it again.
Speak it still
once again.

## VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 2000s

### 50th ANNIVERSARY CONTINUED

As the Church continued to move forward to its 50th Anniversary, there were a number of activities involved with the celebration. One was an identification of the nature of the population in the 2304 zip code which is primarily Kanawha City. A document labeled "10 Facts 25304–Charleston, WV" indicated the following: Current Population = 9,278; Projected 5 Year Population Change = -2.7%; Largest Lifestyles Group = Young and Coming; Non-Anglo Population = 9%; Fastest Growing Racial/Ethnic Group = Asians; Households with No Faith Involvement = 39%; Average Age = 43.6; Average Household Income = $55,262; Single Parent Households = 29%; and College Graduates = 28%.

In response to an invitation to the daughters of Dr. McNair, the first pastor of Village Chapel, here are some comments from a letter received from Kay McNair Holloman directed to the writer of this document:

> Thank you for contacting us about the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Village Chapel. From the moment you called back in January, Martha (her sister) and I looked forward to the March 26th weekend. We know that "You can't go home again," & that's what we did.
>
> We showed our husbands First Presbyterian and luckily ran into a workman who let us in the sanctuary. Our husbands were really fascinated by the physical plant, the richness of the sanctuary interior—just everything about First!
>
> We showed them where we lived on Brooks Street and where one of my best friends lived on Kanawha Blvd., near Brooks Street.
>
> We also found the spot on Cabin Creek where our father had preached on Sunday afternoons. The building – we don't remember if it was just a building (or perhaps a church, has burned down, but we were able to salvage two bricks which we presume were part of the foundation of the building.
>
> I do think our dad was looking down at us and proud that we remembered the tiny Cabin Creek days as well as the days spent at the magnificent plant that is First Presbyterian.
>
> We were also able to introduce our husbands to a few people we knew at Village Chapel—not many, of course, since many have died or moved away. Those people were Pete and Steve Moore and their wives, Kathryn McCrary and her children, Betty and Jim Arthur and their children. We (Martha and I) also visited with Polly Dodson and some of her children, and with Lou Arthur. Luckily Betty Burton said she monitored her mother's visits, but we feel fortunate she let us visit.
>
> The weekend was so very special to Martha and me. So many memories which we had shared together were brought back from that memory bank called brains, and we were able to share those memories with our husbands, and we'll be able to keep and cherish those memories in our hearts and minds forever.
>
> Thank you again for contacting us about the celebration so we could be there for a very special day. Sincerely,
> Kay McNair Holloman

As a gift and remembrance of the 50th Anniversary, one of our families, Tom and Sandra Wilkerson and their daughter, Cindy Hanna, and their son, Jim Wilkerson, made "Suncatcher" crosses for each Village Chapel family. These were made available for each family on the roll of active members to take after the worship service and families were encouraged to "Hang it in your home and when you look at it remember the love and caring that went into this Celebration of Faith."

As a celebration of Village Chapel's history, Sandy Bowles and Amy Parker gathered information and "relics" from the past 50 years and placed on the walls of the Fellowship Hall. "Every inch was covered!!" In addition, a power point made by Sandy Bowles, illustrating the first 50 Years, ran continuously on the computer screen in the Fellowship Hall. As a viewing exercise, a "50th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt" directed participants to "Look on the walls of the Fellowship Hall for the answers to 27 questions which included the following:

How many times do you see yourself?
How many times do you see a member of your family?
How many brides do you see?
Find a picture of our sanctuary with the front looking different.
What was the date of the groundbreaking for the current sanctuary?
What was wrong with the first set of dishware?
Where did the Sunday School meet in 1946?
And 20 more . . .

Many Church groups were recognized during the celebration. For example, the Presbyterian Women and the leadership of this group which included: (alphabetically) Susan Ainsworth, Sally Brown, Lucille Carrington, Elsie Cochran, Polly Dodson, Helen Eberbaugh, Fern Huff, Lora Ingram, Jane King, Dot Massey, Virginia McNutt, Lucy Wintercamp, Kathy Blank, Gloriann Caudill, Peggy Cooley, Vicky Cunningham, Sharon Curnutte, Perry Field, Cindy Hanna, Patty Harding, Brenda Jones, Mary Lee Jung, Susan Perkins, Patti Salisbury, Michelle Sampson, and Phoebe Trost. Treasurers have included: Flo Seaton (for 15-20 years), Evelyn McClure, and Phyllis Livesay.

The actual celebration of the Anniversary took place on Sunday, **March 26th, 2000,** carrying out the theme "Remember – Rejoice – Renew". Beginning at 9:45, children through 6th grade met in their Church School classes. Youth and adults were invited to gather in the Sanctuary for light refreshments and conversation. The worship began at 11:00 with guest leaders former Minister Conrad Crow and Associate Minister Floyd N. Rhodes, Vice-Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). These individuals focused on assisting the congregation to think about being a congregation of Christ's church in the past, the present, and the future. Music was provided by the adult and children's choirs accompanied by Village instrumentalists and brass from the West Virginia Symphony. Frank Mansell, Felecia Stewart Hoyle, and Jack Grimm served as liturgists. Music included an anthem "O Radiant Light", written especially for this service by University of Charleston student, Mark Thompson. Following the service, a luncheon served by Joe Zando of Catering

Unlimited was offered. The luncheon was served in the Fellowship Hall with seating in the library, classroom, Fellowship Hall, and the Sanctuary. An anniversary photo was taken as well. KRT bus transportation was provided between parking in the area and the Church.

Other activities involved in the Anniversary celebration included those published in 1999 activities as well as newspaper articles, historical notes in The Villager, the creation of a "Hall of Pastors" in the main floor classroom in the Education Building. Also, an eight page "Brief History" written by Sandy Bowles was published and made available to those attending the Anniversary Worship Service.

**THE CHURCH BEYOND THE 50th ANNIVERSARY 2000**

The congregation was encouraged to read the Bible in **2000** as part of the continuing celebration of the Church's 50th Anniversary. The year 2000 began with the celebration of Holy Communion, an act of worship that reminds one of God's presence. On **January 7th** Village celebrated the Reaffirmation of Our Baptismal Covenant, remembering our own baptisms and reaffirming our commitment to be Christ's disciples.

The **2000** Session consisted of: Class of 2001 - Vicki Cunningham, Mike Carey, Kathryn McCrary, Sheila Danzer, Jean Blair, and Mike Panger; Class of 2002 – Sandy Bowles, Rick Cook, Kemp Melton, Sharon Richardson, Lynn Sheets and Alice Vande Linde; and the Class of 2003 – Kathy Blank, Fred Joseph, Julia King, John Robertson, Patti Salisbury and Jack York. In the **January 16th** edition of The Villager, Frank Mansell included the following note: "MINISTRY TEAMS" The Session is using this name in place of "committees" as we move into 2001. "Committee" sounds like a dull or at least routine meeting. But we are involved in a vital ministry as members of the Church of Jesus Christ. Our ministry takes various forms—education, worship, outreach, care, fellowship, service, property, stewardship, and personnel. A team of people is being selected by the Session this week to lead us in each of these ministries. Each ministry team will be enlisting others in the congregation to be active in various ministries. We will use the term "Ministry Team Leader" instead of "Moderator" for each of the ministry teams. Surely, we will slip and use "committee" from time to time. But try out the new name; remind yourself of it. The words themselves may help us to be more focused on our calling to serve Christ and to serve others in the Church and beyond.

On the last Sunday in January, an Ecumenical Worship Exchange was held with Kanawha City Baptist, Good Shepherd Episcopal, Westminster, South Park and Village Chapel. The Youth participated in collecting food and money for the 2000 Souper Bowl and received $178 which was donated to the Covenant House Food Pantry.

In **January 2000,** the church initiated Traveling Communion. There were five teams, each assigned to take communion to two or three individuals: The John Calvin Team (the "father" of Presbyterianism) composed of Lou Maxson, Kathryn McCrary and Phil Harich; the

John Knox Team (writer of the Scots Confession) composed of David Dawson, Julie King and Amy Parker); the Francis Makemie Team (established the Presbyterian Church in America) composed of Sandy Bowles, Charlie Stebbins, and Kathy Kruk; the Rachel Henderlite Team (first woman ordained in ministry in the PCUS – 1965) composed of Dianne Ellis, Howard Salisbury and Sara Slamick; and the William Benfield Team (Moderator of the General Assembly, 1st chair of COCU, professor at LPTS, pastor at First Charleston, interim at Village Chapel) composed of Sandra Wilkerson, Tom Wilkerson and Todd Zubick. Team members were given written instructions to be carried out with the visit including an opening scripture reading, an invitation to communion, prayer, words of institution, distribution of the elements and a closing prayer.

A Teacher's Breakfast was held in March along with a special "March into Church School" Spring Rally Day. Sunday School offerings continue to support the Heifer Project which involves purchasing chickens, rabbits, or oxen to provide an ongoing source of food for families in Third World countries. Rev. Mansell led a Lenten Bible Study on "The Lord's Prayer" over the four Sundays in March.

The twelve young people confirmed this year were portrayed with a picture and a lengthy paragraph about each indicating where they have gone to school, their interests, and a bit about their family and personality. The group includes Bobby Johnston, Elliott McNeil; Krista Jacobs; Catherine Hoy, Joey McClung Carter France, Kisten Noell Parks, Emily Salisbury, Kevin Blank, David Dobson, Scott Castleman, and David Mullins.

Village Chapel helped to plan and participate in an ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service on **April 23rd** at Watt Power Park in conjunction with all Kanawha City churches at 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. The minister for the service was The Reverend Doctor Arthur Backus, the Former District Superintendent and Pastor in West Virginia and Delaware. Music was provided by the combined choirs of Good Shepherd, Morris Memorial, Kanawha City Baptist, and Village Chapel. The service also featured a live depiction of the scene at the cross performed in costume by area residents.

Sandy Bowles, Moderator of the Worship Ministry Team, instituted "Rose Cards and Roses" to honor births and deaths in the congregation. A white rose symbolizing the innocence of the baby and a card bearing a message to the family was placed on the communion table for the Sunday service following the birth. Following the service the rose and card was given to the family if present, and if not, was taken to their home following the service. In the event of a death, a red rose symbolizing the richness of a life well-lived and a card bearing "The Rose Beyond the Wall" was handled in the same manner.

The Bluestone Conference was held last weekend in April with 40 members and friends attending. It was an especially enriching experience as the West Virginia Presbytery Moderator, Gay Mothershed joined the group for the celebration of Village's 59th Anniversary.

On **May 12th and 13th of 2000,** Sandy Bowles attended the Presbytery of West Virginia meeting held at Cedar Lakes. Topics discussed included: "The Reality and Context of Change," "Models of Ministry, Leadership Issues and Vital Churches and Ministries," "Models of Ministry and Mission Meeting Community Needs", and "Implications for Ministry in Local Areas".

The Children's Choir presented the play "The Troubbable of Zerubbable" on **May 14th**. The young people participating in this were: David Salisbury, Samantha Hanna, Jamie Hanna, Erin Chiparo, Brian Misiti Lisa McClung, Alex Panger, Brian Pratt, Alex Cook, Katie Cook, Erin Cook, Jared Hawley, and Sarah Hawley.

High School Graduates were recognized on **May 21st** during the Worship Service and a reception in their honor was held after the service. Graduates this year were Sarah Brown, Clark Campbell, Emily Danzer, Peter Grimm, Laura Hanna, Christine Husson, Corena Maiden, Sara Misiti, and Andrea Tetrick.

The **2000** Sunday in the Park, which was also Pentecost Sunday, was celebrated at Kanawha State Forest Shelters 5 &6 on **June 11th** and included Holy Communion. The service was followed with the now traditional picnic and games.

In early June, the church welcomed Anne Ross as the Summer Seminary Intern. Anne completed her first year at Princeton Seminary after working 20 years as a nurse. She will spend ten weeks here at Village.

During the month of June, Felicia Stewart Hoyle and her husband had the unique opportunity to go to Maui, Hawaii where she and her husband served as interim pastors for a church in the town of Hana. "It was an incredible working vacation where we shared our faith with people who have a very different perspective on life, but who share many of the struggles we see in West Virginia—contrasting cultures, disparities in wealth and opportunity, and declining interest in the church."

A new brown and teal communion service was given to Village Chapel as a gift from John and Sandy Bowles in memory of their son Michael who died June 10, 1997.

A very special event occurred over the week of **June 18-24** – a Youth Mission Trip to Charleston, South Carolina to build a Habitat House on St. John's Island. The Youth participating were: Keri Blank, Clark Campbell, Jason Campbell, Adam Cook, Julia Danzer, Kate Dobson, Danielle Fink, Chocol Gupta, Amanda Hoy, Melissa Phouthavong, Maggie Sears, and Erin Snyder. Adults accompanying the youth were: John Bowles, Sandy Bowles, Jeff Chiparo, Frank Mansell, Joan Mansell, Sara Sears, and Anne Ross, our Summer Intern.

On July 5th, the Younger Youth participated in a "Day of Service" donating and preparing "Care Packages" for Covenant House. Afterward, they spent the afternoon at the Wave Pool in Hurricane.

The **2000** ARK AVENUE - "God's Great Get Together" was the theme for the 2000 Vacation Bible School held **July 17-21st**. There were 63 children participating. Teachers and Youth Leaders included: Preschool – Sharon Richardson and Barbara Richardson; 5 yr. old – Joanie Panger, Keri Blank, and Bobbi Johnston; 1st and 2nd – Jill Burford, Harriet Hoy, Nancy Johnston, Eliott McNeil, and Joey McClung; 3rd and 4th – Cindy Hanna, Patti Harding, David Dobson, and Kristen Parks; 5th and 6th – Kathryn McCrary, and Laura Hanna; Youth – Anna Ross; Crafts- Jane McNeil, Alice Vande Linde, Cindy Dobson, and Kate Dobson; Snacks – Fifi Wolfe, Helen Singleton, Heather Barry, Kevin Blank, and David Mullins; Director - Kathy Blank; Christian Educator – Felicia Stewart Hoyle; Summer Intern – Anne Ross; and Prayer Partner – Peggy Cooley.

The Service Ministry Team established a ministry program for underprivileged children at Marmet Elementary School. Over the year, ten members of the congregation became "grand friends" of an individual or a class and went once a week to real aloud, to provide parties as "home room mothers," to tutor as needed, or just be a friend – talking and listening. It was a very rewarding experience for the Village Chapel volunteers who engaged in this service. In addition, Rick Cook, John Bowles, and George Singleton constructed a computer lab platform for the school. The goal of this project was to provide encouragement and raise self-esteem for these children.

Village Chapel participated in an afternoon World Communion Service at the New Jerusalem Non-Denominational Church in Kanawha City. Sponsoring churches were good Shepherd Episcopal, Morris Memorial Methodist, and Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian. New Jerusalem is the home congregation of the family living in the Habitat House built by Village Chapel in the summer of 1999. The World Communion Peace Offering collected $352. Following this service, the Worship Ministry Team discussed the possibility of "alternative" services with the suggestion that Ministry Team members attend other services at other churches to explore ideas. It was also suggested that for Christmas 2001 that the congregation be asked to donate nativity creches in lieu of flowers and to begin to build a collection for decorating the church in the future. Another suggestion was made in view of prayer requests and that was to place a "Prayer Basket" on one of the tables in the narthex with appropriate slips and request the congregation to place prayer request in the basket prior to the beginning of the service. The basket would be carried forward by the acolyte to be available for the minister to read during "Prayers for the People". The "Hope Basket" that is on the back table was donated by Lillian Kelly in honor of Paula Vasale, a former member of the UC faculty and a friend of many in our congregation. The basket is a special edition "Hope" basket created for the American Cancer Society.

In November, All Saint's Day remembered those friends and relatives who died during the previous year. Those placed in memory were "Sard" Yeager, Helen Coffey, Kathryn Ward, Bill Reichard, Alyce Morgan, Paul Snyder, Marshall Jones and Harold Litton.

In **2000** the Property Ministry Team completed a number of projects including: repair and/or replacement of the window lintels on the north wall of the Education Building, repair of the sign board at the corner of 39th Street and Venable, installation of a security system controlled by church office staff, improved or replaced locks on the Education Building doors, repaired the kitchen roof drain system, coordinated a spring clean-up prior to the 50th Anniversary celebration, and coordinated the Sunday morning church opening.

At the end of each month over the year **2000,** Village donated clothing to the Clothing Closet at St. Marks United Methodist Church and food was taken to Manna Meal and to the food pantry at First Presbyterian Church. The congregation continued to support the community through the Good Samaritan Fund, 2 Cents a Meal, One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, the World Communion Offering and The Joy Gift at Christmas. Christmas in July, the Angel Tree Project, and Keep-A-Child-In-School all continue to provide backpacks and school supplies for at-risk children in the fall and toys at Christmas.

Circle projects for the Presbyterian Women's Group included donations to Meals on Wheels ($105), Day Mark ($35), and the Samaritan Fund ($237). The circles dressed 12 dolls, provided 70 stuffed stockings for needy children and made 110 Cancer Recovery Bags. And again, Mildred Wrenn and Evelyn McClure made a huge number of bears (252) and dolls (239) for children hospitalized at Women and Children's Hospital. The circles also provided bedding and accessories to refurbish a room at Sojourner's, a shelter for battered women and their families. Through correspondence with Missionary Marion Strain, Circle 5 learned that reading materials, particularly paperback books, were greatly needed by the Presbyterian Teacher's College – Rubate, in Kenya. In response to this need, the PW collected and mailed two boxes of books to the College.

Other ongoing ministries include use of the building by the Rug Hookers, Bridge Players, and Narcotic Anonymous. The VIP Senior Adult Fellowship continues to meet each month for lunch and activities.

In **2001** Village Chapel returned to its "regular" life after spending most of 1999 and 2000 celebrating 50 years of this Church. At the request of the Care of Members Ministry Team, the recommendation was made and approved to move the following individuals to the inactive roll: Isabel and Paul Oxley, Chris Carney, Geoffrey Gage, Katie Gage, Chad Hall, Terry and Luke Mafazy, Erica Maier, DeShele Randolph and Christie Workman.

**January 28th** was approved as Youth Sunday and Super Bowl Sunday. The Youth Groups also were given permission to go skiing at Winterplace.

The Property Ministry Team moved, and the Session approved that $2900 Be set aside for purchase of 50 new chairs to be used in adult meeting/classrooms. These are to be delivered in **2001**. Also, the rental property was to have been vacated on December 31st, and it was scheduled to be inspected, cleaned and renovated as needed in order to be made available for rental again for the amount of $600 per month. As a result, eight people worked

about 70 hours and spent $1300 on getting the property ready for rent. The house was completely repainted and cleaned. All carpets were removed and the hardwood floors refinished. Necessary plumbing and electrical repairs were made. Lewis and Virginia McLaughlin, retired educators from Clay County, moved into the house during February.

In the February meeting of the Session, Rev. Mansell reviewed items discussed in the Session Retreat concerning communications and topics of interest that involved the total congregation. There was agreement that the following were of great importance to Village Chapel in terms of "Growing Disciples – 2001": Invite and Welcome Others, Stabilize Number of Members, Minister to Youth and Children, Care for One Another, Provide for Fellowship, Study and Worship Together, Serve in the Name of Christ and demonstrate Good Stewardship of People Resources.

The Care of Members Ministry Team decided to consider enacting a program brought to the Committee by Frank Mansell called the "Four Acts of Kindness" developed by James R. Zug of Wichita Falls, Kansas. The goal of this program is for members to care for members, without the Church staff being responsible for administrative duties. Research has shown that if contact is not made with members following a third consecutive absence, the chance of getting that person or family back into regular attendance diminishes with each week contact is not made. The program lets people know how important they are to the life of the Church. It assists individuals by providing for their needs. It encourages personal spiritual renewal and enrichment through service to others and permits participation of the congregation in a caring ministry to the Church members. To implement the program at Village, a plan was developed through which records would be kept of all church meetings/groups/worship. If a person (member or regularly attending non-member) misses 2 or 3 weeks, they will be contacted by phone. All relevant information is collected on a data sheet and shared with the Minister. A Program Coordinator was identified as well as volunteers to make calls and training for the callers was provided. Each caller was to make only 4 calls each week (the 4 acts of kindness). The Ministry Team believed that this program, if implemented, would help to maintain the church's current membership.

John and Fifi Wolfe and their children, Heather and Nicholas and Jeanne MacDonald, and her daughter, Maddy, joined the Church on **March 11, 2001.**

Upon her death, the family of Mary Darnold Hague, the founder and long-time director of a excellent pre-school program at Village Chapel, established a trust in her honor which provides scholarships for Village youth to attend leadership conferences provided by the American Youth Foundation. As the young person chosen to attend in 2001 could not work attendance into his schedule, Frank Mansell and Kathryn McCrary proposed that the money ($1500) be used to cover half the cost for three young persons (Gracie McClung, Jason Campbell, and Erin Snyder) who will be participating in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium held at Perdue University. This was agreed upon for the **2001** event along with any funds not used for this purpose to be used to underwrite the cost of the Church's Urban Work Camp,

another educational event in which a number of Village Chapel youth participate. The Hague family agreed to these options.

Easter services, including a Maundy Thursday Communion Service, were held in collaboration with South Park, Ruffner, and Westminster at Village Chapel. The parish churches continue to come together periodically.

The Session approved the purchase of a hand carved creche' to be used in the Sanctuary during Advent. The nativity scene was ordered by Felecia Stewart Hoyle on **May 23rd** from a Mr. Jesse Wilkinson of Conover, North Carolina as from the letter it appears he made one of these for Felicia's mother. The nativity was to include: 3 camels, 2 donkeys, 2 sheep, 1 cow, 3 wisemen, 3 shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and a Baby in the manger, the Baby being carved separately so it could be added to the scene on Christmas Eve. The cost of each of the pieces was $25 for a total cost of $450. The finished work was picked up by Frank Mansell, Jr. and Frank Mansell, III over the last week of November so that it could be used with Advent.

In April, confirmation was received that the Presbytery provided a grant in the amount of $750 to Village to purchase computer software for Marmet Elementary School. The grant program was associated with funding available during the 2000 Year of the Child Program. Village Chapel continues its "Grand Friend Program" with Marmet and used the grant money to purchase FAST TRACK, a mathematics program that can be used for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Over the school year, four members of the congregation participated weekly with the Grand Friends Program.

In April of **2001**, Bluestone requested donations to buy picnic tables for the Camp. The Ministry Team approved the payment of $160 to buy two picnic tables for the Conference Center.

Frank Mansell participated in two workshops at Princeton Seminary in May – one on supervising interns and another on pastoral care. Village continues to seek to bring summer interns to the Church as they make significant contributions to the summer youth program.

In May, Felecia Stewart Hoyle resigned her position and prior to hiring a Coordinator for Youth Mission, the Session revised the Job Description for this position looking at qualifications, time commitment, responsibilities, accountability and working relationships, compensation, evaluation, and termination. Following this, Vickie Frisk, a member of the Church, was hired as Coordinator of Youth Ministry and assumed this position as of **July 1st**.

Jerry Deck, from Princeton Seminary, served as the Summer Intern in **2001**. Jerry arrived on **May 24th** for a 12-week term of service. He participated with Frank and Felicia in the worship service on **June 27th**. He accompanied Frank and Patti Salisbury on a mission trip June 2-8. In August. Jerry expressed a desire to unite with Village Chapel as an active member. As a result, the Session moved and approved he be received upon the reaffirmation

of his faith. On **August 15th**, Jerry was baptized and received into membership of Village Chapel. In the **August 14th** issue of The Villager, Jerry shares observations from when he first arrived in Charleston and then goes on to say, "Each of these experiences has been meaningful. Yet, they pale in comparison to the relationships I have formed with you, the members of Village Chapel. I have so enjoyed getting to know you all. You have been so willing to let me into your lives, and for that I will be eternally grateful. Unlike the last internship I did (with an attorney) I leave this internship with a greater desire to be in this line of work. I will always hold Village Chapel dear to my heart."

As part of the Church School during the summer of **2001**, money was raised through the classes to support the Heifer Project – a development organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling families. A total of $730.32 was raised to purchase animals for low-income families and the individual classes chose the following animals:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pre-school | $60 | 3 rabbits |
| Grades 1 & 2 | $60 | 3 rabbits |
| | $20 | Starter flock of chicks |
| | $60 | 3 Rabbits |
| Grades 3 & 4 | $20 | Starter flock of chicks |
| Grades 5 & 6 | $250 | Water Buffalo |
| Grades 7 & 8 | $120 | Pig |
| Grades 9 to 12 | $150 | Llama |
| | $740 | |

In July, the Outreach Team requested the Session's approval to add a second service on Sunday that was held from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Suggested names for this service included: Jubilee Worship, Serendipity Service, Christ and Coffee, and Denim, Drinks and Disciples. Village@Five was selected. The second service was instituted and a grant of $2000 was requested from the Presbytery Mission Development Fund for use in promoting and conducting the new worship service. Approximately 20-30 individuals attended the later service, many of which were non-members from the nearby area.

During the summer months of **2001**, the Property Ministry Team was very busy. They replaced the glass on the sign at the corner of 39th Street and Venable; installed fencing along the west wall of the education building to protect against individuals falling into window wells; recharged all fire extinguishers; replaced batteries in emergency lights; repaired sanctuary windows replacing rotten wood and painting; trimmed shrubbery and removed overgrown shrubbery; repaired air-conditioner mal-function; and transported a ping-pong table donated by the Kramers to the Church. The team also spent considerable time improving parking in front of the Church. A new sidewalk was poured the entire length of the Venable frontage. Asphalt pavement was provided for drainage and ramping, along with new bumper blocks.

In September, Jane King, a pillar in the church, moved to Houston, Texas and was honored for her many years of devoted service to this congregation. A resolution was circulated to the congregation through The Villager and presented to Jane. The resolution recognized her as a charter member of Village Chapel, a member of the choir, a teacher in the Church School, an active member of the Women of the Church and having been made an Honorary Life Member of that organization. She also served the Presbyteries of Greenbrier and West Virginia, served as an Elder at Village, worked as the Church Secretary for 28 years and was the Clerk of the Session for 12 years. The concluding statement: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this nineteenth day of September in the year **2001** the Session of the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church gives praise and Thanksgiving to God for the life and work of Jane Silling King, for her love of the Church and her commitment to Jesus Christ and for her presence among us during these 51 years.

On **September 11th,** Sharon Curnutte, Carolyn Perrine and Vickie Frisk issued an invitation to parents of children enrolled in grades 1 through 5 to again participate in Close Encounters. Meeting on Tuesday afternoons after school, Close Encounters provides children a real learning experience with music and the opportunity to share God-given talents. "We will again be using the Orff instruments (xylophones, glockenspiels, metallophones and percussion) and the kids' voices to add to our worship time." Although the main emphasis is on music for these sessions, time is also provided for recreation, crafts, and snacks.

World Communion was celebrated at 4:00 p.m. on **October 7th** with an ecumenical service hosted by the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Choir members from the participating churches were invited to sit together and sing. Ministers from Good Shepherd, Kanawha City Baptist, Westminster, South Park and Village Chapel Presbyterian, and the New Jerusalem Nondenominational Church participated. The offering was devoted to flood relief in southern West Virginia. A time for fellowship was conducted after the service.

For All Saints Day, the use of vocal/chime recognition of those members who have died during the past year was recommended by Sandy Bowles who had observed this when visiting a church in Oklahoma where this was done. Following the service the first time this was done on **November 4, 2001**, Frank Mansell sent a memo to the Worship Committee indicated that this was an appropriate way to recognize the "Saints" of the previous year; however, noting that at least two individuals who are active in the church but for whom he did not conduct a funeral service (Raymond Gunnoe and Will Calhoun) were omitted from the service of recognition. The suggestion was to include all for whom a service had been conducted but in addition, ask the congregation to share in advance the names of family or friends whom they would like to have remembered. A form could be included in The Villager and in Sunday Bulletins for a couple of weeks in October to gather this information and to be more inclusive.

In November, Frank Mansell was recognized in a letter from Gay Mothershed for his work as the Moderator of the Presbytery in **2000** and as Moderator of the Presbytery's Council in **2001**.

In the January Session meeting held on **January 5, 2002**, Mr. Mansell briefly explained the process for an individual desiring to become a minister including endorsement to the Presbytery by a congregation, the Presbytery receiving that person as an Inquirer, and further exploration of his/her call before acceptance as a Candidate. A Candidate then must be under the care of the Presbytery for at least one year prior to being ordained. As a part of this process, the Rev. Eric Faust, Chair of the Presbytery of West Virginia was to have attended this meeting to orient the Session to the process, preparation and responsibility for the candidate; however, due to illness, Rev. Faust was unable to attend and was scheduled to come at a later date. Jerry Deck, who is engaged in this process, informed the Session of his present studies and plans for the future, expressing gratitude to Village Chapel for being instrumental in his decision to pursue parish ministry. Because an official liaison between Jerry and the congregation is required in the process of ministry candidacy, Fred Joseph was unanimously appointed by the Session to fulfill this role.

Teachers in Church School **2002** included: Preschool and Kindergarten – Rhonda Jacobs, Pat Jacobs, Joan Mansell (Sub); Grades 1 to 3 – Vickie Frisk, Jean Blair, Jeanne McDonald, Jennifer Wilson, Heather Barry, Kathy Blank (Sub); Grades 4 to 5 – Patti Salisbury, Warren Danzer, Karen Cook, Kathy Blank (Sub); Grades 6 to 8 – Sharon Richardson, Sarah Sears, Sheila Danzer (Sub), Cindy Hanna (Sub); Grades 9 to 12 –Beth Chiparo, Howard Salisbury; Adult Bible Study "The Present Word" Bobby Caldwell, Diane Ellis; Adult Discussion "Companions in Christ" Vicki Cunningham, Polly Dodson; Adult Bible Study "The Bible from Scratch" Kathryn McCrary, Chris Johnson; Education Ministry Team: Sharon Richardson, Debbie Hanna, Barbara Richardson, Demetrice Hardman, Vicki Frisk, and Parri Campbell.

The **February 19th** edition of The Villager provided this definition of Lent and Easter: In the Spirit of Christ whose suffering, death, and resurrection we remember. In addition to the individual disciplines, we may undertake during this season (reading, prayer, meditation, fasting, giving to those in need, and the like), the church provides opportunities for worship, study, and action with other disciples.

To celebrate Lent and Easter, Village Chapel carried out the following activities during the 2002 Season:

Lenten Bible Study, Mondays, February 25 – March 18
11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
"Paul's Discipleship and Ours" – Studies in Paul's Letter to the Galatians

Sunday, March 17, 4:00 p.m.
"The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore Dubois
This service of music will be presented by the Village Chapel Choir and
Guest singers from other churches in the community.
The "Village @ Five" service was combined with this service of music.

Palm Sunday, March 24
The Lord's Supper was included in Worship with a focus on the Passion Narrative

Maundy Thursday, March 28
Worship and Lord's Supper at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29
Stations of the Cross Service at Good Shepherd, Evening Service

Holy Saturday, March 30
Easter Vigil at Good Shepherd

Easter Sunday, March 31
Community Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.
Easter Celebration at Village Chapel 11:00 a.m.
One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Offering

Jack R. York died on **January 22, 2002**. Because he was over the years, a pillar of the Church, a resolution was made in his honor on February 20, 2002, with the Session giving praise and thanksgiving to God for his life and work; for his love of his family and his Church and his presence at Village Chapel for 23 years.

On **February 6th** the Worship Ministry Team was charged with finding appropriate sites to permanently hang the three framed pictures of the congregation (1950, 1975, and 2000) and the pictures of our past and current ministers. Sites were selected on the walls in the Fellowship Hall for the congregation pictures and the adult classroom adjacent to the library in the Education Building.

On Sunday, **February 24th**, the Village@Five service featured Village Chapel's young violinist, Miss Erin Chiparo.

The Minute for Mission published in the **February 19th** edition of The Villager was written by Ditty Lambert Markem and was titled: The" Grand Friends" of Village Chapel:

> "Here we are, Lord, send us" should be the motto of the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church in Charleston, West Virginia. When an area family needed a home, Church members helped Habitat for Humanity to build it. When word of the congregation's

carpentry skills reached a nearby community lacking a computer lab for its elementary students, members of the congregation readily agreed to assist in the lab's construction.

In doing so, a greater calling was revealed to Village Chapel. One member of the work team was struck with the disparity between the resources available to the students at Marmet Elementary School and those of his own children's school in the Church's more affluent neighborhood just minutes away. He urged members to adopt a mission close to home.

For the past year, church members have ministered to Marmet Elementary in various ways, from writing a grant to provide educational software for the lab to becoming mentors to individual students. These "grand friends" visit the school each week to tutor, play board games, or listen to their friends read. They remember birthdays of neglected children, expose them to career options, and make arrangements for camp attendance or cultural outings.

The church's involvement reaches far beyond the Service Committee. For the Vacation Bible School project, the children of Village Chapel collected school supplies for Marmet's students. Families of Village Chapel became the Secret Santas for fifty-seven students, providing toys and clothing at Christmas. The students aren't the only ones to receive a morale boost. Recognizing that teachers at high-poverty schools often miss the amenities offered at other schools, the women of Village Chapel acknowledged their contributions at a lovely Valentine tea.

A "Hats Off to Frank Mansell" indicated that Children at Marmet count on Frank! saying: Not only do we see Frank Mansell here at the Church, but he is also involved in a very special outside activity. For the past two years he has been volunteering at Marmet Elementary School in the Read Aloud West Virginia program as a grand friend. He reads to fourth and fifth graders. He loves picking out books for the children. These include chapter books which are read over several weeks as well as books that can be read in one day. The children particularly love animal stories.

Just this past week, at their final meeting for the year, the children voiced how much it means to them to have an adult to count on and that they like what he does. Their comments touched Frank deeply. The next time you are in his office at the Church, take a look at the "Super Grand Friend Certificate" that was presented to him.

At the **February 20th** Session meeting, Mr. Mansell reported that Jerry Deck has been officially received as an Inquirer by the Presbytery. As part of the church's support for him, Mr. Deck has been given $500 and will receive $500 more in the fall.

On **March 17th**, the Village Chapel choir and guest musicians presented the "Seven Last Words of Christ" in the Easter Cantata.

On **March 20, 2002,** a Resolution was made in honor of G. Kemp Melton who died on March 2, 2002:

> Whereas G. Kemp Melton became a member of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church in 1998,
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton's leadership talents began in high school where he was president of his class at Charleston High School each year and also played basketball and baseball,
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton had a lifelong love for West Virginia University and its sports teams, having played both basketball and baseball there and having graduated in business in 1953,
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton was a decorated war veteran, having fought in the Koran War as a First Lieutenant with the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955,
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton was elected Kanawha County Sheriff for three terms, County Assessor for four terms, and Mayor of Charleston for one term, serving and leading in these three capacities because he loved the city of Charleston and Kanawha County and wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives,
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton was a loving, devoted servant of his wife, his children, and grandchildren who loved him well in return.
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton is fondly remembered for his legendary love for candy by family, friends, and coworkers,
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton was a member of the Session, Class of 2022, who served as Co-Moderator of the Service Ministry Team and as a "Grand Friend" at Marmet Elementary School,
>
> Whereas G. Kemp Melton was a pleasant, soft-spoken, kind, caring, compassionate, gentle-man whose life was characterized by leadership and service to family, friends, school, church, and community.

Therefore, be it resolved that on this twentieth day of March in the year 2002, the Session of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church gives praise and thanksgiving to God for the life of G. Kemp Melson, for his love of his family and his Church, and his presence among us during these four years. As noted in this resolution, Mr. Melton was an active member of the church, a community leader and a "grand friend" of Marmet elementary.

As of **April 2002**, those identified as being engaged in military Service were Randy Pope (Mansell nephew in the Air Force), Richie Jarrett (Navy), Jeff Callard (Coast Guard), and Cris Rainey (Marine Corp).

On Mother's Day of **2002**, Frank Mansell talked to the children about mothers and gave each child a special Mother's Day Pin to give to their mother. Following this, in the worship service, the child and mother team passed out pins to all adult females in the congregation. A basket of pins was left to be passed out at the Village@Five service. The same procedure will be followed for Father's Day.

On Saturday, **May 18, 2002**, a Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Betty Carson Brawley was held with Frank Mansell conducting the service. Hymns sung included: "How Firm A Foundation", "God of the Sparrow", and "Amazing Grace". Betty and her deceased husband, Harry Brawley, were the parents of Sarah Stebbins and Harriet Nottingham, members of the Church.

In **June of 2002** the Session reviewed the draft of a "Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities" and is looking at options as recommended for adoption by the Presbytery.

On **June 20th**, a list of the Trustees of Village Chapel since 1984 was made. The list includes the third year of service so if the date is 1984, that individual would serve as a Trustee for three years through 1986. The list includes: Bobby Caldwell (1986; Polly Dodson (1987); George Singleton (1988); Jack Martin (1989 but served only one year); Bob King (1990) Ray Jackson (1991); Helen Eberbaugh (1992); Bill Chevalier (1993); Jim Arthur (1994); Jule Sockman (1995); Bill Reichard (1996); George Singleton (1997); Mary Lee Jung (1998); Polly Dodson (1999); Jack York (2000); Jule Sockman (2001); Pat Carey (2002); John Bowles (2003).

Keri Blank, Grace McClung, Bobby Johnston, Kevin Blank, Emily Salisbury, Carol Caudill, Melissa Phoutavong, Vicki Frisk and Frank Mansell spent the week working in Raleigh County, helping with the clean-up and rebuilding after the floods of July 2001 and May 2002. They were housed in the church-owned residence at the Marsh Fork Presbyterian Church in Dry Creek, WV and worked between there and Beckley. . . . The congregation was encouraged to "Remember the group in your prayers. . . They will share their experience at the worship service on July16th. If you wish to make a contribution to the flood relief efforts, it will help to provide materials for the group to use in making repairs to homes."

The **July 23, 2002,** Villager included a piece about the Good Samaritan Ministry indicating that in the 6.5 months between January 1 and July 17th Village Chapel responded to 223 requests for assistance with rent, utilities, transportation, food and medical care, using approximately $6,800 given through the Good Samaritan Fund. Thirty-two of these requests came in the 10-day period between July 8-17th. We used approximately $1000 in assisting those who came to the Church during this time. This ministry is on hold again until we can replenish the Fund. We are applying badly needed "Band-Aids." But what can we do

to address the causes of need – no jobs, lack of education or vocational training, decreasing assistance through public programs and the like? Jesus said that the poor would always be with us. There will always be people who need help. But what are we doing to help change lives? Are we working as much as we could be with children in school to help change attitudes that perpetuate poverty and dependence from generation to generation? Are we working with our public officials to structure helpful programs of assistance and education? Using the imagery of a well-known saying, are we content with giving the hungry person a fish to satisfy today's hunger? Or do we teach the person to fish so that hunger is satisfied long term? I hope you will join me in searching or what God is calling us to do.

Frank Mansell

Also in **July**, the Session received a report from the Long-Range Planning Ministry Team composed of Heather Barry, Bobby Caldwell, Beth Chiparo, Dianne Ellis, Frank Mansell, Howard Salisbury, David Sampson, and Sandra Wilkerson. For the last year this group has reviewed materials and discussed the former and current goals of Village Chapel. They have identified a Background for Brainstorming Session and Areas of Importance (Outreach, Personal Growth, Parking, Networking, New Members, Children, Music, Community Ministry, etc.). The group will continue to deliberate.

A survey of the congregation was conducted in **September.** The data from this survey will be reviewed by the Session as part of its efforts to strengthen the Church.

For All Saint's Day for 2002, Frank suggested that it might be desirable to have someone make a white satin banner with the names of those from the congregation who have died and display this for All Saint's Day. In recognition of these individuals and in order of their death, each person's name will be read. The name will be followed by a "chime", and the congregation will respond with "Praise be to God for the life of Name of the individual" followed by a brief pause. (The suggestion for the chime came from an observation of this in a service Sandy Bowles attended while doing an accreditation site visit).

Amy Parker was hired as of **October 1, 2002,** to be the Church Educator/Pastoral Assistant. She will be working half-time (20 hours per week) at times agreed upon with the Minister and Personnel Ministry Team. A "Faith Challenge" instituted in the spring of 2002 with a goal of $11,000 will provide the additional monies necessary to fund this position.

On **October 2, 2002**, the contents of the safe deposit box were surveyed by the current trustees of Village Chapel: Pat Cary, John Bowles, and George Singleton, the minister Frank Mansell, and these members whom they invited to sit with them: Polly Dodson, Jim Arthur, and Sandy Bowles.

Documents left in the box as of this date include:

1. Current property insurance policy
2. Original deed of trust on church property (1950)
3. Another deed of trust on church property (1961)

Documents removed from the box on this date include:

1. Old insurance policies
    a. C.N.A. 1975
    b. State Farm 1986
    c. Continental 1990 (Carson agency)
2. Documents relating to loan to Conrad Crow
    a. Note for loan 1976
    b. Deed related to loan 1976
3. Documents related to loan to James Kirkpatrick
    a. Note for loan 1982
    b. Deed
    c. Homeowners insurance policy
    d. Settlement statement 1982
    e. Release from loan 1989
4. Statement of release from mortgage loan on church property 1961
5. Copy of loan to the church in 1989, perhaps related to the rebuilding after the fire

The old insurance policies were discarded. The other documents were placed in the Church's historical records.

From the **October 29th** issue of The Villager is a note from Mark Miller at Bluestone Conference Center thanking Village Chapel members Fred Joseph, John Bowles, John Wolfe, Jeff Chiparo, David Gould, and Shannon Bland for replacing the roof and the furnace on/in the cabin at Bluestone that Village Chapel has "adopted".

In its **November 20th** meeting, the Session approved the establishment of a joint Task Force to be selected by the Worship, Outreach, and Fellowship Ministry Teams to consider the future of the Village@Five Worship Service and make recommendations about whether and how it should continue to be a part of Village Chapel's ministry.

On **December 22nd**, the Village@Five provided a Blue Christmas Service recognizing that "not everyone is filled with Joy at Christmas." And extending the invitation: "If you need space where sadness and struggle can be acknowledged, and God's healing presence sought, then please join us for this service of prayers, scripture and music, acknowledging that Christ came to bind up the broken hearted, and that God's Word can shine light into our darkness."

On **January 12, 2003,** the Congregational Survey administered in September of 2002 was shared with the congregation. In Part 1 of the survey, the 126 people (all age groups teens through 80s) who responded expressed their feelings about Village Chapel programs. In the survey results Village Chapel is compared to the community (Zip Code 25304) in these ways. We are less diverse than the community in lifestyles. Like the community we have a lot of folks in the 60-74 year age range (the "Silents"). The community is projected to lose population by 2% over the next 5 years; we showed an increase in membership of 3% in 2002.

Our educational level is higher than the high level in the community. Like the community, we have a concern for Personal/Spiritual issues and are open to involvement in historic churches. Our giving potential is higher than the community, which matches the national average. Like the community, we prefer a traditional church style. In addition, to the community interest in Bible study, theological discussion, counseling, and retirement programs, we have an interest in family activities, recreation and camping programs, youth ministry, and spiritual retreats.

Part 2 (Reported in the **January 19th** Worship Bulletin) - We feel most favorable about our property, choirs, educational ministry, mission in the community, fellowship activities, summer intern, hospital visitation, the Session, Sunday morning worship and weekday Bible study. We feel less favorable about Village@Five, youth fellowship groups, Presbyterian Women, older adult ministry, stewardship, and the visitation of homebound folks. Some ministries we consider to be of high importance include spiritual retreats, sports and camping, active retirement programs, youth social programs, family activities, Bible study and prayer groups, and adult theological discussions.

Part 3 (Reported in the **January 26th** Worship Bulletin) we feel most satisfied about our work, our families, our relationship with God and life in our community. We are less satisfied with sharing our faith with others, personal Bible study and prayer, our involvement in the church, our relationship with a former spouse, and our personal financial situation. We express concern about retirement, long-term financial security, personal health and health insurance. We have less concern about safety, any radical change in faith involvement, "foundations" (food, housing, employment, education, etc.), and relationships with others.

Part 4 (Reported in the **February 2nd** Worship Bulletin) These activities were listed as important: worship, fellowship activities, relationships with other members and music. Youth ministry, community service, and Sunday school are important not only to teens but to older members as well. Presbyterian Women's activities are important primarily to people over 60. A majority of respondents said they preferred worship in the summer at a time earlier than 11:00 a.m. New ministries people would like to consider include activities for younger and older singles; after school/preschool care; seminars on parenting, divorce, marriage enrichment, stress, care of older adults; a men's fellowship group; and summer Sunday school. Other comments included: use familiar hymns; more people involved in planning and leading worship; attention to welcoming visitors and new members; concern for declining attendance; Village@Five, a positive ministry; continue high priority on youth programming.

NOTE TO THE READER – As the author did not have access to Session Meeting Minutes providing specific information about decisions or events, much of this year's "history" is much less specific/detailed. The information which follows essentially comes from the End-of-Year Report of the Ministry Teams, communications from Rev. Mansell, and copies of The Villager.

During **2003**, the Care of Members Ministry Team engaged in a number of activities including sending cards to the homebound, hospitalized individuals or those in care facilities. They worked with the youth to send care packages to college students; recognized those graduating from high school; sent letters of encouragement to those not attending worship services; worked with the youth to provide soup and cookies to those that were shut-in; worked with youth to deliver poinsettias to members of the congregation; and provided refreshments after a "Blue Christmas" service.

The Christian Education Ministry Team assisted the Care of Members Team in many of the above-named activities (college care packages, taking food to the elderly and shut-ins). Six youth attended a Youth Retreat at Cedar Lakes on **March 9th**. This group sponsored a Teacher Appreciation Day. On **May 4** and **June 1,** it sponsored special programs led by Terry Cunningham on Advanced Directives, Living Wills, and Durable Power of Attorney. The team provided a High School Senior Recognition Day on **May 4** and provided specially prepared Bibles to the graduates. It voted to recommend Amy Parker as the designated Coordinator of the Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities. Though there was no summer church school, the Summer Intern, Alice Plotts, conducted an adult class on Tuesday evenings for six weeks. A Vacation Church School with Kathy Blank as the Director was very successful and enjoyed by both teachers and participants. Rally Day was held on **September 7** with recognition of Frank Mansell's twenty years at Village Chapel. A number of learning sessions were provided for children and adults including sessions on "Parenting in the Pews" led by Amy Parker. Amy was also recognized for the valuable teaching and artistic gifts she brought to the Church.

The Outreach Ministry Team continued to follow up on all visitors and new attendees with postcards and letters of welcome with invitations to return throughout the year. There was exploration of the possibility of forming a group for the single folks in the congregation to include widows, divorcees, or those who had always been single. Following receiving response to a letter seeking participants, sixteen responses resulted in an organizational meeting to look at planning programs, social events, trips, etc. The first event for this group was a progressive dinner and another was the attendance at a Light Opera performance of "Music Man".

The Personnel Ministry Team received a resignation from the Youth Coordinator, Vicki Frisk, and so spent much of the year seeking a replacement. The Team honored Caroline Perrine for 25 years of service. They received two applications for the Summer Intern position and selected Alice Plots from Austin Seminary in Texas. Alice was very pleased with her service over the summer of **2003**. Frank Mansell was recognized for 20 years of service with a gift certificate to stay at Glade Springs Resort and play golf.

The Property Ministry Team worked to complete sound cabinets and upgrades to the Education Building entrance. They also repaired the sanctuary windows, landscaped the Church front yard and kept up with "common" maintenance projects.

The Service Ministry Team involved 15 volunteers to re-roof a home in Cross Lanes for a family unable to afford the expense and the Church donated $2000 toward the project. They worked with the youth to sponsor a car wash to raise money for Project Graduation at Capital and George Washington High Schools. They sponsored the annual Christmas in July collecting school supplies for needy children at Chamberlain and Kanawha City Elementary Schools. Members of the congregation donated coats and sweaters for the needy that were distributed by Union Mission – the effort resulted in collecting 300 items. The No Frills Walk for Meals continued for the 6th Year. Working with youth, the event collected money that was equally split between World Missions and the VC Good Samaritan Fund. The group held a Spaghetti Dinner to raise money for a Youth Mission Trip and the Good Samaritan Fund. They also delivered dinners to members of the congregation who were unable to get out of their homes. The Angel Tree was replaced by a project to receive canned and staple foods to be distributed to flood victims in Loudendale through the Union Mission. Working with the youth, the group adopted a family to shop for them at Christmas. Other projects supported included: the Shepherd Center, Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center, Aids Resource and Residence Program, Covenant House, Manna Meal, the Regional Coalition for Community Renewal, and Rebuilding Together.

On **January 19, 2003**, the pastors of area congregations exchanged worship leadership roles. Frank Mansell was the preacher at Trinity Lutheran Church and Eileen Dumire the pastor at Darlington and Asbury United Methodist Church was at Village Chapel. The churches participating were Village Chapel, Trinity Lutheran, Westminster, South Park, Morris Memorial Methodist, New Jerusalem Non-Denominational, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Darlington and Asbury United Methodist.

In a letter to the congregation on **January 21**, the Session reported that the Village@Five would not continue after Sunday, January 19 primarily due to limited participation in this service and lack of leadership to plan and organize the services and other activities of this group.

Jerry Deck was received as a Candidate for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament at the WV Presbytery meeting on March 15. Village Chapel recommended him without reservation. He also received one of two Parish Pulpit Fellowships given to graduating seniors by Princeton Seminary. The fellowship will enable Jerry to spend the next academic year in Scotland. He graduated from Princeton Seminary with the Master of Divinity degree the weekend of **May 16-18**. An update on Jerry was reported in the December 16 Villager – He is flying back to the United States on **December 16th** to spend Christmas with his family and to meet with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry in our Presbytery on December 20th. Jerry has completed his seminary work and will have been a Candidate under the care of our Presbytery for a year in the spring. His meeting with the Committee on Preparation is to receive certification that he is ready to receive a call to serve as a pastor.

On **April 13th**, nine young persons became confirmed members of Village Chapel. The individuals achieving this new relationship with the Church and their covenant partners were: Meredith France (Debbie Hanna); Jared Hawley (Joanie Panger); Jeb Sears (Sam Hanna); Taylor Johnston (Candy Hawley); David Salisbury (Vicki Frisk); Heather Wolfe (Patti Salisbury); Philip Mullins (John Wolfe); and Doug Thornton (Howard Salisbury). As this Sunday was also Palm Sunday, the Service included presentation of the palms, communion and baptism. The "Bread" served for Communion was "Bible Bread" made in Isreal of all natural ingredients by a company known as Galilee Splendor – A Gourmet Taste of Biblical Tradition. This bread is inspired by a 3000-year baking tradition going back to the time of Exodus, when the Israelites, in their flight from Egypt, prepared unleavened bread to sustain them on their journey to freedom (Sandy Bowles).

On **May 1st**, the Sessions of Ruffner Memorial, Westminster, South Park, and Village Chapel met for the third time at Westminster Church under the leadership of Sky Kershner, Director of the Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center, to share ministries that are currently taking place, hopes, dreams, and frustrations. At a previous meeting, the group discussed the pros and cons of being a small church. For the next meeting, the group will compile a calendar of what is being offered in all the churches and devise a way to share this information, so the ministries are strengthened and not duplicated and to implement an initial joint ministry – perhaps a men's fellowship group.

On **August 23rd**, members of the congregation were invited to donate an "old" car to "help someone go from welfare to work and save money at tax time." The Good News Mountaineer Garage Car Donation Drop-Off Day was held at Morris Memorial United Methodist Church from 9:000 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If needed, volunteers were provided to drive donor's home!

Suggestions for nominations for elders to begin service in 2004 indicated that when seeking individuals to serve it was emphasized that they have these responsibilities: To be regular participants in the total life and ministry of the congregation; to participate in monthly Session meetings where decision are made about the congregation's ministry; to serve as one of two Session members on a ministry team responsible for a portion of the Church's work; to greet worshipers on Sunday; to serve Communion; to share in leading worship as a reader or liturgist; to serve as a representative of the congregation at meetings of the Presbytery of West Virginia, and to fulfill other responsibilities in keeping with his or her interests and talents. Trustees execute legal business when authorized by the congregation to do so. Elders elected to serve in 2004 were: Sarah Stebbins, Don Parker, Howard Salisbury, Alatheia Stickler, Heather Barry, and Judy Haddock. Bill Ellis was elected to serve as a Trustee.

On **December 4, 2003**, the Presbytery met at the University of Charleston. The meeting was hosted by Westminster, Village Chapel, South Park and Ruffner Memorial Churches. Moderator Mavis Grant-Lilly called the meeting to order, and Frank Mansell, Jr., pastor of Village Chapel greeted the commissioners. Presbytery recognized and celebrated the retirements of two long-time ministers: Bob Bondurant, who has been campus pastor at Marshall University, and Doug Heidt, who has been associate pastor of First Church, Charleston. Presbytery also examined and received two ministers coming from other denominations. David Lee is now the pastor of First Church, Nitro, and David Richards is now pastor of Second Church, Huntington.

At **the March 17, 2004,** meeting the Session heard from Martha Foster, Elder, that she is interested in participating in a two-year program to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor as she would like to become a "more effective church person" and make better use of her remaining years in the church. She would like to work with a small church or in combination with her medical background to be used as a Parish Nurse. A motion was approved to endorse Martha Foster as an applicant for the Commissioned Lay Pastor program in the Presbytery of West Virginia. Vicki Cunningham will be the liaison between Martha and the Session.

On **March 21st,** in a special Session meeting prior to the Worship Service, the following individuals/families were asked questions from membership vows in the Book of Order to achieve their reaffirmation of faith. Kathy Pack and her children, Courtney Renee, William David, and Morgan Leigh; Todd Zubick and his son Tyler, and John and Rose Ann Walker and their children Matthew Scott and Stephen Daniel. These new members were received, introduced during the Worship Service, and will receive certificates of membership.

The youth participating in confirmation for **2004** and their sponsors were Lisa McClung (Heather Barry), Matthew Walker (Beth Chiparo), Rob Orders (Jane McNeil), Julia McNeil (John Wolfe), Brian Misiti (Jeff Chiparo), Kyle Blank (Alan Johnston) and Erin Chiparo (John Bowles). On Sunday, **March 14**, this group assisted with preparing and cleaning up after communion. They also participated in the worship service that day with Frank Mansell and Amy Parker as they provided a response to questions related to communion called "Remembering and Giving Thanks". The youth posed questions such as, "Why do we give thanks and praise before this Table?" and "What do we remember at this Table?" The responses to these and other questions were given by the minister and the congregation.

The four Presbyterian Churches in the parish shared jointly in a mission study **February - May 2004**. This study was designed to assess the strengths of each congregation and the mission to which we are called together in the community. Vickie Cunningham, Sara Slamick and Howard Salisbury represented Village Chapel for this project. The results of the conversations in each congregation were shared later in the spring as each church sought to identify what God was calling the four congregations to be and to do in the community. The first step in each congregation was to consider its Biblical/Historical identity.

In a called Session meeting on **March 31st**, it was announced that the next meeting of the Presbyterian Partners (PP) of the joint church representatives will take place **April 15th**. The statement concerning the future direction of PP in the Mission Study Report will read as follows: The general feeling that was expressed in different ways in each of the three discussion groups was that the best strategy for the four Presbyterian Partner churches is to continue to work together on current ministries and to search for a common ministry of service to the community that the churches can become involved with as partners. At this time the members of Village Chapel have a "reluctance to commit to a new church facility. We should let the discussion of realigning congregations to become secondary to a joint mission focus."

In a follow-up meeting on **April 21**, a report was given by Howard Salisbury and Vicki Cunningham concerning the Presbyterian Partners Mission Study Committee meeting on **April 15th**. Each church gave a report about their congregational discussions. Each is very concerned about their futures. It is clear that each congregation is on the downside of their "church life cycles". On the upside, Howard and Vicki spoke about the positives of Village Chapel. Vicki felt that this was a very "soulful" meeting with a lot of heartfelt emotions being conveyed. Frank feels as though the whole mission study process has helped the PP grow in unity and closeness. The next step is to meet on **May 24th** when all four written reports will be shared. A congregational meeting of Village Chapel was held **on April 25th.** Howard Salisbury led the meeting, discussing all the important information.

In the Session meeting on **September 15,** Howard Salisbury reported on the Presbyterian Partners meeting on **September 2nd**. He stated that the ideas voiced were more of the same-South Park and Westminster want a new church home, Ruffner is divided, and Village Chapel is stable. "It is still a good idea to continue having common events, but the activities should be planned with representatives from each of the churches so that everyone feels included." Peter Vial suggested that a planning group with a representative from each congregation be formed.

In the **March 9** issue of The Villager, it was announced that "Advent Visitors are coming – We will have some special visitors in our congregation during Advent. The Session and last year's Advent Planning Group have invited them. They will help all of us learn more about Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The Presbyterian Women are making plans and invite the congregation to help. Folks are needed who can cut out figures (sheep, shepherds, the Holy Family, etc.), create clothes for the Visitors, sew, stuff the figures, and make some special furniture for our Visitors use." As a result of this effort, stuffed figures associated with Advent appeared in the sanctuary for Sunday morning services.

The Maundy Thursday service on **April 8, 2004,** was a joint service with the four churches of the local parish – Westminster, South Park, Ruffner, and Village Chapel and included "The Lord's Supper and Anointing with Oil." Instructions in the Bulletin directed the congregation to "leave your pew as guided by the ushers and come to the Table by the center aisle. You will be served in groups around the table. You may eat the bread and drink the cup

as you receive it. When all are served, please move toward the side aisles, stopping to be anointed with oil, if you wish. Then, you may return to your seat by a side aisle." Those in attendance were invited to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering of the Presbyterian Church USA. This offering provides assistance to people throughout the world in times of hunger and natural disaster, as well as helping people develop resources to sustain their own lives. It was also noted that on the following day, Good Friday, a service involving ministers from "churches in the community" would be held at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd based on the Biblical Stations of the Cross. Both of these services continue to reflect Village Chapel's continuing attempts at community outreach.

On **April 11**, an Easter Sunrise Service was held at 6:30 a.m. at Watt Powell Park, the baseball stadium located approximately where the CAMC Cancer Center is currently located. This service was sponsored by the East End and Kanawha City Churches and featured a "Mass Choir" and a sermon by the Rev. J. Montgomery Brown. The offering from this service was divided between Manna Meal and Covenant House.

A letter dated **April 14, 2004,** was addressed to the congregation from the Session informing them of a called meeting on April 25th to act on the recommendation of the Session that the Church purchase the house and lot located at 505 39th Street (corner of 39th and Washington). This house belonged to the late Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mooney and was being offered to the church by their daughter and her husband for the amount of $110,000. The Session, at the time, believed that this was an opportunity "to acquire additional property near the church building that would benefit present and future generations of Village Chapel members. It provided land that could be used for parking or for building an additional structure to expand the ministry of the congregation." The purchase of this property would necessitate a loan to cover the cost of purchase.

In a subsequent meeting on **April 25th** the congregation approved a motion to purchase the property at 505 39th Street for the amount of $110,000 pending the permission of the Presbytery of West Virginia and that the Session be authorized to negotiate the best possible loan and the trustees be authorized to execute the documents for the purchase and the loan.

A missile inserted into the **May 30th** Bulletin served as an invitation to a "Backyard Mission Planning Meeting" to be held on June 3rd at Village Chapel with the stated purpose of: To plan how the Presbyterian Partners (Ruffner, Westminster, South Park and Village Chapel Churches) can begin a "Backyard Mission" in the community. Backyard Mission is a local mission program for people in our community or members of our congregations. It enables citizens and Presbyterian Partners to help seniors or people in need, right in our own backyard. The Mission Statement for this organization included:

1. Keep people safe, warm and dry by doing home and appliance repairs, using volunteer labor and buying materials with donated money.

2. Give people an opportunity to put their faith into action by serving their neighbors.

3. Provide a unified mission for the Presbyterian Partners to work together in our own backyard.

The Church has a new resident at 3810 Venable, the house adjacent to the church. After the death of her husband, Lewis, earlier this spring, Virginia McLaughlin moved to Charlotte, North Carolina to be near her son and daughter. Nancy Trotter, a member of the Church, will move into the house on **May 22nd**.

Congratulations to our graduates! Those graduating from college in **2004** were Clark Campbell from WV Wesleyan and Laura Hanna and Amanda Sampson who both graduated from WVU. High school graduates this year and the college they will attend in the fall are from Charleston Catholic – Kristen Parks (WVU); from South Charleston – Carter France (WVU), from Capital – David Mullins (WVU), Krista Jacobs (UC), Emily Salisbury and Bobby Johnston (College of Charleston, South Carolina).

On **August 29th**, a congregational meeting was held after the Worship Service to act on a proposal from the Church Officer Nominating Committee and the Session to establish a 19th position on the Session, a one-year term to be filled by a youth (age 22 or younger). The purpose of this proposal is to recognize the gifts of our youth to serve as leaders in the Church. The one-year term recognizes that a person in high school or college is not able to make a three-year commitment. If approved, the wording to be inserted in our election plan to accomplish this change would be: "The number of Elders serving on the Session shall be 18 with the possibility f a 19th member who is a youth. Eighteen Elders in classes of six, are elected for three-year terms. A youth member of the congregation (up to age 22) may be elected to serve a one-year term. The one-year position will be filled or not filled depending on the availability of an appropriate youth nominee. The youth serving in this position will be an ordained elder and expected to fill all the responsibilities of an elder.

Village did not have a summer intern for **2004**.

The Session, in its **August 18** meeting, approved hiring Dawn Patchell as the Youth Coordinator. She received a favorable report concerning her personal background, job experience, church history and enthusiasm for this job position. Dawn is currently a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Charleston.

In **2005,** new communion trays were given to the church by Bill and Kathryn McCrary on the event of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The Session made the decision to give the old trays to Bluestone Conference Center along with cups.

Kathryn McCrary also sent a letter to the Session stating that as part of her training to be a Lay Worship Leader, Martha Foster would need opportunity to practice preaching at worship time. Amy Parker suggested that her first experiences should be at other churches before attempting to preach at her home church.

The **March 2, 2005,** edition of The Villager offered Congratulations to Village Chapel Students for their successful participation in the Kanawha County Social Studies and Science Fair:

- Tori Parker won First Place in World History, Individual, for her project, "Richard III – Villian or Victim?"
- Nicholas Wolfe Won First Place in Psychology, Individual, for his project – "Plastic Surgery: Why Would You?"
- Allyson Robertson and her partner, Megan Johnson, won second place in Sociology, Pair for their project – "The Effect of Vitamin C on Your Immune System, and In Which Food and Juices It Is Found"
- Rheana Auvil won third place in Anthropology, Individual, for her project "What is Barbershop Music?"
- Sara Hawley and her partner, Lauren Stollings, won third place in Chemistry, Applied, Par for their project, "Which Carpet Cleaner Works Best?"
- Sean Harwell and his partner, Joseph Ta, won third place in Engineering for their project – "Maglev Trains: The Transportation of the Future"
- Daniel Walker received an Honorable Mention for his project in Physics, Applied Individual – "The Effect of Paper Airplane Design on Flight Distance and Flight Accuracy"

In the spring of **2005**, the South Park Presbyterian Church gave to Kanawha-Putnam Habitat the house located adjacent to their Church. In partnership with Habitat, the four congregations of the Parish/Presbyterian Partners worked over three weekends in May to rehabilitate the house into a safe, economical residence for a person or family in the community. The work was done in two phases--the roof and exterior initially, and when the house was occupied, the interior work was completed taking into consideration the wishes of the residents. The Village Chapel Session set a goal of $15,000 for the congregation to contribute toward funding this project and by the first of June, $13,000 had been contributed. Before and after pictures of the house were placed in the entry to the sanctuary. Marc Kramer served as the coordinator for this project.

May 15, 2005, was a very special day for Village Chapel and Jerry Deck! Working with the Presbytery, Jerry, who served as our summer intern in 2001 and went on to complete the requirements for the ministry, was ordained. Following his service as an intern, Jerry joined Village Chapel, and the church sponsored him through his work at the Princeton Seminary. Jerry's family and friends came from all over the country for the occasion of his ordination and commission. Representing the Commission of the Presbytery of West Virginia, the

following ministers and elders were named and authorized to ordain Jeremy Deck to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament:

Elders:

Ken Stone, Vice-Moderator of Quadrant Four, Chair; Janet Kinzer, Westminster; Sara Slamick, Village Chapel; John Bolt, Charleston First

Ministers:

Rob Laukoter, Church of the Covenant, Hurricane
Amy Parker, Village Chapel
Frank Mansell: Village Chapel

Invited to sit with the Commission and Participate in the Service:

Dana Holter, Pastor, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Charleston, WV
Ralph Hawkins, Pastor, Altavista Presbyterian Church, Altavista, VA, Presbytery of the Peaks

THE WORD IN MUSIC by A. R. Petker – Very appropriate and meaningful part of the service as the words express:

Prepare my eyes, O Lord, to see Your truth, O Lord, Help clear my vision, Lord, to see Your will. Into your hands now I commend my service, Lord. Prepare my ears, O Lord, to hear your voice, O Lord, Help me to listen, Lord, to hear Your call. Into Your hands now I commit my service Lord. I heard the voice of God saying, "Whom shall I send, who will go for us?" O Lord, here I answer You, Lord here I am, send me. Alleluia!

The Session voted to provide funds for a robe for Jerry Deck as a gift from Village Chapel in honor of his ordination and to serve as a reminder of his experiences in West Virginia. Jerry has accepted the call of the Heritage Presbyterian Church in Carol Stream, Illinois and will be examined by the Chicago Presbytery in preparation for his ordination there.

On **June 5th** Village Chapel, along with their Presbyterian Partners, South Park, and Westminster Churches celebrated worship, fellowship, food, and fun at the annual Sunday in the Park at Kanawha State Forest. The Village Fellowship Ministry Team coordinated the event and members from all three churches brought food. The Worship Service was led by Amy Parker and Denise Hall. Don Parker served as the guitarist and song leader.

Although contacts were made with several seminaries and potential intern candidates, Village did not have a summer intern for **2005**. Vacation Bible School was held July 24-28 in the evenings with dinner each evening followed by creative learning opportunities for children and youth and a separate adult class. The Presbyterian Partner Churches were invited to help and attend.

In **August of 2005** the Property Ministry Team, under the direction of the Session, purchased two kitchen ranges at the cost of $998. Funding for these additions to the kitchen were provided through memorial funding.

Sunday, **September 11, 2005,** was RALLY DAY signaling the beginning of Church School Classes for the fall. The teachers for 2005 – 2006 were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Preschool | Sharon Richardson and Joan Mansell |
| Kindergarten – Grade 2: | Jean Blair and Warren Danzer |
| Grades 3 – 5 | Patti Salisbury, Lucy Brown, and Jeanne MacDonald |
| Grades 6 – 8 | Sheila Danzer and Sarah Sears |
| Grades 9 – 12 | Beth Chiparo and Howard Salisbury |

ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Conference Room): Diane Ellis, John Wolfe, Todd Zubick & Bobby Caldwell teaching The Present Word, a 13-week class focusing on the Book of Acts.

ADULT DISCUSSION (Library): Polly Dodson, Vicki Cunningham, Sarah Slamick and Martha Foster leading a study based on Christian Worship: Glorifying and Enjoying God considering: Does it matter what happens in worship? What is the motivation for worship? Can more than one generation worship together?

ADULT LECTIONARY (Parlor): Amy Parker and Alatheia Stickler using The Seasons of the Spirit will examine and reflect on the lectionary texts and themes used in the children and youth church school classes and in worship.

The BOOK EXCHANGE, now located on the shelves in the room located between the Fellowship Hall and the entrance to the chancel, is still in operation. The congregation is invited to "come, browse, and take those books you would like to read. Bring books back when you are finished with them – no check out, just a place to swap books! If you have books you would like to donate, please do so!" From time to time, when the shelves get too full, they are sorted and some taken to the Kanawha County Library for their fall book sale.

At the West Virginia Presbytery meeting on **September 1, 2005**, Village Chapel was recognized as one of the TOP FIVE CHURCHES IN SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH. Judy Haddock, representing Village Chapel at this meeting, accepted two certificates on behalf of the church. One as being one of the top five congregations in the Presbytery in total giving to the mission of the larger Church and the second for our per member giving. Village was the only congregation to be in the top five in both categories!

On a related note, Mr. Earl Billingsley, representing the Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee from the Presbytery of West Virginia, came to Village to discuss the stewardship role of Village Chapel within the Presbytery. He thanked the Session and the congregation for being such good stewards to the Presbytery of West Virginia and encouraged Village to continue their giving patterns.

The year **2005 - 2006** presented a critical choice for the three Presbyterian churches in Kanawha City – South Park, Village Chapel and Westminster. (Ruffner had agreed to "table" their consideration of this activity.)

A document entitled "Proposal to Sessions of Presbyterian Churches – **October 2005** prepared by Denise Hall and Frank Mansell, pastors of Westminster and South Park and Village Chapel Presbyterian Churches contained the following information:

Recommendation

1. We recommend that the Sessions of the Westminster, South Park, and Village Chapel Presbyterian Churches take the steps necessary to create a new congregation from these three churches by Pentecost Sunday, **June 4, 2006**. (In taking this action the Sessions recognize that a final decision about merger must be made by the congregations and approved by the Presbytery of West Virginia. [Book of Order G-11.103h; see also G-15]).

2. We recommend that the Sessions and Congregations of Westminster, South Park, and Village Chapel Presbyterian Churches meet on **November 6, 2005**, at 4:00 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, to talk together about this proposal.

Background

These three churches, in addition to Ruffner Memorial, have a long history of working together. We have worshipped together on Maundy Thursday for many years. In the early 1970's the four congregations were organized as the Charleston Southeast Parish with a representative Council that planned for joint ministries and at one time called a minister to provide pastoral, worship, and educational leadership in the four churches. When that effort waned, the churches continued to gather for worship and Bible Study during Lent and Holy Week. In recent years we have engaged in Bible study together during the seasons of Lent and Advent. This year Westminster, South Park and Village Chapel shared a Sunday in the Park, worshiping and picnicking together in Kanawha State Forest on **June 5, 2005**. These three congregations also shared in a Vacation Church School in 2004 and 2005. These congregations, together with Ruffner Memorial, are sharing in a project with Habitat for Humanity to rehab a house given to Habitat by the South Park Church; this project began in the spring of 2005 and hopefully will conclude in the fall. Westminster, South Park, and Village Chapel together with Ruffner Memorial, gathered for worship at 11:00 a.m. on **October 2, 2005**, for a World Communion Service at Village Chapel. This service was proposed by the ministers and approved by the Sessions of the congregations.

In the fall of **2002,** the Session of Westminster Church invited the Sessions of South Park, Ruffner, and Village Chapel to meet to consider their ministry together in the years ahead. Beginning in February 2003, members of all of the Sessions met together to become acquainted, to share history, and to "dream together about our future ministry". These

meetings began on a neutral site (Kanawha City Baptist Church) and with neutral leadership (Sky Kershner and Bonnie Mallott). Eventually, meetings were rotated among the four church buildings and in 2004 shifted the leadership to Peter Vial, the Associate Presbyter for Congregational Development of the Presbytery of West Virginia. In the fall of 2004 and the winter of 2005, the group completed a mission study, working in separate congregations, then sharing the results together. A representative group from the four churches managed the mission study. A final report was drafted in the spring of 2005 with these recommendations:

1. Establish a Planning Committee (Council) of representatives from each of the four churches (perhaps 2 each) to plan for ministry together. This group will:

    a. Identify well in advance activities that can be undertaken jointly and initiate establishing a representative group to plan each (e.g. a picnic, Church School, worship services, etc.)
    b. Consider combining some of our basic ministry functions (Sunday worship, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Presbyterian Women, and the like)
    c. Focus on the priorities in item 2

2. Two priorities for ministry together:
    a. Opportunities of needs to be met in our community
    b. Spiritual formation of members; developing a capacity for ministry

3. Two affirmations.
    a. All of the congregations have diminishing resources (people, money, energy)
    b. A new ministry at a new location is not in the immediate future (no consensus) Spiritual formation could build bonds of trust for consensus

Most, perhaps all, of the Sessions considered these recommendations. But there has not been much movement in the direction they point in the past six months. We are concerned that we don't see any changes in established ways of doing things. There seems to be a lack of energy. We wonder if this may be the result of the churches not having a specific plan on the table. So, we make the following recommendations:

<u>Status of Ministers</u>

We would like to see the congregations we work with move in a new direction at this stage in our ministry with them. Frank Mansell reached retirement age in May 2005. He is working on plans for retirement in 2006, though no date has been set. Denise Hall would like to be open to consider other opportunities for ministry; she will complete four years of ministry with Westminster and South Park at the end of 2005. We are concerned when we hear reports from the Personnel Services of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that there are fewer and fewer ordained ministers available to serve small congregations.

Possible Steps Toward Creating a New Congregation

We suggest these as some of the steps the Sessions might take toward creating a new congregation from the three existing ones by **June 4, 2006**.

1. That a Transition Team be established of 5 or 6 people representing the three congregations. This team will propose to the Sessions and Congregations ways to deal with matters like these:

    a. Governance. How to move from 3 Sessons to 1 Session. How to work with the Presbytery of West Virginia in creating a new congregation.
    b. Budget/Finance. How to move from 3 budgets and treasuries to 1 budget and treasury.
    c. Property. How to use the three pieces of property now owned by the churches. Prior to the formation of the new congregation, decisions about property rest with the respective Sessions and Congregations and the Presbytery.
    d. Worship. How to create a new worshipping community; hymnals; Bibles; furnishings of the sanctuary, etc.
    e. Community Building. How to create a new congregation of people who know and care for one another.
    f. Education. How to provide educational opportunities, using the leadership in all three congregations.
    g. Mission. How to define the mission of the new congregation in the community and beyond.
    h. Staffing. How to provide adequate staff for the ministry and mission of the new congregation, honoring the position of persons presently on the staff of the three churches.
    i. Other. Any other areas of the church's life and work that are identified as needing attention in the transitional period.

The Transition Team may determine that it will be helpful to establish other representative teams to deal specifically with some of these matters. The work of sub-groups will be under the oversight of the Transition Team and will bring recommendations to the Sessions and Congregations through it.

1. The Sessions will continue to govern the congregations until such time as a formal merger is completed.
2. That Westminster, South Park and Village Chapel begin functioning as a single body for worship. Christian education, fellowship, pastoral care, outreach, and service on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006.
3. That the combined group be known as the "Presbyterian Partners Church" until a new name can be chosen.
4. That the combined group use the Village Chapel building initially for worship and other activities, until a decision can be made by the combined group about future

facility needs. The Village Chapel name will be replaced by temporary signage for the "Presbyterian Partners Church".

5. That the combined group will continue to explore the ministry to which God is calling it in the community. Conclusions about this ministry may guide decisions about facilities.
6. That Denise Hall and Frank Mansell continue to provide pastoral leadership for the "Presbyterian Partners Church" until final plans for merger are complete (target date is June 4, 2006). Other staff members will continue in their present positions during the transition period. The new congregation will determine staff needs for its future. (Book of Order G-11.0103h)

We believe God is calling us, pastors and congregations, to move in this direction. We do not know all the steps that need to be taken, but we urge us all to step out in the faith that God will lead us and guide us and enable us to be a stronger witness to Jusus Christ in the years ahead.

Denise Hall, Pastor
Westminster & South Park Presbyterian Churches

Frank Mansell
Village Chapel Presbyterian Church

Following the release of this document, a meeting of the "Presbyterian Partners "was held at Westminster Church to discuss the proposal. In the October 26th edition of The Villager, Frank Mansell made the following comments:

At a meeting on **October 19**, the Sessions of Westminster, South Park and Village Chapel Churches adopted a recommendation presented by the ministers Frank Mansell and Denise Hall to take steps toward creating a new congregation from the three by Pentecost Sunday, **July 4, 2006**.

"Denise and I believe that God is calling our congregation to move in this new direction at this time in our history. I have a vision of 175 people at worship each Sunday. I have a vision of the new congregation in ministry to the people of Kanawha City in life-giving ways—perhaps a community center to serve children, youth, and older adults on the property presently owned by Westminster across Noyes Avenue from their building, and a similar ministry in the South Park and Village Chapel neighborhoods. I have a vision of nicely landscaped parking along 39th Street extending from Venable to Washington Avenue, making the church building more easily accessible. There is some pain in this proposal as Denise, and I talk about serving together during the transition but then moving on to other ministries. Transitions are never easy, either for congregations or for ministers. But we believe that this is what God is calling us to do."

Howard Salisbury, Rick Hanna, Sara Slamick, and Vicki Cunningham were elected to serve on the Transition Team that will coordinate the forming of a new congregation with the other churches in the Presbyterian Partners. The group had positive comments about their first meeting with the other churches. Everyone seems ready to work towards the future. The

group intends to keep the VC members informed every step of the way in the process of forming the new congregation. The first meeting was scheduled for **January 4, 2006,** for a discussion.

The Presbyterian Partners Transition Team met on **January 8, 2006,** and a report was published in the January 18 The Villager announcing that the Team met and heard a report from the Village Chapel Team members regarding a "Town Hall" meeting at Village Chapel on January 4th. "There were many good observations and reports of what the merger might accomplish." The team discussed the need for such meetings to take place at South Park and Westminster Churches. Members of the Transition Teams from those congregations will request those sessions to set a date for meetings to take place in the next few weeks.

We continued discussions of the process of moving forward with acquiring information on worship styles, property and assets, and the creation of a new name for the congregation. The next meeting of the Village Transition Team was set for January 22nd. Minutes of the January 18 Session meeting indicated "Ruffner has decided to table any further consideration about taking part in the proceedings toward a new congregation for one year."

The **January 18** edition of The Villager announced the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on January 22nd. Three items were listed for the agenda, the first being the reception of 2005 Session Ministry Teams; the presentation of the budget as adopted by the Session and lastly to act on the recommendation of the Session that the number of elders serving on the Session in three year terms be reduced from 18 to 15 as this seemed to be "a more appropriate number for a congregation our size". The motion read "The number of elders serving on the Session shall be 15, with the possibility of a 16th member who is a youth. 15 Elders, in classes of five, shall be elected for three-year terms."

On Palm Sunday, **April 19, 2006**, ten young people and their adult partners concluded their confirmation journey which began on February 24th with an overnight retreat at the Mission Center of the Montgomery Presbyterian Church and concluded with professions of faith and confirmation as members of the church. The youth and their adult partners are Alex Cook (Sam Hanna); Allyson Robertson (Patti Salisbury); Jamie Hanna (Tom Wilkerson); Will Pack (Greg Blank); Alex Panger (Dean Dawson); Nicholas Wolfe (Linda Meadows); Jacob Brown (Howard Salisbury); Hallie Barry (Sara Sears); Coutney Pack (Heather Barry); and Daniel Walker (John Wolfe).

The **May 24th** issue of The Villager contained an update Statement from the Transition Team that read: "As members of the Transition Team, we are thankful for the opportunity that we have had to serve God and our churches. We have had the privilege of exploring the histories and strengths of our congregations and the needs of our community. We have prayed, worked, and grown together during this time. Frank Mansell, Denise Hall, and Peter Vial have provided support and leadership for which we are especially appreciative. Although the merger of South Park, Westminster, and Village Chapel will not happen as we

had hoped at this time, the needs in our community still exist. It is our hope that our congregations will move forward together to reach out and serve our community as God calls us to do. The announcement was signed by: Jim Sothen, Howard Salisbury, Wanda Gay Postlethwait, Steve Murray, Alicia Tyler, Rick Hanna, Sara Slamick, David Wylie, and Vicki Cunningham.

Christa Brewer from the Princeton Seminary, was hired in **2006** for a twelve-week internship at Village Chapel. On the first Sunday in July and the first Sunday in August, she led the Worship service and served as the preacher at South Park Church while Denise Hall, the Pastor at this church, was on vacation. Amy Parker accompanied her for these two Sundays to offer suggestions to her about worship leadership. This arrangement was part of our sharing Christa's time and talents among the three congregations. Christa completed her internship on August 20th.

The **June 28th** The Villager announced that Village Chapel purchased a house across the street from the church located at 3013 Venable Avenue. The congregation authorized this purchase at a meeting held on **June 11, 2006**. The Presbytery of West Virginia approved this move through its trustees, moderator, chair of council, and stated clerk. The house will be available for rent in the near future.

The **August 16th** The Villager included a page of information regarding Frank Mansell's retirement (which obviously was not made available to him). The instructions were: As you probably know, Frank's last day with us will be **September 10, 2006**. In an effort to honor him for his 23 years of dedicated service, the Fellowship Ministry Team would like you to join in a carry-in luncheon following our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Meat, drinks and bread will be provided. Please bring a vegetable, fruit, salad or dessert to share. During the luncheon, Warren Danzer has offered to video personal messages. There will be a place set up in the Narthex where you can video your personal messages to Frank and Joan. Warren will put this on a disk for them to keep and add to their collection of memories!

Also, if you have not received a page to add to the Memory Album, please contact Kathy Blank and she will give you a photo album page to add pictures, cards, letters, etc. to be added to a large album from other families in the congregation. Pictures of our family (old and new) would be great because Frank and Joan have seen lots of families grow and change. There will be a box in the Narthex for you to leave your page so that Kathy can start putting them all together. We will present the album to them at the luncheon. Finally, the Session agreed at the last meeting that we would try to raise enough money to purchase a new car for Frank as he has been having trouble with his car and everyone felt that this would be a wonderful way to thank him for all he has done for us over the years.

Rev. Frank Mansell, Jr., conducted his last Worship Service at Village Chapel on **September 10, 2006**. As a retirement gift and in appreciation of his 23 years of service as the pastor at Village Chapel, the church gifted him with a red 2006 Volkswagen Beetle! A picture of the car, Frank and Joan, his wife, his son Frank, III and his daughters, Heather and

Erin and members of the congregation was published in The Charleston Gazette on Monday, September 11th with the heading, "Sunday Surprise". Frank's comments in The September 13th The Villager were:

> Wow – What A Celebration! Joan and I really thought that we were going outside after worship last Sunday to take a picture of the congregation to put in our memory album and in the church history! We had no idea that a shiny red VW Beetle was waiting for us on the front walk of the church. You sneaky people!! I pride myself on knowing what is going on in the church, but I had no clue about this surprise. It's humbling to know that I don't know everything!
>
> Thank you very much—for the worship service and the luncheon; for the boxes of cereal so I can keep eating supper on Sunday evenings; for the roses for Joan and the Disney watches for both of us; Joan will want to share the golf balls. Thanks to the Sunday school classes for their poems, posters, pictures and songs. The memory albums are great; I spent part of Monday looking at the pictures and reading your kind notes—lots of memories for you and for me. I spent another part of Monday giving family members a ride in the VW before they returned home.
>
> So many people were involved in planning and leading this celebration, we are grateful to all of you. We will continue to remember you and rejoice in our ministry together. We look forward to seeing you in the community in the days ahead. Thank you,
>
> Grace and peace.
> Frank and Joan

In the fall of **2006**, Village Chapel had thirty-five students enrolled in college or graduate school. The data did not include the colleges or universities of enrollment; however, those involved were: Keri Blank, Kevin Blank, Jeff Callard, Corey Campbell, Scott Cattleman, Adam Cook, Julia Danzer, David Dobson, Katte Dobson, Carter France, Meredith France, Samantha Hanna, Jared Hawley, Emily Hoffman, Krista Jacobs, Taylor Johnston, Bobby Johnston, Bill King, Joey McClung, Gracie McClung, Elliott McNeil, David Mullins, Phillip Mullings, Courtney Pack, Kristen Parks, Melissa Phouthavong, Bethany Robertson, David Salisbury, Emily Salisbury, Matt Sampson, Jeb Sears, Erin Snyder, Doug Thornton, Corey Upton, and Heather Wolfe. What a fine group!!

On the weekend of **November 18-19**, the young people of the church had an interesting orientation to the homeless. Beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, participants were to drop off the large cardboard boxes they would sleep in at the area under the interstate bridge in South Charleston. In addition to their box, everyone was instructed to bring one can of vegetable soup, duct tape, a sleeping bag, a flashlight, gloves, hat, coat, and heavy socks. The night included a variety of activities under the supervision of the event chaperones, Cindy and Sam Hanna.

On Sunday morning following the "sleepover," worshipers were encouraged to bring canned food to support the homeless in the community. The youth participating in the overnight were on the front lawn of Village Chapel with their boxes so that the congregation could see how they slept – or didn't sleep. The young people attended Sunday School and Worship in the same clothing they wore the previous night.

In the **December 20**th Session meeting, the Session approved accepting John and Donzie Fleck and Janet Kinzer into membership at Village Chapel. These newcomers were introduced during the worship service on December 24th and received their membership certificates. **In March 2007**, Barbara Tabaretti and Sherry and Steve Murray were welcomed into the church. All of these individuals transferred from the Westminster Church.

On **January 14, 2007,** the Class of 2009 Elders were ordained and included Lucy Brown, Lou Maxson, Sandy Bowles, David Dawson, and Sharon Richardson. Jamie Hanna was ordained and installed into the Class of 2007 (one year term) as a Youth Elder.

To find an interim pastor, an Interim Search Committee was appointed. Martha Foster served as the Chair and members were: Beth Chiparo, Demetrice Hardman, Jack Schwarz, Charlie Stebbins, Howard Salisbury, and Kathryn McCrary.

The Search Committee was successful in finding an interim pastor that the Committee felt would meet the needs of the congregation. Robert E. "Bob" Lee from Greensboro, North Carolina graduated from Columbia Seminary with a Master of Divinity and has completed all work for the Doctor of Ministry except for the project phase. He was ordained in 1980 and has served as a regular pastor for 20 years and as an interim pastor for the past five years. Rev. Lee was highly recommended by people involved with three presbyteries where he had previously worked. He indicated that he views his role at Village Chapel as guiding the congregation in its search for a permanent pastor. Comments from the Committee regarding Rev. Lee were that they felt he would work well with all age groups; he was "encouraged" that Village Chapel has a young person on the Session; he has agreed to take on the roles left by Frank Mansell; and he is looking forward to guiding Village Chapel through the mission statement segment of a ministerial search. The Session approved a Covenant Agreement with Rev. Lee that would begin **March 1, 2007.**

The **January 20, 2007,** Session meeting minutes reflected that a family in the Church has been without a furnace for four years and needs a new furnace and duct work. A motion was approved to have the youth group raise $2000 toward the purchase of a new furnace and the Session will match the funds from the budget.

The February Minutes of the Session indicated that the Service Ministry Team will continue the Christmas in July for schoolchildren, i.e., the Coat and Sweater Drive, and Angel Tree projects. A computer problem solver group will be formed to help Church members with computer problems. The Worship Ministry Team reported that the Women of the Church are no longer delivering the chancel flowers to members of the congregation that are

homebound or sick. A motion was approved that the donors of the flowers each month may opt to keep the flowers or give them away at their discretion. It was also noted that four years ago Betty and Jim Arthur donated the stained-glass windows on the 39th Street side of the sanctuary, and at the time, preferred not to be recognized but now would like a plaque put up in their honor. The Worship Team will make the arrangements to have a plaque made and installed.

On **March 1, 2007**, Village Chapel welcomed the Rev. Robert E. Lee and his wife, Joyce, as the Interim Pastor. Mr. Lee described his roots as "Midwestern and blue collar". Following graduation from college, he moved to North Carolina and became a teacher in the Winston-Salam/Forsyth County schools. After three years, he left teaching and went into sales work and became an employee of Thalhimer Department Stores as a retail manager. While engaged in sales work, he discovered that he had a "gift for careful listening and could talk to people about faith issues in an open and uncritical manner" and began to give serious consideration to a call in the ministry. In 1977, he began studies at Columbia Seminary to become a pastor. He was ordained in Old Orange Presbytery in 1980 and served three congregations over the next twenty years. While at El Bethel Church, he also worked full-time as a customer service representative for a Greensboro chemical manufacturer but could never "shake the feeling that God wanted me back in pastoral ministry as my only vocation". He began interim training at Union Seminary to test the validity of his "holy hunch". After completion of this program, Mr. Lee served four congregations (twice at one) as an interim minister. He indicated that each call has "made unique demands upon my pastoral experience". Prior to coming to Village Chapel, he served as a part-time interim on a monthly contract. In his Statement of Faith, he indicates that "The Presbyterian Church (USA) offers the world a way to see the work of God in a community of faith. Our churches exist as separate bodies united by their common polity and a firm belief in our connectional nature. We are never a perfect church, but we are called to live as God's servants serving a world that needs the Good News of Christ and his love. Even in our errors, we remain God's community."

A Munch and Mingle reception was held on **March 4, 2007** to welcome the new interim pastor, Bob Lee.

In a Stated Session Meeting on **March 21st**, the Session approved endorsing Amy Parker to move into the role of Associate Pastor.

On **June 27th,** Rev. Lee had to be out of town and Amy Parker was back for her first service since taking medical leave. On that day, Village welcomed Dr. David Haas, a professor at the University of Charleston and a well-known local musician to participate in the service. In lieu of a full sermon. Dave led the congregation in singing some favorite hymns in an Appalachian approach to music in worship.

A Property Team Task Force brought a report to the Session on **July 18, 2007,** looking at the pros and cons of the Church owning rental properties as Village Chapel currently owns two rental properties. The question identified was whether it is in the Church's best interest to sell these properties or whether to retain them as rental properties. Points made in FAVOR OF RETAINING the properties included:

- The properties, with the idea of building the equity, could be considered a sound financial investment of the Church.
- Holding the properties, as well as purchasing additional properties, would give the Church the option of expanding the physical facility in the future.
- The Church may need to be able to offer a parsonage for the new minister. The Venable Avenue property, currently owned by the church, may be suitable and considered as an asset in the benefit package offered.

Points made in FAVOR OF SELLING the properties:

- Less stress on already "taxed" church volunteers, particularly the Property Ministry Team.
- Less stress on Church finances
- There are members of the Church who do not feel the church should be in the "rental business".
- The Church may never be able to expand the physical property due to zoning restrictions, available finances, decreasing church membership, and the fact that neither the property on Venable and 39th, or the property next door to the manse, may ever be attainable, which would prohibit the assemblage of the properties.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of this Task Force that Village Presbyterian Church consider retaining the two properties while employing a professional property manager to relieve the burden currently placed on the Property Ministry Team, while completing the Mission Study. Once the Mission Study is complete, and our needs are defined, the Session will be better "equipped" to make a recommendation to the church body regarding this matter.

In **August 2007** the church began a Mission Study using the Presbytery of West Virginia materials including a handbook and study materials. This exercise involved the development of a Vision Statement to speak to the questions of:

1. What kind of church are we? What are the most significant characteristics of our life and ministry?
2. What beliefs undergird and shape our church's life and work?
3. What are we called by God to do at this time in this place?
4. What are some concrete goals on which we will concentrate for the next five years?

A Mission Study Team was proposed and three individuals volunteered to serve: Steve Martin, Melanie Bland, and Phil Harich. Additional volunteers from the congregation included: Shannon Bland, Martha Foster, Fred Joseph, Jane McNeil, Steve Murray and Patti Salisbury. Following an initial meeting of the Team, a "Kick off" activity was planned for the congregation on November 18th. As the congregation gathered for worship, they found some of the sanctuary windows darkened and half of the pews covered in caution tape, forcing worshippers towards the front for seating. The service proceeded as usual, but at the time for the sermon, the Mission Study Team showed a video by Joel Arthur Baker, "The Power of Vision." Immediately after the video, a member of the Mission Study Team addressed the congregation and questionnaires were distributed. At the conclusion of the service, team members collected the questionnaires. Middle and high school youth passed out cards with starfish reminding everyone that we can make a difference. A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall for further discussions.

The Mission Study Team continued to meet--organizing, planning, and gathering data from **October 30, 2007**until **April 13, 2008**. Over this time frame, the Team looked at and discussed:

1. CONGREGATIONAL IDENTITY-Church History – Overview from 1946 to current time

2. CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS- Numbers. Education, Ethnicity, Service activities, etc.

3. OUTSIDE PERCEPTIONS – Accessibility, Community Involvement, Outside groups

4. COMMUNITY HISTORY/COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS – Charleston, Kanawha City, Other Churches, Schools, Housing, etc.

5. DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTEDNESS – Participation in the greater church, the Presbytery, Bluestone, Montreat, etc.

6. BUILDING ANALYSIS – Structure, Renovations, Maintenance, etc.,

7. COMMUNITY NEEDS – Hosting groups, Service projects, etc.

8. PROGRAM SUMMARY=
    a. Worship – Sunday service; Communion, Baptism, Confirmation, etc.
    b. Education – Sunday School,
    c. Music – Adult choir, Individual musicians
    d. Service – Good Samaritan, Christmas in July, Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, etc.
    e. Youth – Care packages to college students, Car washes, Pumkin Run, etc.
    f. Presbyterian Women –3 Circles meeting monthly, Service projects, Program, etc.
    g. General Mission – World Communion, Joy Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, etc.
    h. Fellowship – Bluestone Retreat, Picnic in the Park, Caroling, etc.

i. Membership – Send cards to visitors, Review roll of members, Directories, etc.
j. Recreation – Youth basketball teams, Women's volleyball, Men's softball, etc.

9. PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS – Adult education classes strong, Youth classes decreasing, Limited evangelism, need to develop more effective assessment

10. PROCESS – Information received through newsletter, leadership effective

11. CONCLUSIONS – Mission study has provided insights into the congregation. Shows evidence of care and support, People listen to one another, Congregation has many skills, Members are hardworking, Desire to continue to support community groups.

## VILLAGE CHAPEL MISSION STATEMENT

Village Chapel is a congregation of God's people, a lively community of faith, striving to serve God according to God's ever evolving plan; passionately seeking opportunities to reflect God's love in our everyday lives through service, humility, self-examination and reflection, study and prayer.

We are called to be generous and wise stewards of our God given gifts, talents, money and earthly resources, both as individuals and as the Body of Christ.

Our mission, simply stated, is that we are called to love, to serve, and to be beacons of Christ's endless love and forgiveness, spreading God's eternal light to all people.

**GOALS:**

**Increase the number and diversity of active members of the congregation by such things as**:

- Development of Welcome Center at the entrance of the sanctuary.
- Development of a brochure or pamphlet outlining committees and/or programs.
- Development of good follow-up procedures for visitors.
- Identifying methods of membership recruitment and implementation
- Reviewing and assessing possible expansion
- Preparing an area of the sanctuary for wheelchair access (remove ½ pew)
- Encouraging less active members to attend and to participate
- Publicizing opportunities for involvement throughout the year

**Stimulate spiritual and personal growth by such things as:**

- Offering seminars and classes of interest to members and friends
- Offering expanded opportunity for Bible Study or prayer groups

- Continuing development and emphasis on educational programs for all ages
- Being open to new ways to worship

**Energize and enrich times for fellowship by such things as:**

- Offering creative and different opportunities for fellowship
- Developing additional programs for children, resume children's choir

**Increase our community awareness by such things as:**

- Continuing to host community groups
- Continuing collaboration with community agencies (Covenant House, Manna Meal, etc.)
- Resuming "Good Samaritan" program
- Advertising events through banners and/or signs on the front and back of the church
- Assessing community needs for ways we can become involved
- Seek ways to include/welcome students from UC and community neighbors

**Fiscal Responsibilities:**

- Continue to support the church financially for expanded programs and possible facilities expansion
- Continue to provide an annual report to the congregation (fiscal and program)
- Continue to monitor the rental housing property for losses/gains or possible sale
- Leadership
- Call a pastor with leadership skills that include serving with energy, enthusiasm, imagination, caring and love
- Elect elders with leadership skills who will serve with energy, enthusiasm, imagination, caring, and love
- Establish a long-range planning team to develop a 5-to-10-year projected plan

This report was respectively submitted to the Session of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, **April 13, 2008**

RALLY DAY was held on **September 9th** opening with light refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and a brief program prior to initial class meetings. A picnic on the lawn followed the Worship service at noon, with hot dogs and a waterslide.

On **December 9th**, a reception was held after Worship to honor Sharon Curnutte for her 31 years of devoted service to Village Chapel without compensation! The following Citation was written for and presented to her:

Whereas Sharon Curnutte has contributed considerable time and varied talents to the ministry of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church;

Whereas Sharon Curnutte has served faithfully as the Adult Choir Director for thirty-one years without remuneration, providing inspirational leadership, musical knowledge, and kind and loving fellowship to the members of the choir;

Whereas Sharon Curnutte has served as the Director of Close Encounters Children's Groups, leading and teaching the elementary school-age children of Village Chapel to sing together, and has assisted Carolyn Perrine in directing the children's playing of the Orff musical instruments in our worship celebrations for the enjoyment of the congregation and the glory of God;

Whereas Sharon Curnutte has faithfully served as a member of the Worship Committee for many years, providing guidance, leadership, and organization for the choral music in weekly worship services, seasonal celebrations, and special summer music while also assisting the minister and other committee members with the duties of said committee;

Whereas Sharon Curnutte has used her extensive knowledge of the Bible to serve as a teacher for Presbyterian Women, adding to their understanding of God's word, and has often presented luncheon programs for the women using her talents and musical knowledge, i.e., "The History of Hymns";

Whereas Sharon Curnutte has been unfailingly willing to assist in varied endeavors of the church, helping to provide music for Sunday School and Bible School events, and along with husband, Doug, teaching Senior High Sunday School and opening her home and farm for many youth and adult activities, and from these efforts, revealed herself to be a mentor and role model for others;

Whereas Sharon Curnutte, along with Carolyn Perrine, has given the gift of her talent as a piano player to the congregation, enabling the congregation of Village Chapel to hear beautiful, inspirational, instrumental music for our musical enlightenment and the glory of God.

The congregation of Village Presbyterian Church wishes to thank and honor Sharon Curnutte for her many years of service freely given and her numerous, extraordinary talents that have enabled her to be a valuable and significant part of the life of our church community.

At the beginning of **2008**, Village Chapel owned or was buying three houses in the immediate vicinity of the church. The house adjacent to the Church, a house located at 505 39th Street, and a third house across the street from the Church at 3813 Venable. In looking at a questionnaire completed by the congregation as part of the Mission Study recently conducted, many of the responses related to the rentals were negative, essentially expressing concern as to why Village Chapel was in the "rental business" although at this time, the rentals were being handled by an outside management company to relieve the staff from the responsibilities involved.

During the **February 3rd** Worship Service, Sandy and John Bowles were commissioned on behalf on behalf of the Presbytery of West Virginia as members of the Disaster Assistance Team going to New Orleans, February 9 – 19. They participated, along with other members of the Presbytery, including Joan and Frank Mansell, in the Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO) effort which involved the building of new homes and rehabilitating homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2006.

An Ash Wednesday service was held at Village on **February 6th** at 7:00 p.m. and the Presbyterian Partners were invited.

In **March 2008**, a Mentoring Program was adopted through the Christian Education Ministry Team. The expectation was to continue and expand the mentoring program from confirmation with "Shepherds and their Flock of Sheep". The tentative start date was set as April 20th. Other adults would "adopt" the Sheep (youth) that were not involved in the current confirmation class. The youth will have mailboxes to deliver each other notes of inspiration or other items. Each Shepherd was encouraged to follow their sheep (youth) to keep up with them when they were not in Church to make sure they were not ill or just to let them know they have been missed and send reminders to come to Church. It was hoped that this concept could be expanded throughout the entire Church with the adults being adopted by other adults to become more connected with each other.

In **March of 2008**, the Ministry Team engaged the Church in an underwear project for Iraq troops with the congregation donating 325 packages of underwear which were taken to the American Legion to be added to over 3,000 packages collected in Kanawha County. General Tackett, Commander of the Air National Guard, arranged to have a plane deliver these to Iraq,

Sandy Bowles was elected as the Village Chapel Elder representative to the **March 15, 2008** Presbytery Meeting and reported that Frank Mansell, honorably retired minister (from Village Chapel Presbyterian Church), has agreed to serve as the staff resource person in Quadrant 4 to provide pastoral care.

On **April 13th**, in lieu of a sermon during the worship service, John and Sandy Bowles presented a report on their trip to participate with other members of the Presbytery of West Virginia in the RHINO (Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans).

In the **April 16th** meeting of the Session, Phil Harich distributed the completed Mission Study Report. The Mission Study Team dedicated the 2008 Mission Study in loving memory of Emily Salisbury (January 15, 1986 – March 25, 2008). Sandra Wilkerson recognized the Team for the tremendous amount of time and work devoted to the process and development of the Mission Study. The Report was accepted as written and it will be submitted to the Presbytery Church Development Committee.

At **the June 18** Session Meeting the Service Ministry Team requested permission to explore the Common Grounds Outreach Center operated by St. Agnes Catholic Church and

Morris Memorial Methodist Church as a potential alternative to the Good Samaritan Fund which provided funds to assist those individuals coming to Village Chapel seeking assistance. The Center serves the Kanawha City and eastern Kanawha County residents. Services include emergency food distributed once a month and utility aid up to $25. The Session approved the request by Common Consent. In the September Session meeting of **2008,** plans were finalized for Village Chapel to join with St. Agnes and Morris Memorial to provide funds for emergency services (utilities, food, gas, etc.) and to provide volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 and 2:00 to assist with this effort. Appropriate information was published in The Villager and the Church Bulletin seeking individuals to participate in this community outreach. It was also suggested that it might be helpful to have the Common Grounds Coordinator come to talk with the congregation at some point.

On **July 11, 2008**, a notice came from the Presbytery of West Virginia that the Council of the Presbytery voted on July 10th to recommend that the Presbytery "divest itself of Bluestone Camp and Retreat Center, outside Hinton, WV, by the end of 2009". By a vote of 12-4, the Council adopted the recommendation of a task force appointed in August 2006.

The camp sits on land leased from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; the task force was created in order to make a recommendation about the future of the Camp in sufficient time before the lease expires at the end of 2009. "It is important to note that this recommended divestiture of Bluestone does not mean that the Presbytery of West Virginia intends to dissolve the camp and outdoor ministries. . . It is incumbent on the Presbytery of West Virginia, however, to be visionary as well, to imagine new possibilities and opportunities . . . It is a time to consider thoughtfully the best interests of the Presbytery and the future of its continuing camping and retreat ministries."

As a follow-up to this letter regarding Bluestone Conference Center, Village Chapel received a letter from Mark Miller, the Camp Director, dated **January 12, 2009** thanking Village Chapel for a $100 donation in August 2008. He indicates 2008 as a landmark year in Bluestone history and provides additional information regarding the letter from the Presbytery of July, 2008 describing it as the "culmination of many years of Presbytery debate about what to do with Bluestone". Mr. Miller goes on to say, "As is well known by now, the motion to divest the Presbytery of Bluestone was trumped by a substitute motion that called for the formation of a new organization called 'Friends of Bluestone' for the dual purpose of fundraising (to maintain and improve Bluestone's facilities) and advocating (for ministry that takes place at Bluestone in the form of retreats, conferences, and summer camp programs). The vote in favor of the substitute motion was overwhelming, thus confirming our Presbytery membership's love and appreciation for the holy ground we call Bluestone."

He goes on to say, "Moving forward, it is imperative that people remain aware of Bluestone, pray for Bluestone, and support Bluestone when opportunities to give and serve present themselves. It was the question of financial investment that was the practical concern that led some to conclude divestment was the best option . . . and in all practicality, Bluestone cannot be sustained without significant ongoing financial investment. . . but can

we really afford not to sustain the place and the ministry that is Bluestone? . . . God meets people at Bluestone in ways that they will not experience anywhere else. The combination of a real sense of ownership (especially for those who have grown up coming here) and the magnificent witness of creation (for anyone who has ever spent any time here) has a way of drawing us closer to the heart of God than we ever could be otherwise. . . Without question, what happens when people gather together at Bluestone is priceless. Friends of Bluestone is forming because a great many people know this to be true. Very soon, Friends of Bluestone will begin doing the job of presenting various opportunities for service and financial stewardship. In turn, we are hopeful that you and many others will respond in support of Bluestone's Ministry to the glory of Jesus Christ... Please pray for us as we continue to plan for the coming season, and for all those who will pass through our doors this year. Anything you can do to help us encourage people to come and experience the ministry you so generously support will ultimately further the kingdom of God. We'll do our part to continue to provide the Christ centered community experience that Bluestone was built and developed to be. God Bless."

At a Congregational Meeting held on **June 25, 2008**, a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) was formed to carry out the process of finding a new minister for Village Chapel. This team included: Sandy Bowles, Sam Hanna, Curtis Hardman, Phil Harich, Sharon King, Kathy Kruk, Kathryn McCrary, and Sara Slamick.

The PNC held its first meeting on **July 13** and over the length of the process, met nineteen times with meetings lasting 1½ to 4 hours. The first task of the group was to complete a Church Information Form (CIF) and to review the Mission Study Task Force's report which was completed in the fall and spring of 2007-2008. After the CIF was completed, it was filed with the Presbytery for its approval.

In the September Session meeting, Rev. Lee announced that the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery approved the Church Information Form (CIF) that was completed by the Pastoral Nominating Committee as a part of the groundwork process for seeking a new minister. After this approval was received, it was sent to Louisville for distribution to potential candidates.

Shortly thereafter, the Committee began to receive Personal Information Forms from prospective ministerial candidates. The group reviewed at least 70 forms. Most were "matches" from Louisville, but the Team also received ten self-referrals and three persons were recommended to the PNC by a member of the congregation. As the PNC reviewed the forms, which were 6 to 9 pages in length, they were ranked individually. The group then came together and compiled the rankings and found great similarity among them. This was an amazing but lengthy process!

For World Communion **Sunday, October 8th**, Rev. Lee extended an invitation to Ruffner, South Park and Westminster Churches. Sandy Bowles, Chair of the Worship Ministry Team, invited members of the congregation, as they were able, to read the scriptures

in different languages (Doug Curnutte, German), etc. Bob Lee selected the hymns, and Special Bulletin covers were ordered. Communion was delivered by intinction, and the other churches were invited to assist with communion. By common consent of the participating churches, the offering for this Service was donated to Manna Meal.

Session Minutes of **December 17th** noted that the red hymnals (replaced by blue hymnals) have been removed from the sanctuary, and a motion was made to offer those, that had been donated in memory or honor of someone, to the individuals who originally donated them. The "unclaimed" hymnals could then be offered to anyone in the Church who would like to have one and any remaining hymnals be donated to a church on the Gulf Coast (this suggestion was made following hurricane Katrina which caused tremendous damage in that area). The motion was approved.

The year **2009** was a financially challenging year for the Church. Pledges were down and the two houses purchased to generate rental income were not producing well. In addition, the previous year, 2008, came in approximately $17,000 below the amount budgeted for the year and a shortfall of $39,000 was projected for 2009.

In the January Stewardship Ministry Team meeting, after significant discussion of the pros and cons of continuing with the rental properties, a motion was made, seconded, and approved that the Session (and congregation) consider selling these two properties (the one at 3813 Venable across from the church and the one located at 505 39th Street) as a means of generating needed revenue for the calendar year 2009 budget with the proviso that one or both of the properties not be sold if the amount offered would result in a financial loss to the Church. It was recognized that this action might be controversial, and that, if carried out, would be a one-time infusion of revenue and not a long-term answer to the Church's financial difficulties. In reality, the combined rental income for 2008 was $17,120 with expenses totaling $22,645.81 resulting in a negative figure of $-5,525.55. In addition to recommending selling the two properties, the Session recommended rolling the 2009 budget back to 2008 figures and requiring all ministry teams to exercise discipline in managing expenditures. There was also the suggestion of possible staffing cutbacks. The projected outcome of these actions, if successful, would result in a shortfall of $16,000 as opposed to the $39,000 figure.

The Session approved a motion to move forward with obtaining an appraisal on the rental properties at 505 29th Street and 3813 Venable Avenue. A letter was received from the Presbytery in accordance with the Book of Order and the Manual of the Presbytery of West Virginia giving Village Chapel Presbyterian Church permission to sell the two pieces of property. The property at 3813 Venable appraised at $185,000 and the property at 505 39th Street at $152,000. The permission indicated that these be sold for no less than 90 percent of the appraised value with the stipulation that 70 percent of the net proceeds be held in reserve for capital improvement/mission of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church.

The Service Ministry Team in **January 2009** recommended that the congregation be provided opportunity to contribute to the Cents Ability Hunger Program (started much earlier by the Women's Circle) and the Session voted to collect these monies on the last Sunday of each month. The 2 Cents a Meal donation will begin to be collected on the 4th Sunday of April and continue on the last Sundy of every month.

Janet Kinzer, Lou Maxson, and Bob Lee spearheaded moving forward with the Common Grounds outreach effort with St. Agnes and Morris Memorial. On **January 4, 2009,** the Communion Sunday donation amounted to $561.00, and it was agreed that Village Chapel would donate this amount to Common Grounds. It was also agreed that Village would regularly donate paper supplies (diapers, toilet tissue, paper towels, etc.) as these are items that cannot be purchased with food stamps.

The Pastor Nominating Committee continued to move forward with the process of identifying a viable candidate for the pastor position. The group had identified their "number 1" candidate and scheduled a visit with that individual only to learn that the candidate cancelled the visit and removed his name from consideration. Back to the drawing board!

The list of candidates was revisited and narrowed to five candidates and the PNC conducted telephone interviews with these five individuals. Following completion of these interviews, they were ranked and with only two exceptions, the rankings were essentially the same. It was at that time that the Team realized how the Holy Spirit had been guiding them through the process – an amazing moment! The Presbytery Executive, Gay Mothershed, contacted the Presbytery executives in the Presbyteries of our "top" two candidates and received a "the best" comment about each of these individuals. At this point the PNC was ready to invite the candidates to come to Charleston for in-person interviews. These were completed, along with opportunity to observe the candidates as they served as "guest ministers" in area churches. After further discussion and prayer, the PNC decided to recommend Todd Wright as our candidate for minister at Village Chapel to succeed Frank Mansell, Jr.

In its **March 18** meeting, the Session recommended approval of the terms of call for the prospective pastor. A congregational meeting was set to vote on calling the pastor and if accepted, his service would begin on **June 1, 2009**. If the new pastor will need rental property until he can decide on the purchase of a home, the church will provide the house at 3813 Venable Avenue for him.

The **April 2009** Session minutes indicate that the pastoral candidate has accepted the call as pastor at Village Chapel! The candidate will be examined by the Committee on Ministry on April 21st and a congregational meeting will be set for May 10th at which time the congregation will vote on calling this pastor. As outlined in the terms of call, Village Chapel will cover all moving expense for the paster and his family. The Session commended the PNC for the excellent work they have done in securing a pastor!

The congregation met on **May 10th** to receive a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee. The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Acting Moderator, Reverend Doug Heidt. At the conclusion of the presentation by the Pastoral Nominating Committee, the floor was opened for questions, of which there were none. With no further comments from the floor, ballots were distributed. Ballots were counted under the direction of the Clerk of the Session. The vote was unanimous (90 Yes, 0 No) to approve Rev. Todd R. Wright for the call as pastor with the terms of call as presented. Rev. Wright's first Sunday in the pulpit will be **June 7, 2009** and following the service, a "heavy hors d'oeuvres" reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Wright's installation service will be at 4:00 p.m., on Sunday June 28, 2009. To assist the new minister to learn individual names, the Membership Ministry team will make name tags for the congregation to wear during June.

A dinner/discussion with Todd and Maureen Wright and the Session was held the week prior to the congregational vote. Dinner was provided by Sandy Bowles. Session members indicated they felt "very good about the interactions". The Pastoral Nominating Committee has agreed to continue to serve as a support group to the new minister for at least through the first year and as needed beyond that time.

An Exit Interview was scheduled for Bob Lee, the Interim Pastor, and Jim Robinson led the Session in discussion of a series of questions related to his experience with Village Chapel.

Graduation Sunday was held on **May 17th**. A breakfast was held for graduating seniors and their families. The younger youth will serve and make decorations for the tables. The high school graduates this year were Hallie Barry, Jacob Brown, Sarah Hawley, Allyson Robertson, Daniel Walker, John Willis and Nick Wolfe.

Kathyrn McCrary reported that the Committee on Ministry has approved the date for Todd Wright's installation for **June 29th** at 4:00 p.m. Individuals involved in the service will include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Call to Worship | Jesse Haynes, Elder, Rock Lake PC |
| Scripture | Joan Stewart, Minister, Falls View/Montgomery PC |
| Sermon | Joan Stewart |
| Questions to Minister | Jim Rowe, Minister, Old Stone Church, Moderator, PWV |
| Questions to Congregation | Kathryn McCrary |
| Prayer of Installation | Devon Ducheneau, Minister, Westminster/South Park |
| Declaration | Jim Rowe |
| Charge to Minister | Jim Robinson, Minister, Elk Hills PC |
| Charge to Congregation | John Bolt, Stated Clerk, PWV |

The Presbyterian Women will do the reception following the Service. Betsy White will organize as necessary.

Speaking for the Committee on Ministry, our Liaison Pastor, Mr. Robinson, described the thinking by the Committee on Ministry that the new minister and the congregation should pledge to enter into a "covenant" or agreement that the minister stay at the church for a minimum of five years. The intent is to create a non-binding covenant of enduring ministry. Mr. Robinson has discussed this with Mr. Wright.

In the Spring of **2009,** discussion came up with the Fellowship Ministry Team in regard to fellowship after worship services as it was "becoming more difficult to get people to bring refreshments". The recommendation was made to limit the variety and number of items provided and that Ministry Teams and Circles take responsibility for bringing refreshments for the first and third Sundays of each month. This recommendation was accepted and a schedule for ministry teams to provide after service refreshments was developed.

Issues with the Church website arose in the spring of **2009**--that it is very "unforgiving" and does not allow for interactive features, videos, and movable photos. Sharon King volunteered to assume responsibility to go forward with developing a new website format with the understanding that keeping the site current will fall to the Church Secretary. Sharon also volunteered to work with the Secretary to help her develop the skills necessary to maintain the site. The Session also recommended that as the job description for the secretary is developed, maintenance of the website must be added to this document

During the **May 20th** Session Meeting, Ira Morris met with the Session to bring a proposal from the Adult Sunday School Class. This group is proposing the people of the Church donate good usable things, and if individuals come to the "sale" and take items (with no charge), they would then be expected to do something nice for another person/family in return. This would occur tentatively during the first or second week of August. The Adult Discussion class would have individuals here to receive donations and work with those coming to find usable items. The name for this event was determined to be "Pay it Forward". A simple brochure will be developed about Village Chapel and what we have to offer. This will be passed on to those coming to the church to avail themselves of this opportunity.

In **June of 2009**, the Stewardship Ministry Team comprised of Dianne Ellis, Howard Salisbury, David Sampson, Evelyn McClure, Bill McCrary, and Todd Wright was caused to deal with non-compliance as set forth in the Book of Order regarding the method by which Sunday offerings are counted. At this time Village really does not have a procedure that would meet denominational requirements. In this meeting it was determined that a group of eight individuals would be recruited to assist with the counting of the offering each Sunday morning after worship. Members would serve on a rotating basis and two persons would count on any given Sundy and Evelyn McClure then would record the figures as she does at the present time. Dianne Ellis will recruit perspective members of the group and prepare a schedule once the plan is approved. Approval for this plan to bring the Church into compliance was provided by the Session at its June meeting.

The Membership Ministry Team, meeting on **July 9, 2009**, reported the following activities for consideration:

- Purchase Pictorial Software and develop a group of folks willing to serve as church photographers, taking photos of various events and head shots for the director. Target January 2010 for next Directory.
- The congregation needs to be more aware of visitors and more effectively "put names to faces. Todd Wright is sending notes to visitors. Should we consider the possibility of sending bread or cookies to follow up with visitors?
- Sara Slamick currently sends notes to all college students. Todd suggested sending small gifts such as post-it notes, cocoa mix, etc.
- It was suggested that interested parishioners "Adopt a homebound member" providing services such as handwritten notes, copies of sermons and boxed gifts such as food and baked goods.
- Develop marketing activities such as newsletters with articles in depth.
- Create a "Family Series" for new or interested members.
- Create a church t-shirt that folks could wear when attending a function as a group.

In the **2009 August** meeting of the Property Committee Curtis Hardman presented the appraisals of the rental properties to the Committee for review and discussion. The property at 3813 was appraised at $185,000 and the property at 505 39th Street was appraised at $152,000. After the discussion, it was the unanimous recommendation of the Property Committee to sell these two properties with the stipulation that the major portion of the proceeds from these sales be dedicated to the future mission of Village Chapel.

A revised children's program was initiated on **September 16th** and scheduled for Wednesdays at 3:00. Called Close Encounters, children will be learning puppetry and periodically present stories to the congregation as part of Sunday worship service. The group will meet for one hour each Wednesday with 30 minutes devoted to music and 30 minutes for puppetry. "Blind Bartemaus", the first puppet presentation, was scheduled for October 25th. Six puppets, scripts, and training resources were ordered at a cost of $400. Assistants for the program were recruited by Demetrice Hardman. Amy Parker served initially as the primary leader, but Dionne Canterbury was hired to work with the Close Encounters group.

In the December Session meeting, Rev. Wright presented proposed teams, dates and a potential list of twenty-two individuals eligible to receive communion. Those volunteering to serve were Sandy Bowles, David Dawson, Dianne Ellis, Lou Maxson, Kathryn McCrary, Charlie Stebbins, Todd Wright, and Todd Zubick.

A recommendation was made to the Session to allow guest Worship Leaders on **July 25, 2010.** The Trinity Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, North Carolina is sending a group of

15 to attend the PCUSA Triennium held in West Lafayette, Indiana. As they return home, they would like to spend the night in Charleston and would lead Worship on Sunday, July 25th.

A Blue Christmas Service was held with the Presbyterian Partners at Ruffner Memorial on **December 10th** at 5:00 p.m. This Service was initiated because not everyone is filled with joy at Christmas. The invitation to this event stated, "If you need a space where sadness and struggle can be acknowledged, and God's healing presence sought, then join us for this service of prayers, scripture and music, acknowledging that Christ came to bind up the broken hearted, and that God's Word can shine light into our darkness. Everyone is welcome."

And . . . it was announced in the December 18th The Villager, "You have a last chance to vote for your favorite Christmas hymns – we'll compare the results and sing your favorite seven hymns on December 27th as part of the worship service."

**VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 2010s**

In 2010, the number of active members at Village Chapel was 250 and the average attendance at worship services was 112. The ethnic distribution was:

| | |
|---|---|
| Asian | 1 |
| Black | 2 |
| Hispanic | 0 |
| White | 247 |

Those serving on the Session were Class of 2010 – Melanie Bland, Dianne Ellis, Curtis Hardman, Sharon King, Sandra Wilkerson; Class of 2011 – Rick Cook, Kathryn McCrary, Heather Parks, Howard Salisbury, Charles Stebbins; and Class of 2012 – Phil Harich, Julia King, Kathy Kruk, Sara Slamick, Todd Zubick.

The Session met for a Session Retreat on Saturday, **January 23, 2010,** at the Knotty Pine Lodge. The 2010 budget was reviewed in light of efforts to increase congregational giving through the Faith Line (Invitation to members to give an additional 15%). These efforts were successful, and a motion was approved to adopt the 2010 budget. The agenda for the Retreat included discussion of 60th Anniversary plans. Sandy Bowles and Sara Slamick were appointed to develop a task force to organize the celebration.

Traveling communion was celebrated in 2009 with two teams delivering communion. This first attempt was described as being a "little awkward for the first time (in many years) but folks were pleased with the response". For 2010, five Traveling Communion Teams have been assigned to include: John Calvin to Group A – Lou Maxson, Kathryn McCrary, and Phil Harich; John Knox to Group B – David Dawson, Julie King and Amy Parker; Francis Makemie

to Group C – Sandy Bowles, Charlie Stebbins, and Kathy Kruk; Rachel Henderlite to Group D – Dianne Ellis, Howard Salisbury, and Sara Slamick; and William Benfield to Group E – Sandra Wilkerson, Tom Wilkerson, Todd Zubick and Todd Wright.

Six groups of individuals to receive communion in their home (if desired) include Group A – Jean Blair, Sherry Russell, Ted and Becky Lippitt; Group B – Mary Jackson, Gary and Millie Holstein, Jimmy and Sally Clark; Group C – Nancy Gunnoe and "Joni" Haynes; Group D – Ron and Dot Moore, Ruby Davis, Shirley and Jack Schwarz; Group E – Jim and Betty Arthur, Bob Peden, and John and Mary Knight; Group F – Polly Morgan.

In February, the members of the **2010** Confirmation Class were introduced to the Session by their adult mentors. The partners included: Katie Parks and her mentor Cindy Hanna; Tori Parker and Sara Slamick; Maddie Smith and Beth Chiparo; Elaine Barry and Sara Sears; and Morgan Pack and Patti Salisbury. The class will be working throughout January, February and March and will be examined about their faith journey on March 21st. On March 28th they served communion. Following their confirmation, members of the Session and Todd Wright made very favorable comments regarding their comfort levels and what they achieved with the confirmation process.

Mention is made in the **February 10** Session Meeting of the Health Support Fund as Howard Salisbury shared that this fund is designed to help Church members financially when they have illness, surgery, etc. He asked to make the congregation aware of this fund and that donations are always accepted.

It is noted that the Session is very involved in Worship Services as three members are stationed at the doorways leading from the sanctuary (main entrance, Fellowship Hall and Chancel) after worship; nine members serve communion in the pews; and a Session member does the Opening Devotions and Prayer two times during each month.

Howard Salisbury, representing the Stewardship Ministry Team presented the **2010** budget of $254,600 which was approved by the Session in their January Retreat.

In the **March 2010** Session Meeting, Rick Cook reported on the RHINO trip which he and John Bowles participated in New Orleans. They were two of 21 in a group from West Virginia that worked under the leadership of Frank Mansell. Their mission was to work at Fairy Place Development which included building new or repairing hurricane damage to several houses. He stated that this was a "truly humbling and rewarding experience that changed the lives of many people involved. The commitment of Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church with Habitat for Humanity is through 2011.

An Easter Vigil was held and members of the community of faith kept watch, prayed, sang, read scripture and meditated during the hours between Christ's crucifixion and his resurrection. The vigil started just before his death at 3 p.m. on Good Friday afternoon and continued until the Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. on Easter morning – a total of 40 hours.

In the April 21st The Villager, Todd Wright posed the question, "Why Go to the Bluestone Retreat? Village Chapel has a long tradition of planning a Church retreat at Bluestone as a time of fellowship and laughter, a time spent in God's creation, and a way of nurturing faith. Here are the top ten reasons to go this year:

Canoeing on the Bluestone River
Worship at "the point"
The curvy road-you'll feel closer to your Maker
"Dam Joe" stories-who needs to sleep?
Stopping at Tamarack and Dairy Queen on the way there and back – YUM!
Be the first to meet the new donkeys!
Rocking chairs next to the fire
Help create a piece of artwork to be used in Worship
Getting to get to know others (of all ages) from the Church
Seeking and finding God

In **June 2010**, Dr. Wright expressed heartfelt thanks to the congregation via the Session for a good first year at Village Chapel and for the celebration of the completion of his doctorate and the gift of a new robe from the church.

On **June 12th** seven youth and three adults traveled to Montreat Conference Center for the Montreat Youth Conference. The conference was filled with keynote presentations, small group gatherings, worship, energizers, music and engaging in service projects with the Veterans Restoration Quarters in Ashville and the Black Mountain Home for Children. The youth attending were Lauren Bare, Beth Haddock, Samatha Istfan, Tory Parker, Katie Parks, Maddy Smith and Emily Wright. The adults included Amy Parker, Maureen Wright and Todd Wright.

In the **summer of 2010**, in lieu of Sunday School classes, a program of "Coffee and Conversation" was initiated. During the week proceeding each session the congregation would receive via email a series of articles to read. On Sunday morning during the Sunday School time, those interested in doing so would gather and discuss these articles identifying the pros, cons, and "take away" content of each.

The Session in its August meeting approved the following slate of teachers for the **year 2010-2011**:

| | |
|---|---|
| Preschool | Heather Parks and Keri Blank |
| K – 1 | Sharon Richardson, Demetrice Hardman, and Linda Jarrett |
| 2 – 4 | Patti Salisbury and Lindsay Wurts |
| Tweens | Warren Danzer and Kara Duncan |
| High School | Maureen Wright, Cindy Hanna, and Sarah Sears |
| Substitutes | Susan Bays, Jennifer Williams |
| Adult Bible Study | John Wolfe, Dianne Ellis, Todd Zubick and Dot Caldwell |

Adult Discussion Sara Slamick, Vikki Cunningham and Martha Foster

A new Sunday school class for young adults called "The Class Next Door" was approved to be held in the vacant house next door. A "Kick Off" dinner was held at the Wright's home on **September 11th** to see how many were interested in attending the new class.

Worship in the Park was held on **September 5th** at Coonskin Park in the Columbia Shelter – the highlight of the lunch which followed the service, was barbecue.

Todd Wright completed his doctoral degree in **2010** and wore his new doctoral robe for the worship service on September 12th. Congratulations Dr. Wright!

At the **September 15th** Session meeting, proposals from a Sacrament Study Group were presented and approved. These stipulated that on days when there is to be a baptism or baptism is highlighted in worship (Baptism of the Lord Sunday) that the font be moved to the center of the chancel and that water be poured into the font on ALL Sundays. Also, it was approved that when promises are made in worship (members received, installations, ordinations, commissioning) the font be moved to the center.

A member of the Church, Chick Maddox, utilized the Fellowship Hall on **September 20th** for two presentations: a 5:30 – 7:00 discussion of "Drug and Alcohol Usage by Today's Youth" and from 8:00 to 9:00 a presentation on "Chemical Addition, Treatment and Recovery."

On **September 23, 2010,** a SIX-MONTH INTERVIEW--SESSION was held regarding the pastor, Dr. Todd Wright. The questions are included as well as the response:

1. **What were your perceptions from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and the pastor to the call?**
   The Session felt that the process was a success, as they believed that Todd was a good match for the Church.

2. **After 6 months, what are your observations?**
   Todd has done what they had hoped, by helping guide the congregation in doing some of the work/goals they wanted to do.

3. **So far, what do you feel best/worst about?**
   The congregation was pleasantly surprised with Todd's efforts to reach out to people and remember them by name. They also were impressed with the significance of the participation of the pastor's wife (although they understood that she would be involved). They also were pleasantly surprised that Todd would occasionally leave the pulpit as part of the service.

4. **So far, what do you feel best/worst about?**
   Best: The session felt best about Todd's ability to connect with the congregation. They also have been impressed with his involvement in the community.
   Worst: Occasionally the services are a bit too lengthy.

5. **What exciting changes are happening?**
   The session was excited about the size of the Vacation Bible School, about the participation of children in liturgy, about the reintroduction of children to communion. They were also excited with the "traveling communion" program, allowing them to reach out to persons who no longer attend services. They were excited about Todd's visitations to the hospital and to homebound members. They were also excited about a new Sunday school class, and about the possible use of media in worship services**.**

6. **What do you see in the immediate future of the church's ministry?**
   A long-range planning committee has been formed. The committee includes representatives of the congregation.

7. **Describe the strong points of your regular meetings with the pastor.**
   The session believed that the meetings have provided a needed support group for the pastor.

8. **How could these meetings be more helpful?**
   The session indicated the need for the group to meet again with Todd.

9. **Message to COM or Presbytery staff?**
   They expressed some concern about the ability of people to attend presbytery meetings which are held on weekdays. They also suggested that the presbytery should keep in mind that not every person, who may want to remain connected, has a computer and is online.

   Also, based on what one member of the session had heard from others (at other churches), the COM needs to move quicker to appoint liaisons. However, in Village Chapel's case, the session was very impressed with the work which Jim Robinson had done as their liaison.

While there is no mention of it in Session Minutes or The Villager, apparently the Church underwent another lightning strike as in the **October 20, 2010** minutes under "Continuing Business" that insurance claims have been submitted for lightening repairs related to the sound system, roof, and computers, phones and faxing. The sound system was repaired on October 19th and John Wolfe helped prepare the claim submitted to the insurance company for building repairs. A motion was approved to repair shingles, add insulation, and add lightening arrestors. In the November meeting of the Session, Todd

reported on the insurance settlements after the lightning strike. We have received two checks; one for $65,149.09 for repairs to the roof and sound system and another for $2,098.64 to replace the computer and telephone systems. The money has been given to John Wolfe for his crew to begin the repairs soon. Todd felt the insurance company was easy to work with.

The **November 17th** meeting under membership included discussion regarding columbariums at local churches. A team composed of Sharon King, Mike Jarrett and Phil Harich were charged to explore this as a possible project.

An update of the situation with the sale of the house located at 3813 Venable. It is listed at $169,90.00 and the church has an offer for $127,000. The church countered with an offer of $150,000 and the interested party countered at $133,000. The house is still on the market.

The number of active members at the beginning of **2011** was 250. Members of the session during this year were: Class of 2013 – Peggy Armstrong, Kate Dobson, Kara Duncan, Jack Grimm and Tish Hodovan; Class of 2012 – Phil Harich, Julia King, Kathy Kruk, Sara Slamick, and Todd Zubick; Class of 2011 – Rick Cook, Kathryn McCrary, Heather Parks, Howard Salisbury, Charles Stebbins, and Tori Parker (Youth Elder).

The Session met in a meeting called to determine how to sell the house at 3813 Venable. This house has been on the market without success in selling and at this time there appears to be three possibilities for action:

1. The family currently occupying the house has offered to buy it for $135,000 – it was noted that this amount would not cover the mortgage cost that the church must pay in July.

2. A realtor, representing a client, has contacted the church about a lease to buy; however, all the data for this offer has not been presented.

3. Members of the congregation have proposed that they form a group (LLC) that would buy the property and the 39th Street house. This offer is tentative; details of who would be involved are not firm.

After much discussion as to how the Church would find the additional money needed in July if the offer by the family renting the house is accepted. There may also be additional costs for repairs after inspections are made. This is a concern because the Church is already in a budget deficit. Three suggestions were made: use memorial funds; go to the congregation for additional funds; obtain a bank loan. After much more discussion, it was moved that the first option, selling the house to the bidders be accepted. The motion passed 7 to 6. Further discussions on how the financial implications can be resolved will be on the agenda for the upcoming retreat. Following the retreat, the Presbytery and the congregation

will be informed of these actions. The resolution of this was achieved in the January 14-15 retreat with identification of how financing of the balance the church will owe on its loan will be determined after the money is received from the sale and reasonable monthly payments established with the bank until the loan is fully paid.

In the **February 2011** meeting, the Session received a request from the University of Charleston to do a "brown bag" event on April 10, after church, asking the congregation to bring their medications with them for review and teaching purposes. The students would also perform blood pressure checks and glucometer screenings.

On **April 20th**, Howard Salisbury reported that financially things were going well, better than expenses reflect. The Stewardship Team recommended that $500 be donated, as requested by Hallie Berry, to the Global Soccer Ministry Trip to Jamaica and that these funds come from the RHINO account. The motion to accept passed.

It was noted in the minutes of the **May 2011** Session meeting that a request from a church in Alaska for 50 of the red hymnals was received. Also, a new baptismal bowl and pitcher ordered from Blenko should be ready by Pentecost.

The slate of officers identified for **2012** included:

Ruling Elders: Lynn Gunnoe, Rick Hanna, Alan Johnson, Alatheia Stickler, Maureen Wright, Class of 2014
Youth Elder: Katie Parks, Class of 2012
Trustee: David Dawson, Class of 2014

In **September 2011** Village Chapel received "Thank You" notes from both Kanawha City and Chamberlain Elementary Schools for the bookbags donated to them by the Church.

A picnic hosted by St. Agnes was provided for the volunteers at Common Grounds to thank them for their continued service.

Tory Parker submitted a request to be considered by the Presbytery to be a 2012 Young Adult Delegate to General Assembly. The first step in the process for consideration by the Presbytery is to be endorsed by the Session. A motion was passed by the Village Session and forwarded to the Presbytery that Tory be selected to serve as a young adult delegate to the General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh in 2012.

In the fall of **2011**, Village Chapel continued its involvement in and support of community outreach with the donation of $350 to Common Grounds. In addition to the monetary support, the Church donated 434 pounds of food from a Halloween Collection. For Thanksgiving, food baskets were prepared for Common Grounds and in December the congregation donated children's books to this community agency. On Saturday, **November 19th** the now annual "Pay It Forward" event was held.

Erin Chiparo, a young member of the Church, offered to provide piano lessons on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 4:00 and 8:00 with lessons scheduled for 15 to 60 minutes depending upon the age of the student. Lessons were to be held in the parlor and limited to 10 students. It was agreed that student recitals would take place at the Church and Erin would work with Carolyn Perrine to schedule soloists for Worship Services so that the congregation could hear the fruit of what they were supporting. Erin will write an article for The Villager to let the congregation know about this endeavor.

In the **November 16th** meeting of the Session, it was announced that the tenants in the 505 39th Street house have expressed a desire to purchase the property. In response to this request, a task force of four elders was charged with determining the market value for the property, determine the cost of expected repairs and other issues that might require professional repairs, and begin negotiations with the individuals seeking to purchase the property. Rick Cook, Howard Salisbury, Phil Harich, and Jack Grimm were asked to serve on the task force. As a follow-up, in the December Session meeting it was announced that the selling price was set at $115,000 and that the home inspection went well.

Rich Cook presented information about the Kanawha County Board of Health (KCBOH) Clean Air Regulations and the need for Village Chapel to come into compliance. The Church adopted the regulations for inclusion in Church policy, inclusive of all the Church's occupied properties.

Donations were requested to be made to the Service Ministry Team for Mason Lilly, Troop 161, who, for his Eagle Scout project, is preparing personal hygiene kits for distribution to disaster victims and others in need through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) which is a nonprofit disaster assistance organization run by Presbytery USA.

An invitation was received from the Interim Associate for Older Adult Ministries to nominate an "Outstanding Older Adult" for an award. As a result, the long-serving ushers including Jack Schwarz, Jule Sockman, Bill McCrary, George Singleton, and Bill Ellis were all nominated and submitted to the Presbytery and in December, all of these individuals received a certificate in recognition of their service.

Sandy and John Bowles have been preparing the communion elements at Village Chapel for the last 25 years and were recognized for this effort in the November issue of The Villager. Their last time to prepare the elements will be Christmas Eve of 2011. They have commissioned Blenko Glass to make a unique amethyst glass communion set for Village Chapel, which will be used for the first time in this service. Dr. Wright expressed thanks to them as an "Example of Stewardship" saying, "Sandy and John have never expected recognition, they have just done what they felt God was calling them to do cheerfully and generously. Still, they have earned our appreciation, and I hope you will thank them directly as you enjoy Sandy's homemade bread one more time on the 27th of December.

In the **December 2011** Session meeting, it was announced that a family that wishes to remain anonymous has made an offer to pay for the projection system for the sanctuary that the Worship Ministry Team has discussed the need for over the past year. A motion to accept the gift was approved and installation of the projection system will be done in early 2012.

Kathy Kruk provided a report on her attendance at the **December 3, 2011,** Presbytery meeting. She reported that Tory Parker was elected as the youth representative to the General Assembly. Also, it was made known at this meeting that the Presbytery of West Virginia is one of the top ten in the country in mission giving and Village Chapel is in the top four (4) in mission giving in West Virginia. Another great example of Village's continued giving to improve the welfare of the community.

The roles of an elder were reviewed in the Session Retreat held on **January 13, 2012**. These were identified as:

- Being looked up to as an example
- Involved to energize others in the Church
- Participating and setting a good example – the enthusiasm of elders will enhance enthusiasm in the congregation
- Attend funerals
- Being familiar with the contents of the Church newsletter in order to serve as a resource to the congregation
- Greeting visitors. Make a good impression. Elders represent the Church to them. Let them know how excited you are that they chose Village Chapel to worship.
- Engaging folks you do not recognize in conversation. Invite them to the Fellowship Hall to meet others. Ask their name and something about them. Follow up with a note and invite them to return to worship.

In this Retreat, the Session conducted an evaluation of the Church in the past year using the Presbytery Committee on Ministry review questions. Good things that have occurred in the past year include: getting out of the burden of the house at 3813 Venable, greater use of our Church building, Advent, a great Bible school, traveling communion, a new roof, new folks in worship, more children, and a great Christmas program.

Strengths of our congregation include good meetings, many generations, the communion preparation service and gifts by the Bowles, the new projection system that will enhance our worship life, our friendly and welcoming presence, and our openness to creativity, good leaders, and openness to work with others (Common Grounds). Our staff is creative, willing to lead in new ways, hard-working, sets the right tone for leadership, has faith-based actions, works well together and has diverse talents that complement each other. The Pastor gives sermons that are relevant to today; he is focused, knowledgeable, and precise. He is a good teacher, well educated, approachable, and conducts good funerals.

Some of the disappointments in the life of the Church included significant deaths, lack of Christmas carols, lack of participation of youth and children in Sunday school, no swell of new members, and loss of members through divorce. Challenges or obstacles to ministry include our declining numbers and remembering to seek the guidance of God. Lastly, three areas in which the pastor and Session need to focus their energy and attention in **2012** include growth in membership, getting more of our present members involved, and providing ministry to shut-ins.

The focus of the Ministry Team for **2012** will be to:

- Close on the sale of the 505 39th Street rental house on **February 24th**
- Install replacement windows for the upstairs in the 3810 Venable Avenue house
- Have at least two Clean up/Fix-up Saturdays
- Install key locks on several building doors and re-key all other Church building locks to improve security
- Repair or replace the north heating and A/C unit in the parlor
- Repair and paint the south stained-glass window frames in the sanctuary
- Continue to plan for sanctuary A/C repair/replacement
- Analyze utilities usage and focus on reducing costs
- Begin working on elements of the Long-Term Plan

The Younger Youth Retreat (for grades 6 to 8) was held **March 2-4** at Cedar Lakes, West Virginia. Village Chapel representatives serving on the Youth Council were Tory and Amy Parker and Emily Wright.

The Confirmands for **2012** were Jake Jacobs, Lilly Jacobs, Peyton Panger, Samuel Stickler, Nate Wright and Tyler Zubick. This group has engaged in several service projects including Manna Meal, cookies for kids at the Ronald McDonald House and playing games with the children in the nursery. The group is working on a communion set for the church which will be used for serving communion on Easter Sunday.

In the Spring of **2012**, Doug Minnerly, pastor of McKinnon Presbyterian Church requested to use space in the basement of the house adjacent to the church for his growing pottery hobby/business/ministry, 10% Pottery. He is interested in working with Village Chapel to develop an art studio and program in return for use of the basement space for creating his pottery. He is also willing to make a contribution to cover the cost of increased utility fees for the house. The Session approved Doug's request to use the basement for his creative work.

The minutes of the Session meeting on **March 21st** indicate that the house on 39th Street has been sold. It was also reported that with the new insulation in the sanctuary, there was a savings of $600 in the electric bill from April to October.

Village Chapel continues to contribute to community outreach. In **2012**, the Church donated $1000 to the Regional Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR). It also continues to support Project Graduations with $100 gifts to George Washington, Capital and South Charleston high schools where Village Chapel has students graduating this year.

Linda Meadows, a long-serving secretary for Village Chapel retired in the summer of **2012** and a retirement party was held on **August 18th** after the worship service.

In **August 2012,** it was noted by Jack Grimm, Moderator of the Stewardship Team, that half of the giving in the Church is coming from members over the age of 62. It was also noted that Village will host a capital campaign to pay for new hymnals. The new hymnal includes more international and more contemporary hymns, but many old favorites are also included. As the congregation responded favorably to moving to the new hymnals, purchase of these has moved along. In the event that the congregation does not meet the goal of 200 books, an anonymous donor has agreed to cover the cost of any remaining hymnals that need to be purchased.

Over **2012**, the Personnel Ministry Team and later, the Session, reviewed and discussed the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Policy now being made available through the larger church, and in the October Session meeting, it was approved to accept the policy as written. A program for "Training on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct" may be presented at the next elder retreat or in a separate venue.

It was suggested that the Church purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Kate Dobson and Todd Zubick were assigned to research appropriate information and to provide feedback at the November Session meeting. In the **September 18, 2013** meeting a motion was approved to use funds from the Singleton Memorial Fund to purchase an automated defibrillator with placement of a plaque recognizing the Singleton's contribution displayed near the device.

Session members in **2013** were the Class of 2013 – Peggy Armstrong, Kate Dobson, Kara Duncan, Tish Hodovan and Peyton Panger (youth elder); Class of 2014 – Lynn Gunnoe, Rick Hanna, Alan Johnston, Alatheia Stickler, and Maureen Wright; Class of 2015 – Heather Barry, Pat Jacobs, Sarah Sears, David Shields, and John Willis. Candy Hawley was elected to serve as Treasurer and Evelyn McClure as Assistant Treasurer. Rose Ann Walker continues as Clerk of the Session.

In the **January 2013** Session Retreat, David Dawson led the group through Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training. During this portion of the retreat, the staff including Terry Asseff (secretary), Dionne Canterbury (Close Encounters Director), Linwood "BJ" Chaney (custodian), and Carolyn Perrine (organist) joined in the training session.

During this retreat, Session members responded to the following questions as they evaluated the past year (2012)

1. **What are some of the good things that have happened in our church in the last year?**
   Pay it Forward, Summer Block Party, Vacation Bible School, Close Encounters, Hosted Presbytery Meeting on September 11th, Young Adults and Youth contributing to music for Worship Services, Sports League Teams, Baptisms/Weddings, New Members/Visitors, Creative Worship (Baptism of the Lord Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Pentecost), Confirmation Class, Traveling Communion. Common Grounds, Presbyterian Woman functions

2. **What are the strengths of our Congregation?**
   Diversity, Friendly and Welcoming, Talents (music and art), Generous, Hospitality, Caring – Deeper than Friendly

   **What are the strengths of our Session?**
   Outstanding individuals, Sense of Humor, Representative of the Congregation (varied ages), Open to Creative Activities, able to Work Through Issues, Hard Working, Talented, Committed

   **What are the Strengths of our Staff?**
   Commitment to Serve, work well together, Follow through on ideas
   Lucky to have Amy (brings the best out in us)
   Carolyn and Sharon provide wonderful music programs
   Terry Working out Well
   BJ – Willing to do Anything and is a pleasure to work with
   Dionne – Excellent Christmas Pageant

   **What are the strengths of our Pastor?**
   Young, On point/on task, Creative, Sermons, Approachable/Friendly, Outgoing, Organized

3. **What are some of the disappointments about the life of the Church during the past year?**
   Sometimes only a few children at Sunday School and/or worship, Attendance, Graying of the congregation, Not always open to change (some sacred cows), No Bluestone retreat, Trolley not available at Christmas, No major increase in membership, Concern about are we doing enough reaching out to our community vs. too comfortable with what we are doing

4. **What Challenges or Obstacles to Effective Ministry Do We Face As a Congregation?**
   Competing with so many outside activities (Church is lower priority), Mega churches

growing, Village has no gym, Not enough energy to do all the things we want to do, As a Session discerning our mission (our passion, not just good things) and making it happen, How to incorporate young folks, Challenging needs of some members, the budget

5. **In what three areas do the pastor and Session need to focus their energy and attention in 2013?**
   Membership (new/care of current): Increase worship attendance by 10% (25 additional members), Stewardship (trends going up/more pledges than expected), Survey: responses dealt with, On different discipleship/educational/faith opportunity
   "Marketing"/communication, People would know who we are and what is available

6. **How can the pastor and Session be most helpful to each other in dealing with these 3 areas?**
   Open to ideas
   Provide resources
   Do our job
   Pray and be supportive

In **January 2013**, Dr. John Willis, "Village Chapel's own Dr. Oz" donated bottles of hand sanitizer for each of the pews so that the congregation might stay as healthy as possible during the cold and flu season. It was suggested in The Villager that "You'll find the bottles on the hymn racks on the center aisle of each pew. You might want to take advantage of them after the passing of the peace or before taking part in communion."

On **January 16, 2013**, Creating Art-- a two hour Spiritual Experience was offered to members and friends of Village Chapel. Under Amy Parker's supervision and a guest artist, Janet Ripper Chambers, a group of ladies created their personal rendition of a painting of pine trees in the snow. A fun and relaxing evening that ended with each person taking home their own artwork!

In the March Session meeting, Tish Hodovan reported on her attendance at the March 9th Presbytery meeting, attending as the Elder Commissioner. She reported that Maureen Wright was elected as the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and received a standing ovation after the election.

Amy Parker provided an overview of the Church Website including statistics on how often certain items have been accessed on the site. Following a discussion of the pros and cons of the site, Kate Dobson volunteered, along with her brother, Cory, to help update the Website.

On Maundy Thursday of **2013**, the service included communion and special music by Carolyn Perrine and the choir. Twelve members of the church reenacted the foot-washing

from John 13; the group included Heather Barry, Jeff Chiparo, Matt Duncan, Bradley Duncan, Rick Hanna, Tish Hodovan, Kathy Kruk, Kathryn McCrary, Kay Shamblin, David Shields, Rose Ann Walker and John Willis.

On Easter Sunday, **March 31st**, the East End, Kanawha City and West Side churches sponsored an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at Appalachian Power Park. Rev. Sharletta Green, Preacher at Simpson United Methodist Church, was the minister and the offering was divided among the Ecumenical Ministry Fund, Common Grounds, and Manna Meal.

On **April 18 – 25, 2013**, Todd Wright was commissioned as a representative of Village Chapel to go to Nicaragua on a Mission Trip. He and the rest of the team visited CEPAD which is the ecumenical organization of all the Christian denominations working in Nicaragua. The purpose of the trip was to lay the foundation for a partnership between Nicaragua and West Virginia which will then lead to future trips and projects and links between churches and communities. Nellie Howard, daughter of Polly Dodson, who is serving as the Educator of First Williamstown Church filled the pulpit while Todd was out of the country. She also shared information regarding the May 3-5 Bluestone Retreat "Deep Roots/New Leaves".

To replace the heating and air conditioning system in the church parlor and Education Building, the church needed to raise $10,000 in **2013**. To facilitate this effort, Kathryn McCrary requested that all memorial gifts for her late husband, Bill, be designated for the HVAC fund. Another development was that a family in the church offered to match all gifts to the fund up to $5,000! This project was announced on the first of May, and by May 29th, the congregation had given $5,825 making the total $10,825.00!

Graduates in **2013** were Emily Wright who graduated from George Washington High School with highest honors; Anna Johnston graduated in December from the University of Colorado at Boulder in International Affairs and Political Science; Meredith France graduated from Alderson Broaddus as a Physician Assistant (PA); Jared Hawley completed two masters degrees – the MBA and a second degree in Sports Management from Barry University in Miami; and Hallie Barry graduated from Mars Hill College in North Carolina with a degree in Health and Wellness.

Five new members were received into the church on **May 19th**:
Joseph M. "Mike" Bonham
Rebecca L. "Becky" Bonham
Bonita "Beth" Hartman
Janice Hartman
Angele M. "Angie" Price

The theme for Vacation Bible School in the summer of **2013** was "Everywhere Fun Fair Where God's World Comes Together". The work done by Amy Parker and her band of merry elves to create the decorations for this event – backdrops, signs, and props were

subsequently used by at least three other churches across West Virginia that were also using the "Everywhere Fun Fair" curriculum. This is what stewardship looks like!!

Village Chapel Activities in **2013**

June 23 – Lemonade on the Lawn

August 3 – Block Party for our neighbors!! On this day, the church threw a block party for its neighbors. There were hotdogs hot off the grill and cold lemonade, an inflatable water side for the kids, corn hole and chalk art. Our neighbors came and the street was filled with laughter. It was clearly an event of joyful hospitality – the kind of event Jesus would have attended! And perhaps, some will join with us in the future.

August 19 – Village Chapel Night at Power Park

August 25 – Worship in the Park at the Columbia Gas Shelter – Coonskin Park

**September 8th** was Rally Day: Cereal Fun! Everyone was invited for a cereal breakfast and to ponder questions like: What cereal would Peter eat? Sunday school can do for your week what breakfast does for your day. All our classes are 100% kid tested and mother approved for children and adults! And --- Bring a box of your favorite cereal to donate to Common Grounds! This effort collected 43 boxes of cereal for Common Grounds.

On **September 22nd**, Abigail Faith Rorrer was baptized as part of the morning Worship Service. Infant baptism: it's Biblical, traditional, and downright adorable! Abigail is the daughter of Janet and Jay Rorrer and the sister of Kelsey and Samantha.

In early **October of 2013**, new hymnals entitled, Glory to God, were placed in the pews. A note in the October 9th The Villager stated: "Many thanks to everyone who purchased copies of the new hymnal in honor or in memory of loved ones." As you look through a copy, please note:

- A variety of hymns (both old favorites and new options; including some from other cultures
- A suggested liturgy in the front
- Notes at the bottom of every page about the hymn, the tune, or the author – a mini history on every page and
- An index of suggested hymns for each Sunday based on the lectionary texts.

In a subsequent issue of The Villager, those who had donated the previous blue hymnals were invited to claim them.

**November 25th** – Pay It Forward – the November 6th The Villager reminded people to start cleaning out their closets and attics. We need gently used clothing - especially larger sizes, children's clothes, housewares, sheets, towels and toys. This year we are challenging each family in Village Chapel to buy a new blanket and donate it since there was such a need for them last year.

A joint Thanksgiving Service with Morris Memorial and St. Agnes held at Village Chapel resulted in an offering of $1,178.35! That money and all the donated canned goods went to Common Grounds!

In October, the Presbytery of West Virginia asked Village Chapel to bring a display of at least one (1) mission activity to the **November 16, 2013,** Presbytery Meeting. The Session Ministry Team prepared a display that included information regarding Pay It Forward, Common Grounds, and Book Bags for Book Worms.

In the **November 20** Session Minutes, the following events were reported: An Alzheimer's Walk was held on October 26th at Power Park and $555 was collected. Pay It Forward was a success. Three hundred and six (306) Thanksgiving baskets were provided to the needy through Common Grounds – Village Chapel youth assisted with filling the baskets. Eighty-seven (87) gift bags were filled and distributed at the Veteran's Home in Barboursville.

Suggestions for healthy Donations for Common Grounds to serve low-income families and provide foods to improve the health quality of the food distributed were published in The Villager and included:

Low sodium, canned vegetables
No sugar added applesauce
Canned salmon/Tuna in water
Turkey or vegetarian chili
Brown rice & whole wheat pasta
Low fat cream soups
Powdered milk
100% juice

They also need toothpaste, bath soap and laundry detergent. Please donate!

**December 22, 2013,** marked the eleventh year the Village Chapel congregation met at Vikki and Ira's home to fill gift bags for veterans residing at the state's only domiciliary for Veterans located at Barboursville. Everyone was invited to come for breakfast followed by the "stuffing" of the bags. The congregation was asked to provide socks, T-shirts, candy, books, personal toiletries, puzzles, game books and anything else deemed appropriate.

The **2013** Presbyterian Women report indicated that in this year the women engaged in a number of service projects including: they sent exam-time cards and gifts to 16 college students, volunteered weekly at Common Grounds food pantry, collected and delivered toilet paper and peanut butter to Common Grounds, volunteered as receptionists and

patient companions at Hospice House, filled 100 Blizzard Boxes with food for Kanawha Valley Senior Services and volunteered at Love Light Tree for Hospice. In addition, activities at the Church included: replenishing kitchen supplies, administering the Prayer Chain, hosting funeral receptions and the group purchased new pew cushions for the sanctuary.

Those serving on the Session in **2014** were: Heather Barry, Vicki Cunningham, Sheila Danzer, John France, Lunn Gunnoe, Rick Hanna, Jake Jacobs, Pat Jacobs, Alan Johnston, Sarah Sears Gottlieb, David Shields, Dreama White, John Willis, and Maureen Wright. Rose Ann Walker continued as the Clerk of Session and Candy Hawley served as Treasurer and Evelyn McClure as Assistant Treasurer.

On **January 24, 2014**, Demetrice Ann Hardman died, and a memorial service was held for her on **February 1st**. She was buried in Grandview Memorial Park in Dunbar. Demetrice was a teacher in Kanawha County Schools for 35 years, in recent years served at Kanawha City Elementary School. She and her husband, Curtis, and their son, Johathan, were the only black members of Village Chapel in the years that this data was recorded. Sadly, Curtis Hardman died on **May 16th** and following a service by Dr. Wright, he joined Demetrice in the Grandview Cemetery. Curtis was the Executive Director of Workforce Region 3 for forty-nine years.

The **February 9th** communion was celebrated with a bit of a "twist"! In Matthew 5:13 Jesus says his disciples are the "salt of the earth!" The Worship Ministry Team was so inspired by this image that communion on this day was served using salty, hot, soft pretzels in place of bread. It was also pointed out in The Villager that pretzels were originally created by monks as a reward for children who had learned to say their prayers as the distinctive loop of a pretzel looks like a person with their arms crossed—a traditional position for prayer.

At the **March 19th** Session meeting, Rev. Amy Parker provided an update on her planned sabbatical. She has received a grant of $50,000 of which up to $15,000 of that amount can be allocated to church expenses. She has been meeting with a support group to develop a plan for her sabbatical which will occur September through December of 2015. Amy is planning to enter a Doctor of Ministry program focusing on the arts. The Church is looking to hire a seminary intern for one semester to assist Dr. Wright during Amy's absence but if that does not occur, the plan is to ask members of the congregation to assist with worship and other duties.

On **March 28, 2014**, a contemporary Christian concert by Lights of Day was held. The lead singer, Chris Lawson, is a pastor at the Vineyard Grace Fellowship in Newark, Ohio. His mission is to proclaim the gospel "using music fit for a dance club but with lyrics fit for the sanctuary." This event was described as "presented really well and enjoyed by all in attendance".

Dr. Wright attended a continuing education event **March 31st** through **April 2nd at** the

Austin Seminary in Texas. The class was titled, "Learning Through Liturgy" and focused on how the patterns and rhythms of Sunday worship and the church year form us and give us an abundance of riches for faith formation in the community. The class explored ways that the patterns of worship throughout the church year provide purpose and growth even in times of change.

The confirmation class of **2014** began with a retreat on February 1st and ended on Palm Sunday. The confirmands, Noell Bland, Jacob and Payne Smith and their mentors, Warren and Sheila Danzer and Kathy Kruk met with the Session on **March 19th**. They shared service activities including serving food at a meal distribution event and serving meals to Alzheimer patients at a local nursing home. When the group was examined by Rick Hanna, Pat Jacobs, and Alatheia Stickler, the examiners reported that they were "very impressed by their faith" (the confirmands). An activity the group engaged in was writing a statement of faith – these are shared below:

> Jacob Smith: I was baptized about three years ago here at Village Chapel. I feel God's presence the strongest when I am surrounded by people I love and care about. I think God wants me to help people whenever I am able.
>
> Payne Smith: I have learned my faith attending Village Chapel. The Bible talks about people putting others' needs before their own. For example, Noah built the ark to make sure that all God's creatures big and small were rescued and taken care of. I will continue to volunteer with Pay It Forward as I have done since this project began.
>
> Noell Bland: I learned my faith at church and home. God expects me to spread His word and lead by example. My favorite part of church is the church picnic because I like being able to worship outside.

The church held a Blood Drive on **April 10th** and One Day of Service on **April 26th** and a "very successful" Weekend of Service was held on **April 27th** and **28th**. It was also noted that over 3000 families are helped through the Common Grounds Program.

In May, the Church honored the youth graduating from high school in **2014** – Beth Haddock, Jake Jacobs, and Maddy Smith. "All three have grown up before our eyes, having participated in Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, youth group and worship. We have been blessed by them and hope they will take our prayers with them into the next stages of their lives."

Also in **May**, Village Chapel had three college graduates:

> Julia France graduated from West Virginia University through the honor college with a Bachelor's Degree in Science. Julia plans to attend Virginia Tech for veterinary school and work with large animals.

Sarah Hawley graduated from Queens University with a Bachelor of Science in biology and will be leaving for Tanzania to serve two years in the Peace Corp.

Matthew Scott Walker graduate from Marshall University with a Bachelor of Arts in history and a Bachelor of Arts in Japanese with a minor in political science. He has been accepted into the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program and will be teaching in Tokushima City in Shikoku.

Amy Parker, in the **July 16th** issue of The Villager, reported on the 221st General Assembly and one of the items was that the GA voted to allow pastors serving in states that have legalized same gender marriage to officiate the weddings of gay couples. As the number of states legalizing same gender marriages has increased, more and more pastors face the dilemma of violating the denomination's policy prohibiting their officiating at such weddings (for which charges could be brought against them) or being unable to perform full pastoral duties and obligations for some of the members of their congregations. Under the new "authoritative interpretation", pastors in states where same gender marriage has been legalized may now perform weddings without fear of ecclesiastical prosecution.

Village Chapel continues to serve the community. In **August**, 46 Backpacks for Bookworms were delivered to Chamberlain and Kanawha City Elementary Schools with both schools receiving 23 book bags. A picnic was held at the Veteran's facility in Barboursville with 12 members of the Church attending. A Blood Drive was held on **October 6th**

On **August 9, 2014**, the Fellowship Ministry Team organized a Block Party and an evening at the ballpark. Worship in the Park was held on **August 24th** at the Columbia Gas Shelter at Coonskin Park. Also, on this day, the congregation participated in an "Ice Bucket Challenge" to raise awareness and $1000 to fight Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in honor of Linda Jarrett, a member of the congregation struggling with this disease.

In the **September** Session minutes, it was reported that our long-serving custodian, B. J. Chaney has developed health issues and will not be continuing as the custodian. The church took steps to assist him with his living expenses.

On **September 17th** the Session adopted a new Funeral Policy that begins, "Death is real; death is inevitable, death causes grief, death does not have the last word!" Because we believe in the importance of providing hospitality, the policy includes new details about receptions. As a result, the church will provide funeral meals to assist the family. This initiative also includes a worksheet, "Planning for the Time of Death" that the Session encourages individuals to complete and discuss with their family as a way of recording important decisions about their final wishes. "It is hoped that the individual will keep one copy with their important papers, and the other will be kept in a confidential file at the Church. (This worksheet can be accessed on the Church's website or can be obtained from the Church office).

The South Park and Westminster Churches joined with Village Chapel to celebrate World Communion on **October 8th**.

On **November 8th** the congregation was invited to a Baby Shower for Maddy Smith who is expecting a baby girl!!

On **November 15th** the now annual Pay It Forward event was held with "increased attendance and great success".

On **Sunday, November 23rd** Jim and Barb Smith joined the Church, transferring from the Kanawha United Presbyterian Church.

In **December 2014,** the youth of the Church were given permission to build snowmen at the homes of older members, weather permitting. Other December events included a Blue Christmas Service on December 21st and the Christmas Eve Service held at 9:00 p.m.

Members of the Session for **2015** were Heather Barry, Vikki Cunningham, Sheila Danzer, Martha Foster, John France, Debbie Hanna, Bruce Lawson, Pat Jacobs, Sarah Gottlieb, Patti Salisbury, David Shields, Rick Skaff, Rona Smith, Dreama White, John Willis, and Tyler Zubick. Candy Hawley served as Treasurer and Rosa Ann Walker continued as Clerk of the Session.

The Villager of **January 7, 2015,** shared information from the Stewardship Ministry that the "Total income in December, 2014 was $34,830 'almost twice as much as an average month' which allowed Village Chapel to close a gap that had been plaguing the Church for the latter half of the year. The congregation's generosity, combined with careful stewardship that kept expenses $10,000 below budgeted projections, allowing the Church to close the year in the black after meeting all our obligations!"

The **February 11, 2015,** Fellowship Ministry minutes indicated a number of activities planned for the year including: Vacation Bible School for June 15 – 18; a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 17th; and a Block Party on Sunday evening, August 16th. A Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for April 25th and Pay It Forward will be held on Saturday, November 22nd. The Membership Ministry recommended that Village strengthen or revise the Shepherd program, reinstate baking and delivering cookies to visitors; invite visitors to fellowship time after worship; and update the membership directory with current phone and email addresses.

The Fellowship Ministry Team was requested to write an article for The Villager regarding the Per Capital Apportionment amount paid per member listed on the active roll that this information might prompt families to consider family members/individuals who no longer live in the area to be placed on the inactive list. Individuals on the inactive roll may still receive The Villager and be placed back on the active roll at any time in the future should they desire.

In the **February** meeting of the Session, the decision was made to replace the dishwasher in the kitchen with a commercial one that will cost $3,500. A drive to raise money to do this was communicated to the congregation; however, in mid-March this goal had not been reached – the Session began looking at how additional funding might be achieved. In April it was reported that the Dishwasher Fund raised $1990 and was matched by an anonymous donor. The new dishwasher has been purchased and installed. "Once again you have proven what good stewards you are of all that God has given you! Understand that this dishwasher will do more than wash dishes – it will enable us to be good environmental stewards by using the church's plates and cups rather than paper products."

Dr. Wright and his son, Nate, went on a mission trip to work on a home that had been destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. They assisted with installing sheet rock, framing, and painting. Four members from the Marlinton Presbyterian Church also participated.

In the July Session meeting, Amy Parker provided an update on her upcoming sabbatical which begins **September 1, 2015**. During her absence, Barbara Hopta and Barbara Palmer will be working with Village Chapel. Amy provided an update in the January 2015 The Villager indicating that she is "excited to be starting a Doctor of Ministry program in Theology and the Arts at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She will be participating in two classes, "Arts and Arts Ministries" and "Drama and Ministry". Amy, and her husband, Don, traveled to Vienna, Austria to meet up with their daughter, Tori, and the three of them traveled across Europe ending up in London to get Tori settled in for her spring semester there.

On Wednesday, **January 14th**, the men of Village Chapel were invited to a men's dinner hosted by South Park Presbyterian Church. The speaker was Janet Briscoe, Director of Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness for the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department. These dinners and programs occur monthly and South Park extends an invitation to Village Chapel men each month.

Other announcements in the **January 7th** The Villager included:

- Close Encounters Children's Program will meet bi-weekly for recreation, snacks, choir and puppets for grades K through 5 on Thursdays 3:45-5:15 under the direction of Amy Parker and Dionne Canterbury.

- The Village Chapel Prayer Chain continues under Betsy White by e-mail or Mary Lee Jung by phone or by contacting the Secretary, Terry Asseff, in the Church office.

- The Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on **February 1st** and will pit the NE Patriots against last year's champs, the Seattle Seahawks and fans all over the country will throw parties with lots of good food. It is easy to forget that many Americans will spend that day (and every day) hungry. That's why Village Chapel will be taking part in The Souper Bowl of Caring – an opportunity to back your favorite team by putting

money or canned goods in their soup pot. During the fellowship time the results will be determined, a winner will be announced, and the money and canned goods will be donated to Common Grounds. In **2015**, the congregation gave a total of $441.77 in cash and 30 cans of food.

- As part of Village Chapel's Ministry to Common Grounds, the Church has again agreed to donate toilet paper for those less fortunate. The Presbyterian Women designated the second Sunday of every month as the official donation Sunday for toilet paper. The congregation was requested to bring their donations and place these in the allocated area in the back of the Sanctuary.

The **January 21st** The Villager indicated these activities:

- New members Barb and Jim Smith will offer a Tai Chi class for our Church. Classes will begin on **March 9th** from 6:00 to 7:30. Tai chi is a graceful, slow form of exercise that increases balance and flexibility and can be used to reduce stress. It puts minimal stress on muscles and joints. Older adults may find this a suitable exercise. Each class is $10.00

- The Palliative Care Center will offer a series of classes for caregivers at Village offering six classes beginning on Thursday, **February 19th**. The instructor, Carol Matheny, provided care notes on grief and contact information for making medical and end of life decisions.

- In honor of Evelyn McClure, the Presbyterian Women group will be exploring how church members might be protected from falls – this could involve life-alert devices, balance exercises, and the possibility of installing railings.

In **2015**, the Session Built a Library – a "little free library" using re-purposed materials from the Habitat Resale Store. The free library offers a box full of books where anyone can stop by and pick up a book or two and bring back a book to share.

Alan and Alma Gordon and their six daughters were members of Village Chapel in the 1960s when Alan was a resident in surgery at CAMC. After completing his residency, they went to Brazil as medical missionaries where they served until retirement. Alma published a family history, Joy Along the Way, in which she traces the family history back to Ireland on her father's side of the family and to the Confederates who migrated to Brazil after the Civil War on her mother's side. She describes growing up as a "mish kid" (child of missionaries), marrying another mish kid (Alan) she had first met when she was just a few years old. A copy will be in the library or if you desire to purchase a copy, contact Chuck Daugherty, Alma's brother, who along with his late wife, Mary Lee and their two children, were also members of Village Chapel at that time.

On Ash Wednesday, **February 18th**, the Church offered "Ashes to Go" at the Town Center Mall. "God does not exist only in sanctuaries or only meet us in church. God comes to us in the midst of life, anywhere and everywhere." Ashes To Go provides opportunity to offer an experience of the mysterious presence of God to those who will not or cannot attend a worship service on Ash Wednesday. Last year ashes were imposed on about 30 people at the Town Center during lunch hour.

The **March 4th** The Villager asked : Spend one hour . . . praying, singing, and meditating on scripture. The Easter Vigil starts on Good Friday and continues for 40 hours until the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday.

On Mother's Day, **May 13th**, the Men's Ecumenical Fellowship invited the women of all participating churches for a gathering at Village Chapel at 6:15. The evening included a gospel music program by Rose Fisher followed by a time of food and fellowship. Rose is an accomplished pianist and gospel singer. She entertained the group with How Great Thou Art, In the Garden, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, and The Old Rugged Cross.

New members welcomed into membership at Village this summer included Carol Gunter, Brendan, Chuck, and Sara Stump in May. Beverly, John and Ray Boggs joined in **July 2015**. In September, Wendy Franke joined the Church.

Soup! In the Freezer – On Warrior Weekend a "soup making team" stocked the basement freezer with about 25 containers of homemade soup to be available for anyone in need. If you have or know of anyone who would like to share in this, please help yourself and if you are interested in helping to make future soup contributions, please contact Sarah Gottlieb or Kay Shamblin.

The **May 20th** issue of The Villager contained the announcement – If you are in the habit of attending Sunday School, what will you do for Fellowship, Theological Reflection, and Bible Study during the summer months while your class is in recess? Come to Coffee and Conversation on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall beginning on June 7th. We will discuss a news article or an issue of the day over a steaming cup of coffee.

**May 2015** – Sunday Morning Cards for Members. "We now have a display in the Fellowship Hall with cards, pens and information so that members of the church can sign cards for those members and friends who are currently dealing with illness, grieving, homebound, celebrations, thank you, or other issues. The Membership Ministry will start cards to be signed, but feel free to start one yourself and encourage others to sign the card. We will take care of addressing and mailing the card."

Village Arts Camp **June 15 – 18** will focus on Celebrating Creation and the Creative Arts--a week including a variety of activities opening with dinner and a program to follow with an "Artist of the Day" doing demonstrations of pottery, weaving, photography, painting,

mosaics, dance, drama, bookmaking, jewelry, etc. Intergenerational groups and all ages participate in all activities!!

The Visiting Artist Series is part of the Season of Sabbatical, September through December during the sabbatical of Rev. Amy Parker, Educator/Pastoral Assistant. During the season, the congregation will engage in its own renewal activities, particularly the Visiting Artist Series. These events are designed to engage the congregation in considering the role art can play in enhancing faith and church life.

Each Visiting Artist will begin in Worship where the artist will introduce the theme of the day, exploring how art empowers different aspects of our faith and the life of the church. Following worship and a luncheon, the artist will lead a hands-on, experiential workshop for all ages, further exploring the theme. The artist for September is Deborah Sokolove looking at "Art and Mission"; the October artist is Lynn Miller looking at "Art and Worship" and the November artist is Lisa Cole Smith looking at "Building and Outreach". The Visiting Artist Series is part of Amy Parker's Lily Endowment funded sabbatical and presents opportunity for engaging the congregation in considering the role art can play in enhancing faith and church life.

Deborah Sokolove, the first visiting artist, led worship and a workshop on the theme of Art and Mission. She is the Director of the Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. and teaches courses in art and worship. Most of her courses focus on the intersection of the arts with theology, liturgy and culture. She also maintains an active studio practice as a painter and her paintings have been shown locally and nationally. She is a published author of numerous books, two of which will be available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall. She is a Steward of Seekers Church, an intentional Christing congregation in the tradition of the Church of the Savior, where she serves on the worship planning group and frequently preaches and leads worship. She is also one of Amy's professors! "We are blessed to have her with us – come and enjoy!"

Lynn Miller has been a practicing artist for more than 25 years. She holds degrees in studio art, graphic design and art history. An ordained Teaching Elder in the PCUSA, she received a Master of Divinity degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. Her work is in private/church collections throughout the country, and she has served as workshop leader, graphic designer and keynote speaker for conferences on theology, worship, education and the arts. She is a painter, a designer of textiles and stained glass, a curriculum writer, and an art historian. She loves church architecture!

Lisa Cole Smith is an actor, director, pastor, and creative entrepreneur in the Washington, D. C. area. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and worked as a professional actor for years before attending seminary and seeking a way to merge her calling as an artist and a person of faith.

While in school, she founded Shadows of Light Productions, a theater company devoted to exploring the intersections of art, faith, and the human experience. In 2006 she received her Master of Theological Studies degree and founded Convergence, a Creative Community of Faith. She teaches classes at both the John Leland Seminary and Wesley Theological Seminary on the subjects of worship, theology, and arts. She is never happier than when she is staring up at the sky from her backyard hammock or deeply engrossed in some new creative project.

The following announcement/invitations were included in The Villager over **2015**:

On Saturday, **July 18th**, Brickstreet Insurance graciously allowed Village to use their box at Power Park and Church members were encouraged to "come, enjoy, and cheer the West Virginia Power on to victory. The game starts at 7:05!"

A blood drive was held on **August 3rd** and another was held on **October 3rd**. Both of these drives were successful, and it was decided to hold four blood drives in 2016.

On **August 16th**, using the new hymnals, the congregation enjoyed a Hymn Sing. "We have been enjoying the new Glory to God hymnals for about a year and a half. Submit one new hymn and one old to the church office and a variety of hymns will be selected for use in future services."

**August 23rd** – "The Columbia Gas shelter at Coonskin Park will be the site of our annual Worship in the Park followed by a picnic. A blessing of pets will also be included. The Church will provide hotdogs, burgers and cold drinks if you will bring sides and desserts."

Ten volunteers helped serve the evening meal at Trinity's Table on **August 30th** and volunteers also served breakfast at Manna Meal on **September 12th**. Ten baked turkeys were donated to Trinity's Table for Thanksgiving.

Sky Kershner of the Pastoral Counseling Center presented a proposal regarding possible use of the house next door for office space for two to three therapists. Any necessary renovations would be financed by the Counseling Center. Other churches partnering with the Center will assume responsibility for the utilities.

A Hope Village gift market was held at Village Chapel on Sunday, **November 22nd.** Hope Village is an alternative market that includes nativity sets, clothing, and jewelry to name a few items, that are made by artisans from Guatemala, Peru, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Pakistan, Zambia, and Brazil. All profits go to the artisans creating the products.

**November 13 – 15** will be the 2015 Older Youth Retreat at Bluestone "Let Us Be Our Selfies" with Katherine Blankenship was the featured program. It focused on how we, in an age of selfies, accept ourselves and others, and relate to them as those who are created in the image of God, just as we are. Ms. Blankenship is the Mission Immersion Director of

Raleigh Youth Mission in Raleigh, NC. She is a native of North Carolina and a graduate of Appalachian State University and Columbia Theological Seminary. Through her ministry with youth, she works to name creative gifts and profound truths in their lives, most often through music, art, prayer, and laughter.

Cardboard City – Youth from Presbyterian Churches in the Charleston and St. Albans area and their adult advisors experienced a taste of what the homeless experience each night as they gathered to spend the night outside at Rock Lake Presbyterian Church. Cardboard boxes served as their "shelters" on Saturday night. Canned soup and water provided sustenance. Devotions, communion, and discussion took on a new significance as the youth focused on those whose presence is often hidden.

On **November 22nd** members of Morris Memorial, St. Agnes Catholic Church, and Village Chapel gathered to give thanks for God's blessings. This marks the third year these churches have joined together to benefit Common Grounds with a special offering, and a celebration of how this agency serves the needy! St. Agnes will host this celebration, and Village will provide refreshments to follow the service.

On **December 17th** the Presbyterian Women held their annual Christmas Luncheon followed by a concert with Carolyn Perrine and Sharon Curnutte playing songs of the season.

On **December 21st** the congregation was again invited to go to Vikki and Ira's home to prepare gift bags for residents of the Veteran's Home in Barboursville. Brunch was served at 9:00 a.m. with the "work of the Christmas elves shortly afterward". Those not attending were invited to make donations of men's t-shirts, socks, personal toiletry items, books, puzzles, sudoku books, candy, DVDs and anything else that might be a good gift for the residents. The group prepared 98 bags for this, the twelfth year of this project – one very much appreciated by the veterans and a really good time for everyone who participates.

The **2016** February Session minutes indicate the steeple is leaking and that it will cost $2500 to repair the leak. The use of undesignated money and an appeal to the congregation for matching funds were proposed to deal with the issue.

On **March 12, 2016,** Katie Parks will leave for Nicaragua with the WVU Global Dental/Medical Brigades. She will spend nine (9) days working with over 1000 people to provide basic dental and medical clinics, train community leaders, and give immunizations. She needs to raise $1600 to pay her travel expenses and her share of the cost for medical supplies. The congregation was asked to donate – make a check payable to the church marked as "Katie's Trip."

In **2016**, there were three participants in the Confirmation Class – Jack Bland, Max Bland and Noah Lawson. The Session met with the group to discuss their service project experience.

Village Chapel received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of being a FOUR for FOUR congregation supporting Special Offerings around the corner and around the globe.

The Maundy Thursday service on **March 24th** will include three stations – one for having your hands washed, one for being anointed with oil, and one for receiving communion.

A Weekend Warriors (Service Weekend) was held in **April 2016**. Church members participated in organized service projects or were asked to choose their own service project. Organized projects included: Ronald McDonald House breakfast preparation, Read-A-Loud magazines labeling, Venable Avenue Church house clean-up, volunteering at the Animal Shelter, serving lunch at Manna Meal and/or dinner at Trinity's Table, making/freezing 28 containers of soup, and/or participating in a worship/prayers/letters writing event. Village Chapel members were also encouraged to perform Random Acts of Kindness throughout the weekend.

The Church purchased new accounting software to allow for better tracking of income and expenses with improved reporting features and the ability to issue quarterly statements to those who pledge.

College graduates in **2016** included Katie Parks graduating from WVU with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree; Tory Parker graduated magna cume laude from Centre College with a History major and minors in theater and art history. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society.

Village Chapel continues to engage in community outreach participating in: Common Grounds, blood drives, Trinity's Table, Manna Meal, programs for veterans, book bags for book worms, weekend of service, Pay It Forward, and the Alzheimer's Walk.

In **May**, the Session received a letter from Kathryn McCrary, a long-standing member of the church, indicating that she will be relocating to River Landing, a Presbyterian Continuing Care Retirement Community in High Point, North Carolina. Upon her resignation from the Session, Ray Boggs was elected to fill her unexpired term. In November, 50 chairs were purchased for the Fellowship Hall in honor of Kathryn.

In the summer of **2016**, Barb Smith wove and donated paraments for the communion table, pulpit and baptismal font that pick up the colors from our stained-glass windows. Also, a new blue/green baptismal bowl and pitcher from Blenko glass were added to further beautify the sanctuary.

An announcement in the **May 18, 2016,** The Villager indicated that Village Chapel was approached by St. Mark's United Methodist Church to "adopt" international students at the University of Charleston. Families interested in participating would be matched with a

student and offer a quiet place to study, an occasional home-cooked meal, or rides to go shopping, etc. A bit later in 2016 it was announced that Village helped 13 students by filling laundry baskets with basic supplies.

On **May 22nd**, Jule Sockman was honored for his service to Village Chapel as a charter member. Over seven decades he served as an usher, elder, deacon, trustee, worked with the youth, played on the softball team and much more. He was given a certificate designed by Terry Hickernell, a gift from Meals on Wheels, and tickets to a day at the ballpark where he would throw out the first pitch!

High school graduates in **2016** were Lillie Jacobs, Sam Stickler, Brendan Stump, Nate Wright and Tyler Zubick.

Audio or virtual presentations of Worship Services were made available on the Church website. During COVID, these were very helpful as the congregation could remain at home, avoid exposure and yet, engage in the services. These virtual services can be accessed at: vcpresby.com/audio-of-worship-service.

In **June 2016**, Barb Smith, the Elder Commissioner to the **May 19th** Presbytery meeting, reported that a Child Protection Policy is needed as the Book of Order mandates that every church have a Child Protection Policy. While Village has a policy, the current concern is that the church is "ultimately responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children involved in any group using the church facility." A revised Policy was approved by the Session on December 20, 2017. A copy of the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults was published in the May 30, 2019th The Villager. Village Chapel will host Becky Davis to Speak on Child Protection Policies.

Terri Underhill and Greg Rader requested to be married on **October 14, 2016** at the Church.

In November it was announced that Jeff Chiparo will be installing handrails in front of the sanctuary. Jeff completed designing and building the bannisters by **January 2017** using many of Jim Arthur's tools in creating them. Jim Arthur was a charter member of Village Chapel, a skilled artisan, and over the years created beautiful furniture for the Church.

Session action approved the disposal of old folding chairs by making these available for Pay It Forward to be donated to flood victims, or made available to the congregation.

Women of the Church submitted recipes for another Village Chapel Cookbook that became available in **December 2016,** costing $15.00 with 100% of the sales going to Common Grounds as Rick and Debbie Hanna covered the cost of printing.

The Presbyterian Women held their annual Christmas Luncheon/Concert on **December 15th** with Carolyn Perrine and Sharon Curnutte providing musical entertainment. The congregation was invited to join in the festivities.

Terry Asseff began working at the Church Secretary in 2012 and retired on December 29th. Over the years she served the Church well. Terry was replaced by Mary Howard, a granddaughter of Charter member, Polly Dodson.

The Session in **2017** elected Rose Ann Walker to continue to serve as Clerk of Session; Candy Hawley as Treasurer; and the new Church Secretary, Mary Howard, to serve as Assistant Treasurer.

Amy Parker has completed the courses required for the Doctor of Ministry degree.

In the **March 16, 2017** edition of The Villager it was announced that Worship Ministry team is collecting donations to purchase a glider rocker to be placed in the sanctuary for parents with infants. The necessary funds were donated, and the chair was placed in the sanctuary in the summer of **2017.**

On Palm Sunday, the congregation was requested to bring clean, gently worn clothing, particularly coats, to be used as part of the "Path into Jerusalem" service and donated to a clothing closet after the service.

On Good Friday, at noon, members of the congregation, along with members of other congregations in Kanawha City, gathered in front of the Church for a Procession of the Cross. Carrying the Cross for nearly two miles, the group made seven stops, with the group reflecting on the last words of Christ at each stop.

Worship in the Park was held on **June 4th** at the Riverside Shelter at Coonskin Park. Another summer activity brought back again this year was the series of "Coffee and Conversation" described as Fellowship, Theological Reflection and Bible Study as those gathered discussed an article or issue of the day over a cup of coffee.

John Bowles, a member of the Church since 1985 and active as a Youth Group Leader for many years and Chair of the Property Team for a number of years, died on **July 4th**. His service was held at Village Chapel with Rev. Todd Wright and Rev. Frank Mansell conducting the service.

Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center (KPCC) is now occupying the "house next door" and providing counseling services.

On **July 8th**, the Church celebrated Helen Singleton's 90th birthday after worship. Also, in the summer of **2017**, Rick Hanna converted an old window frame from the house next door into a mirror in memory of John Bowles – it was hung in the Fellowship Hall.

In **November of 2017** the Reverse Advent Calendar was issued. This "calendar" identified on each day of the month of December appropriate items to be made available for inclusion in the Veteran's Bags or donated to services such as Common Grounds, Manna Meal, Lily's Place and the Village Chapel Pantry.

In **2017**, Village Chapel was added to the Kroger "Community Rewards" program. Any member of the church who signed up for the program will have a certain amount donated by Kroger to the Church whenever they use their Kroger card. During one quarter it was reported that the Church received a check for $83.21.

In **December 2017**, the son of Betty Skaggs donated $25,000 to set up an endowment fund in honor of his mother to be known as the Betty M. Skaggs Legacy Fund. There were no restrictions set in regards to the use of the endowment.

The Village Chapel Manual of Operations for Mission and Ministry, dated **December 2017,** indicates that the number of Elders serving on the Session shall be 12, with the possibility of a 13th member who is a youth. Twelve elders, in classes of 4, are elected for three-year terms (adopted upon a recommendation by the Nominating Committee to the Session 09/21/2016). A youth member of the congregation (up to age 22) may be elected to serve a one-year term. The one-year position on the Session will be filled or not filled depending on the availability of a youth nominee. The youth serving in this position will be an ordained Elder and expected to fulfill all the responsibilities of any person in this office. (adopted 08/29/04).

On **December 22, 2017**, Frank Mansell, the longest serving minister at Village Chapel from 1983 to his retirement in 2006, died in Charleston. During his tenure of service here in the Kanawha Valley, Rev. Mansell, in addition to his service to Village Chapel, was very active in the Presbytery of West Virginia. A service of witness to the resurrection was held here at Village Chapel on January 3, 2018.

On **January 28, 2018,** the Church celebrated Carolyn Perrine's 40 years of music ministry at Village Chapel. Former choir members were invited to sing with the choir during worship.

On **February** 14th, Ashes to Go were provided at both the Town Center Mall and Hubbard Hospice House from 11:30 – 1:00.

On **February 21, 2018,** Ric Hardison from the KPCC provided an overview of how to handle workplace violence. His comments included, "We should attempt to prevent, deter,

and minimize. Options include: 1. Get out, 2. Hide out and 3. Take out. We should pray for God's help for discernment and the health of our congregation."

On a working weekend in April a group consisting of Jim and Barb Smith, Heather Barry, Alatheia Stickler, John France, Sheila Grimm, Chuck Stump, Sarah and Richard Gottlieb, Joan Mansell, Kathy Kruk and Maureen and Todd Wright volunteered to work at a Habitat House Build cleaning and laying flooring. In addition to the time volunteered, the church raised and donated $10,000 to Habitat for Humanity building projects.

On Monday, **May 7, 2018**, Amy Parker completed requirements for the Doctor of Ministry degree from the Wesley Theological Seminary, and attended, along with her family, graduation ceremonies at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. In honor of her achievement, the Church presented Amy with a Doctor's robe.

On **May 13th**, the church celebrated Mother's Day, Children and Youth Sunday with the children providing music for the service, and the recognition of Robert Noell Bland as he graduated from high school.

On **May 17th** Village Chapel hosted a meeting of the Presbytery, welcoming about 130 elders, ministers, and guests from Presbyterian congregations across the state for a full day meeting.

Worship in the Park was celebrated on **June 3rd** at the Riverside Shelter in Coonskin Park. The menu was BBQ and coleslaw provided by the Church and side dishes and desserts contributed by the congregation.

In the summer of **2018**, the Service Ministry Team put together 100 Blessing Bags containing basic necessities such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, socks, wipes, deodorant, and snacks – each costing about $7.00. These were then available to anyone who was willing to participate by carrying a bag(s) in their car to give out to those deemed in need.

The Session on **August 25th**, changed the job title of the Rev. Dr. Amy Parker from Church Educator/Pastoral Assistant to Minister of Education and the Arts.

Lou Maxson's estate donated $10,000 to Village Chapel. Due to her love for working with Common Grounds, $1000 of this fund was donated to Common Grounds to prepare Thanksgiving baskets. In fall of **2018**, windows in the Fellowship Hall and Education Building were replaced. These were financed by individuals "purchasing a window". Funding from the Maxson donation was used to facilitate the process. The price to donate an individual window was $350.

A letter from the Christian Theological Seminary stating that Village Chapel's program and financial reports for the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program have been received

and reviewed and that the Church's file on this grant would be closed and considered fulfilled.

Sunday School Officers and Teachers for **2018-2019** were: Superintendent – Patti Salisbury; Preschool – Kathy Kruk and Sharon Richardson; Elementary/Youth – Janet Rorrer and Rona Smith; Substitutes – Patti Salisbury and Jessica Gentry; Adult Polly Dodson Class – Barbara Tabaretti and Vicki Cunningham; The Present Word Class – Barb Smith, David Dodson, Sheila Danzer and Chuck Stump.

On Sunday, **November 18th** St. Agnes Catholic Church hosted a joint Community Thanksgiving service. Worship was led by Father Escalante, Rev. Mark Flynn of Morris Memorial UMC, and Dr. Todd Wright of Village Chapel. The group gathered to praise God for all our many blessings, heard a bit about some of the joys and challenges facing Common Grounds, and took up an offering of over $1200 to further their ministry.

In December the Village Cares Library at the corner of 39th Street was restocked by Mary Howard. The library was built in **2015** by Jim Smith, a member of the Church. The structure is open to the public and offers books that may be borrowed or exchanged as well as seasonal items such as scarves, gloves, personal toiletries, or whatever items members of the congregation or community choose to place in it.

On **December 6th** an Advent Arts Project was initiated when three local artists, Ian Bode, Staci M. Leech-Cornell, and David Pushkin were each commissioned to produce an original artwork to be placed on display throughout Advent in the Fellowship Hall. On Epiphany Sunday, January 6th, these pieces were auctioned with the proceeds donated to a charity that benefits children. The auction generated $2030 which was divided between Lily's Place in Huntington and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Work at the US/Mexico Border.

On **March 17, 2019**, a celebration of 200 years of Presbyterianism in the Kanawha Valley was held at the Civic Center Little Theater. First Presbyterian and Kanawha United are also celebrating 200 years, and St. Albans First celebrated its 150th year of service. Village Chapel donated $300 for use in the celebration. Todd, Amy, Don Parker, and members of the choir participated in the program.

On **April 17-20** Village Chapel celebrated Holy Week with an Art Project bringing the works of local artists and their work to create a powerful journey through the Stations of the Cross—the stories of Jesus's last day from the Last Supper to the entombment of his body. Opportunity was provided for Church members and friends to visit and view the artwork symbolizing this special time. The exhibit attracted about 100 visitors. The artists sharing their art were David Pushkin, Ian Bode, Amy Parker, Terry Hickenell, Steve Lippitt, Michael Taylor, Chris Dutch, Bernice Deakins, Jeff Pierson, Tara Cantrell, and Mark Wolfe.

**April 26-28** a Guys Weekend was held at Bluestone Conference Center—the 11th Annual Men's Retreat, a weekend "packed with great teaching, worship, work projects to improve Bluestone and plenty of laughs."

In June 2019 Jim and Barb Smith "rejuvenated" the parking area in front of the church by painting lines to designate parking spaces.

Rally Day on **September 8th**, included the celebration of communion using a particular kind of bread: Lunch Lady Rolls—the kind they used to serve at school, back in the days when each school made their own food on site, back when you could smell them baking all morning, back when the roll was the best part of the lunch, no matter what else was being served. Those rolls tasted like a labor of love and as that is what will be served for Communion! "It is hoped you will remember the rolls that remind us of lunchroom ladies and of our Lord!"

Mary Nelle Howard resigned as the Church Secretary, and Village welcomed Leslie Bremar in **September of 2019**. Leslie was formerly employed as the Office Administrator for the Presbytery of West Virginia. Leslie has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration and nonprofit management.

In the fall of **2019,** a Peace Rose, a gift from the Baha'is of Charleston, was planted near the entrance to the Education Building. The sign with the rose is captioned, "Sow love, grow peace"!

In **2019**, Village Chapel hosted five (5) Red Cross Blood drives. Since the inception of these in 2014, the church has hosted 22 drives and collected a total of 581 units of blood, which has the potential to assist over 1,743 individuals.

Over this year, **2019,** the Church provided assistance to the Ronald McDonald House residents, West Virginia Read-A-Loud, Habitat for Humanity, and the Heart and Hand Closet. Members also participated in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, provided forty (40) backpacks filled with school supplies to Mary Ingles Elementary School, filled about fifty (50) Christmas bags to Charleston veterans and sponsored the "Pay it Forward" event. New service projects this year included food delivery assistance during the Remote Area Medical (RAM), a major nonprofit provider of free mobile clinic providing free dental, vision, and medical services to underserved and uninsured individuals. Another new endeavor included making and distributing 200 "blessing bags" filled with toiletries and necessities for those in need. The Church also contributed over 100 pairs of socks to assist the United Way's efforts to provide socks to area homeless shelters.

On **December 29th**, Worship included time around tables filling Ziplock bags with beans and spices to be sent to Common Grounds food pantry and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). The group assembled 300 bags which equals 1200 meals of soup!! This effort was funded by the sale of one of the Advent Art Exhibit paintings donated

to the church by artist Cindy Walton. The painting was purchased by Harriet and Gerry Nottingham. When the artist was informed of the bean soup project, she gasped saying that she had felt her mother's presence and inspiration as she painted--her mother had been a dedicated worker at a food pantry! "This is what we Presbyterians call providence—God working around and through us in ways we don't see and never imagine!!"

**VILLAGE CHAPEL IN THE 2020s**

In **February of 2020,** the Session explored the possibility of installing a columbarium with representatives of the Barlow-Bonsall Funeral Home. A columbarium is a structure that has niches (spaces) in which urns containing cremains or human cremated remains are placed. A follow-up survey of the congregation was conducted with 27 responses received, of which four (4) individuals were interested in receiving more information; one person indicated interest in purchasing a niche; and the remaining 24 were either not interested in a columbarium or have already made other burial arrangements.

With the closure of Westminster in **2019**, members of that church were seeking a new church home. Dr. Wright sent a letter inviting them to worship at Village Chapel.

The COVID-19 virus in **2019-2020** provided significant challenges for the Church. In response to the COVID issue, Village Chapel began conducting services online and in the **March 18th** meeting of the Session, a motion was made to postpone in-person worship services until further notice in compliance with recommendations from the CDC for social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus. The following actions were put in place to provide guidelines for Worship Services:

- Services will be offered via Facebook
- Bulletins will be provided via email or mailed according to the member's preference
- Adjustments will be made to the order of service/length as appropriate
- Offering – checks by mail, auto-draft with bank, or e-giving via VC website
- Suspend flowers
- Communion – suspend until congregation can be together again

In addition, the decision was made to postpone educational events such as Sunday School, Bible study, etc. until further notice. Teachers will explore options.

Other decisions made regarding meetings/ministries of the church included:

- Ministry team meetings would continue via email or texting.
- Other committee meetings such as the choir and PW are postponed until further notice.

- Outside groups such as Tai Chi, Bridge, Narcotic Anonymous were postponed "until further notice" due to the need for social distancing.
- Staff will continue their work primarily from home.
- Although the need for cleaning of the church was limited, the decision was made to continue to pay the cleaning ladies as "normal".

The following decisions were made regarding communication with the congregation:

- Use a temporary phone chain to stay in contact with the congregation to share necessary information.
- Offer to fund errands/pick up groceries or prescriptions for those staying at home.
- Offer to help with technical issues so folks can access worship services.
- Distribute hand sanitizer or soap.

The decision was also made to hold Session meetings electronically or virtually. "The Session may meet by electronic means if all active elders have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, and discern the will of God and vote on business items. The quorum for such a meeting will be seven (7) active elders or at least two (2) active elders and one (1) moderator."

In addition, the Session voted to seek assistance through the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) which would provide small business loans to cover qualified payroll costs, rent, utilities, and interest on mortgage and other debt obligations. An application was submitted on **April 15th**.

During the pandemic, with limited in-person meetings and interactions, the Shepherding Program became very important. There was indication that there was great appreciation that someone was checking on individuals. Also, the virtual Sunday School apparently went well with both children's and adult classes.

On May **9th**, the house next door, utilized by the Kanawha Pastoral Care (KPC) program, was broken into with damage in the attic and basement to items designated for Pay It Forward. KPC repaired the doors and rekeyed them. At this time there were also issues with folks loitering in the alley behind the Church and littering of trash.

In mid-**May**, Village Chapel received $34,000 from the Paycheck Protection Program to be utilized to pay staff expenses for eight weeks. All dollars that are used will be forgiven and any remaining dollars will be converted to a loan at 1% interest.

In **May 2020**, Max Bland was our sole high school graduate—as he graduated from Capital High School.

Extended Arms, an outreach to the homeless in Kanawha City, offered clothing and other items to the homeless on **June 27th** at the vacant lot on 58th street and MacCorkle Avenue. Village Chapel members participated by donating items for distribution.

In **June,** a Comeback Committee was formed to begin to develop plans for reinstituting in-person worship services. Members of this group were Sandy Bowles, Vicki Cunningham, John France, Rick Hanna, Kathy Kruk, Carolyn Perrine, Barb and Jim Smith and Jeff and Rona Smith. Consideration was given as to how to conduct communion, welcome new members, and how to prepare for return to meeting in person when the decision to do so is made. In the **July** Session meeting, the group agreed that virtual worship would be continued until Advent, giving the Comeback Committee adequate time to prepare for in-person meetings and Worship Services. As part of this process, a survey was developed to obtain the congregation's feelings about in-person worship and related concerns that have developed over the Covid-19 experience. As a follow-up, the survey findings were reviewed by the Session in its October meeting. The following recommendations were made:

1. Continue to remain virtual until after the first of the year
2. To not allow groups to start meeting in the Church again until the Church is open and only if the group is willing to follow safety procedures and clean up after its activities
3. Significant discussion occurred as to whether to follow the school calendar when we open, to determine when we meet in person and when to meet virtually.

On **August 2, 2020**, the Session met via Zoom to welcome new members, Roger and Rita Sockman and Ellen Ann Sockman. Roger is the son of Jule Sockman, a charter member of Village Chapel.

For the Presbytery meeting held virtually on **August 15th,** Dr. Wright preached the sermon, Kathy Kruk served as the Elder Commissioner, Dr. Parker was the Curator of the Word and presented a video related to Justice and Social Injustice. Sharon King will serve as a trustee for the Presbytery in 2021.

The Session minutes for **August 19th** indicate issues with Common Grounds as structural damages have developed with the flooring. During the pandemic, the facility was closed for a portion of the time and when it reopened, provided assistance with food only. On **September 1st**, assistance with utilities resumed. At this time, the Southeast Church of the Nazarene expressed interest in becoming a supporting church.

At the **August 19th** Session meeting, Dr. Wright discussed the Presbyterian Week of Action scheduled for **August 24-30**. This endeavor provides public witness that facilitates education, visibility, and action that reinforces the PC (USA) statements and policy that support eradicating racism and acknowledge that God loves all Black lives.

Rally Day on **September 13th** hosted a virtual sandwich preparation for Manna Meal. Members of the Church were asked to provide bread, lunch meat and cheese – enough to make 25+ sandwiches and then on the day to "set up your sandwich assembly so that it could be viewed via zoom as you worked." Completed sandwiches were then taken to Manna Meal for distribution. A note in The Villager indicated that Manna Meal has been providing meals in Charleston since 1976 and in 2019, served 110,000 meals through donations (50K donated food) and grants. They serve as many as 400 people each day and are open for breakfast and lunch 365 days a year!

On **October 4, 2020**, four Presbyterian churches (Bream, First Charleston, Kanawha United and Village Chapel) celebrated a joint Worship Service on World Communion Sunday. The pastors of the four churches preached briefly, various musicians provided music (including the Curnutte family), and members from all the churches prayed the Lord's Prayer in languages of people from all around the world. Communion was celebrated with many different kinds of bread from many cultures.

The Christmas Eve service was held using a "drive-in" format with communion. Families were asked to bring their own elements. The service was held early evening in the parking lot at the CAMC Cancer Center. The Center requested that we pray for their patients and staff in return for use of the parking lot.

As in previous years, Christmas cards created by local artists were sold and the money generated donated to benefit the Mary Ingalls Elementary School art program.

The Session, in their November meeting, recognized that Dr. Parker will be working with new software to facilitate broadcasting of the services virtually. A date for beginning "live" services was identified as **February 14, 2021**, Transfiguration Sunday. The in-person services will also be offered virtually.

In the **January 16, 2021,** meeting, the Session heard a presentation by Dr. Cathy Slemp on COVID-19: Where are We Now, Thinking Forward for the Church and Broader Community. After the presentation and considerable discussion, it was decided unanimously that Village Chapel delay the return to in-person gatherings until Easter or until the infection rate reaches an acceptable level in Kanawha County. Goals identified for 2021 were 1) Growing membership, 2) Childcare for Narcotics Anonymous, 3) Increase health awareness, 4) Increasing involvement with University of Charleston students, 5) Increase diversity, and 6) Increase children in worship.

Discussion in Session responded to the following questions related to returning to in-person services:

1. What have we learned about our congregation?
    a. Concerned
    b. Creative

c. Flexible
d. Love for our church
e. Resilient
f. Willingness to adapt

2. What ministries proved to be most important?
    a. Baptism online
    b. Fellowship time online
    c. Food baskets at Christmas rather than poinsettias
    d. Online services
    e. Shepherding

3. How did we adapt to the pandemic? What worked well?
    a. Folks were willing to share their talents with others
    b. Online Sunday School and Worship Services
    c. Technology advancement
    d. Zoom meetings

4. What did people miss, based on 2020?
    a. Being together during worship, fellowship, gatherings for meals, etc.
    b. Choir (especially congregation and choir singing hymns)
    c. Physical contact (hugs, passing the peace, etc.)

5. Based on what learned, on what 3 areas do pastor and Session need to focus energy and attention in 2021?
    a. Comeback Committee
    b. Continuation of hybrid services
    c. Shepherding

Generally speaking, very positive feedback has been received regarding virtual worship. Amy and Don Parker have been very involved in preparing communications for services over the past year.

As a component of dealing with on-line services, it became necessary to revise the church's "front door" – the website. It was quickly determined that the Village Chapel website needed updating. To accomplish this, a gift given earlier by Carolyn Stevens was used to work with a professional to develop a "logo" and redesign the website. As Carolyn very much enjoyed worship, it was fitting to use her gift for this purpose. "While others have contributed in many ways, Carolyn's generosity made this effort possible."

For Ash Wednesday, Amy Parker and Todd Wright agreed to be available at the church to administer ashes. It was decided that these would be applied using a long swab and placed on the hand rather than the forehead.

The **April 4, 2021** Easter Service was the church's first service back in the sanctuary since discontinued with COVID. A note from Dr. Wright in the **March 26th** Bulletin read: "Easter is almost here—the day when we will finally return to in-person services! It will be a day of great rejoicing! But let's be clear: we will not slip back into the same place we were in a year ago. We will still be taking COVID precautions. There will still be people who will be worshiping virtually. And our worship and ministry will be molded by the lessons we have learned: things like our ability as a congregation to adapt to challenging circumstances and continue doing good ministry; or the power of technology to bridge gaps as well as our hunger for face-to-face contact per society's deep brokenness and our role in both bringing healing and working for justice in small yet faithful ways." Recommendations from the Comeback Committee included: Pews will be wiped with hydrogen peroxide before and after the service; Bibles and hymnals will be removed from the sanctuary; the collection will be taken in the vestibule prior to or after the service; masks must be worn while in the Church; hand sanitizer is to be used upon entry; a plexiglass shield has been placed in front of the pulpit; ushers will escort attendees out immediately after the service; attendees will need to exit promptly and "visit" outside, if desired. For the children in worship, it was agreed that children would remain in the pews with their parents and Todd and/or Amy would go to them. Because of the logistics raised regarding communion, it was determined that this would not be included in the Easter service.

The **April** Session minutes indicated that while in-person services have been reinstituted, the virtual services will be continued indefinitely, primarily because significant investments in equipment, time and training have been made. Also, the hybrid services will continue because they provide opportunities for those who cannot be (or who do not want to be) present physically due to any number of reasons, and an outreach to those who may be curious about the church.

In April, Dr. Wright reported that his original plans for his sabbatical, which was postponed in 2020 due to COVID-10, will not be possible in **2021** due to the continuation of COVID-19. Therefore, instead of delaying the sabbatical yet another year, his plans have been revised. The sabbatical will be from May 16th (last day in the pulpit) to August 16th (first day back in the office). The purpose of a sabbatical is for "personal and professional growth, spiritual renewal, and a revitalization of vision and hope".

Ministers serving in Todd's absence in the summer of **2021** included:

- Nellie Howard (X2) from Waverly, WV and the daughter of Polly Dodson, charter member
- Chris Bailey, from Huntington and a Chaplain at Marshall University
- Amy Parker, our own Minister of Education and the Arts
- Bill Hairston (X3), previously the minister at Westminster Church
- Ed Thompson (X2), has served a number of churches and the Presbytery

- Frank Mansell, III, grew up in the Church and is now a pastor in Raleigh, NC
- Samantha Coggins, Campus Minister at WVU
- Rabbi Victor Urecki, Spiritual Leader of the B'nai Jacob Synagogue
- Ravi Isaiah, Methodist Minister and Chaplain CAMC

In June of **2021**, information from the May Presbytery meeting indicated that all churches are being encouraged to incorporate and have one year to accomplish incorporation. This will help protect officers of the church. The Presbytery will cover the incorporation fees and provide guidance. In September, it was determined that Village Chapel will move forward with incorporation under a "default model". Under this model, the Clerk of Session serves as Secretary of the corporation and the Treasurer appointed by the Session serves as Treasurer of the corporation. The President of the corporation is elected from those elders serving on the Session. The remainder of the elders on Session are also trustees, but not members of the corporation. (The Church was officially incorporated by January 1, 2022.)

In returning to in-person services, the congregation was required to wear masks. However, in **July of 2021**, the Worship Ministry Team recommended that masks be optional for fully vaccinated individuals. Those not vaccinated would continue to wear masks for their protection, as well as the other members of the congregation. To reduce the possibility of unnecessary exposure, communion during this time was served using a cube of bread and a grape inserted on a toothpick for which the congregation would come forward and pick up off a plate offered by the ministers or an elder.

In summer **2021**, the church had to deal with ransom-ware issues. The ransom request was $45,000 and was settled at $6,000; however, some access was given to Church information and another ransom of $45,000 was requested. Insurance covered a portion of this, and a program was put in place to protect all church computers from subsequent attacks.

Over the thirteen weeks Dr. Wright was on Sabbatical, he engaged in a wide variety of "Todd's Treks" activities including several weeks hiking portions of the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Vermont, New Hampshire, etc. He also spent time at Montreat making communion ware, reading, hiking, spent a week at the Weston Priory- a community of Benedictine monks, made a baseball "pilgrimage", and spent time with his family.

In September a flyer was developed to be displayed at the University of Charleston for those students from out of the area who may be looking for a home church. A similar flier was developed to be posted at the Village Apartments to try to attract individuals to the Church.

In **2021** the Property Ministry Team began creating a notebook to contain information regarding property items such as: Fire extinguisher locations and maintenance, smoke detector location and maintenance, fuse box explanations, furnace, etc.

In **2021,** the Service Ministry Team continued to contribute/support Common Grounds, Red Cross blood drives (5), a coat and blanket drive for which items were taken to the Roark Sullivan Lifeway Center to assist Veterans in the area, Picnic in the Park refreshments, Backpacks for Bookworms for the children at Mary Ingles Elementary, Alzheimer's Walk, Blessing Bags, Pay it Forward, and 30 Veteran's Bags.

As recommended by the Presbytery, Village Chapel became incorporated as of **January 1, 2022**.

The Souper Bowl of Caring has been conducted each year and was held on February **13th i**n **2022**. The congregation continues to give "cans or cash" to support their favorite team. Food collected was again given to Common Grounds.

In **February**, Helen Warren was received into membership and in **March** Peter and Tara Markham and their children, Addison and Paul, joined the Church.

A letter, dated **February 21, 2022**, was drafted to be sent to those individuals not participating in the life of the Church asking that these persons return to active membership or provide information as to their thoughts on their church membership. Asking to be brought up to date on their spiritual journey – are they worshiping elsewhere and need to have their membership transferred or do they want to be placed on the "friends" of Village Chapel roll which would mean they still receive newsletters, are prayed for, and are welcome at communion or other activities.

On **March 5th**, the family of Julian Sockman held a birthday celebration with a drive-by at their home. Jules is the oldest member of the Church, turning 99 on this date! On **March 6th**, all those members of the congregation who were over 90 were recognized.

Barb Smith held a "Balance with Barb" class for anyone seeking to improve their balance with standing and sitting activities to do so. A $5 per class donation to benefit the church was requested.

As part of the Monday night Lenten Study, the Worship Ministry Team sponsored a new opportunity for a prayer service – a Taizé service at 7:00 p.m. on **March 28th**. The Taizé community is an ecumenical Christian monastery in southern France. The Taizé' community and the Taizé form of worship was founded in 1940 by a monk, Brother Roger Schutz who came into occupied France from his home in Switzerland. At that time the group took in orphaned children and Jews protecting them from the Nazis. The community has become a place for over 100,000 youth to come on pilgrimage each year and the prayer service is a very important part of their experience. The service is characterized by the repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes with lyrics often from the Psalms or other pieces of scripture. These are interspersed with readings, prayers, and periods of silence. Repetition is an important element because the service is about contemplation and being in touch with God and your spirituality. For example, the repetitive singing of "Jesus, Remember Me" provides

a mechanism for the words to enter your very being. The service is a peaceful immersion in song and silence with silence providing time to absorb the meaning of what has been sung, read, and seen. In addition to Carolyn Perrine and Sharon Curnutte, Betty King and Ken Long played for this service.

As in **2021,** members of the congregation were asked to "spend one hour" praying, singing, and meditating on scripture" during the Easter Vigil beginning on Good Friday and continuing for 40 hours until sunrise on Easter morn. Volunteers were asked to commit to doing so on a schedule made available prior to the Vigil.

During the year, Roger Sockman and Rick Hanna tried to generate interest in forming a Praise Band; however, the effort was not successful as only two individuals responded to the invitation to participate.

In the spring of **2021**, the 40-year-old organ was "diagnosed" with electronic parts that needed to not be repaired but replaced – at the cost of $8,000. The congregation was asked to help raise the necessary funds and a matching offer was received. So, for two months members of the church pledged and provided the funds necessary to repair the organ which has been such a wonderful part of the music program at Village Chapel!

Since **October of 2021**, three youth have been meeting with their mentors to prepare for confirmation. The three young people were Viv Canterbury, Isiah Canterbury and Kelsey Rorrer. The mentors for the group were Patti and Howard Salisbury and Maureen Wright. The confirmands were honored on **May 15th**.

Also, in the summer of **2021**, magnetic car decals featuring the new logo of the church were made available and as a result, the cars of Village Chapel members soon proclaimed the Church of their drivers!

As part of the Worship in the Park service, attendees wrote notes to Presbyterian mission workers in a handful of countries and the pastors of PCUSA churches in Buffalo and Uvalde. Following this, the church received responses from a number of those receiving the notes. One said, Wow! I really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit through this spiritual email! May God bless you, and all the congregation at Village Chapel. Rev. Adolfo Santana, Iglesia Presbiteriana en Caparra Terrace, Puerto Rico

On Saturday, **June 18th**, the first ever Village Apartment picnic, coordinated by the Fellowship Ministry Team, was held. Joey Stonestreet cooked hot dogs; Howard Salisbury, Todd Wright, and Jim Smith transported tables and chairs to and from the courtyard; Joyce Dunlap, a resident of the Apartments served as hostess, and Maureen Wright, Kathy Kruk, Patti Salisbury, Sandy Bowles, Jeanne MacDonald, Heather Barry, Dreama White, Barbara Tabaretti, Vicki Cunningham, and Rita Sockman helped set up and deliver food dishes. A great time was had by all!

On **June 19th** Jack Blank and Noah Lawson were recognized for their high school graduation. In a later edition of The Villager, a Thank You note from Noah acknowledged receiving a care package indicating that "everything will be put to use and eaten!" "I love that the younger kids signed the note and drew a couple of pictures for me!"

In the summer of **2022**, Village Chapel accepted an invitation to participate in "Thriving Congregations" an initiative offered by the Montreat Conference Center and the Black Mountain School and funded by the Lilly Endowment. Each participating church identified a cohort of individuals wiling to engage in a two-year commitment of meetings in the home church and travel to Montreat every six months to work toward "thickening relationships within churches and to accomplish what God is calling us to do." A group of individuals came together to meet regularly at the Church. This group included Todd Wright, Helen Warren, Rita and Roger Sockman, Peter Markham, Barbara Tabaretti, Kathy Kruk, Sandy Bowles, Bob Hiser, Patty Salisbury and Sharon King. Of this group, six volunteered to go to Montreat every six months over the two-year period of the grant. These individuals were Todd Wright, Helen Warren, Rita Sockman, Roger Sockman, Sandy Bowles, and Bob Hiser.

On Rally Day in September, the congregation was asked to contribute drill bits, screws, table saw blades, tape measures, work gloves, etc. for the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW), a ministry of the Presbytery of West Virginia. "Thank you's" printed in the November edition of The Villager ranged from "These are great!" to "THESE ARE GREAT!" The contributed supplies were sent to Summersville, Gilbert and Point Pleasant to be used by WVMAM teams helping families needing home repairs and the building of ramps to "release people from the prison of their homes with ramps leading to freedom."

Those serving as Sunday School teachers for **2022** included:

The Polly Dodson Class – adult current issues and church related topics
Teachers: Barbara Tabaretti and Vicki Cunningham

The Present Word Class – adult Bible study
Teachers: Sheila Danzer, David Dawson, Barb Smith

Elementary/Youth: Letters of Paul
Teachers: Kathy Kruk, Sharon Richardson, Janet Rorrer, Patti Salisbury
Helpers: Kelsey Rorrer, Samantha Rorrer

Over the year, Sunday School classes met in a hybrid or blended format (zoom and in person) while the children/youth class met in person.

Sadly, in **2022**, there were no youth participating in Youth Events, Retreats, or Youth Council and there was no youth elder participating on the Session.

The Session, on **September 21, 2022,** adopted a Safety and Security Policy providing policies and direction for handling issues such as dangerous weather, medical emergencies, and intruders. It also includes the recommendation to "practice" the responses to various scenarios once each year with the first Sunday in April suggested for doing this. The development of a Safety and Security team to be organized by the Session was also included in this document.

On **October 27th** Village Chapel hosted an "Interfaith Relationships and Dialogue – How to Effectively Develop Them and Transform Church, Community, and Staff." Participants included Ibtesam Sue Barazi, Vice President, Islamic Association of West Virginia; Victor Urecki, Rabbi, B'nai Jacob Synagogue; and Todd Wright, Pastor Village Chapel Presbyterian Church. The day's activities provided guidance, knowledge, and support in discovering how to overcome the barriers of religious differences and build bridges of religious understanding and growth.

The Presbyterian Church USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America each trace their history back to the 16th century and have been in full communion since 1997. So, in **2022,** Village approached Trinity Lutheran Church about having a joint service and Trinity not only agreed but agreed to host it on **October 30th**. Drs. Amy and Todd participated in the service as well as the choir. A lunch followed in the fellowship hall where our congregation has helped serve Trinity's Table meals over the years! The offering involved using two different colored envelopes and all loose offerings were given to Covenant House. The two churches will plan to continue this celebration in future years.

Also, in **October 2022**, the church celebrated Amy Parker's "significant" birthday and her 20th anniversary of joining the staff at Village Chapel! Amy has been a leader with many creative ideas which she has encouraged the congregation to participate in and during the COVID crisis along with her husband, Don, successfully used new technology to make virtual worship services possible. This successful effort continues to provide worship services for those unable or unwilling to attend in-person services at Village Chapel.

In **2022**, to provide relief for Amy and Don Parker in delivering the streaming of the worship services every Sunday, two members of the congregation, Vicki Cunningham and Rick Hanna, were trained to serve in this capacity.

Advent activities in **2022** included, as in previous years, the gathering at Vicki and Ira's home to fill bags for Veterans, a Longest Night Service conducted Taizé' style, and Christmas Caroling at Hubbard Hospice House. A Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion was held on Saturday evening at 9:00 with this service available on Christmas morning via Facebook.

An updated descriptive procedure for delivering Traveling Communion was provided for Session members engaged in this service. Four teams with four elders were identified along with the names and addresses of those who might be served with communion.

The Property Ministry Team in **2022** completed an extraordinarily large number of ongoing tasks which included, in addition to the usual tasks of replacing furnace filters, lightbulbs, lawn care, etc., the replacement of flooring in the parlor and kitchen, painted the parlor and kitchen, replaced electrical outlets in a number of sites, replaced lights with LEDs, cleaned out and disposed of unneeded items in the basement and garage, repaired the picket fence, painted the outsides of the garage, storage room and connecting wall, added additional handicapped parking spaces and repainted the parking lines, to name a few. Over the year, Barb and Jim Smith have made themselves available to keep up with numerous housekeeping tasks and outside grounds work. In addition to the Smiths, members of the Property Ministry team included: John France, Rick Hanna, Phil Harich, Alan Johnston, Steve Murray, Sherry Murry, Greg Rader, Roger Sockman, and Todd Wright.

During this year, a Peace Pole, which was obtained from the Presbytery Office in South Charleston when that facility was closed, was relocated to the front area of the church and was dedicated to its new location in a special dedication service.

Over the years, Village Chapel has continued to be very people oriented and a Church committed to community giving and involvement and the year **2023** continued these characteristics in the Church's activities and focus.

On **January 31, 2023**, Vivien Canterbury, a youth member of the Church, placed first in the Health Science category in the Kanawha Couty Science Fair. Another Village Chapel youth to achieve public notice was Isaiah Canterbury who was selected to portray the Scarecrow in the Children's Theater of Charleston production of the Wizard of Oz.

Saturday, **March 4th** was a very special day in the life of Village Chapel and in particular, the life of Jule Sockman! On this day, the congregation and many special guests were invited by the Sockman family to a birthday celebration from 3:00 to 6:00 with a buffet dinner at 5:00 to celebrate Jule's 100th birthday. A charter member of Village Chapel and the first member of the Church to turn 100 years old, this was a historic century birthday event. As part of the day's activities, the Fellowship Hall was renamed the Julian Sockman Fellowship Hall and the appropriate plaque designating same was permanently installed near the entrance.

On Easter Sunday of **2023**, members of the congregation were encouraged to bring spring flowers from their home for a Flowering of the Cross. Upon arrival, those bringing flowers attached them to the cross which was then carried forward at the beginning of the service and placed in the chancel for all to see and enjoy!

The Session minutes of **March 15th** make mention of a water leak that occurred following the lightning strike at the Church several years ago in the area where Church memorabilia was stored. To preserve these documents at the time of the lightning strike and

damage to the Church building, John Bowles removed these boxes and brought them to his home where they have been stored. There are a number of photographs and other printed documents in these materials. Since that time, the photographs have been given to Rita Sockman who has agreed to work with longstanding members of the Church to identify individuals in these photographs and to place them in photograph albums. The remaining materials will be used in the writing of this document and then organized and placed in files for future "historians".

Since **October 2022** Village Chapel has been participating in the Thriving Congregation project and on **March 20-22** the congregation members representing the Thriving Congregation Program went to Montreat for the second face-to-face meeting. The Thriving Congregation team traveling to Montreat included Helen Warren, Todd Wright, Sandy Bowles, Bob Hiser and Roger and Rita Sockman. Other members of the group meeting regularly at the Church are Kathy Kruk, Barbara Tabaretti, Patti Salisbury, Peter Markham, and Sharon King. Activities of the group to date focused on conducting one-on-one meetings with individual members of the congregation asking the interviewee to: 1. Tell us your story; 2. What are you passionate about or concerned about; 3. What are your hopes and dreams for the Church and 4. What should we as a church be doing? In May and June, the group interacted with groups in five listening sessions to generate expanded feedback.

In July, the group met with Tim Conder and Dan Rhodes from the Black Mountain School of Theology here in Charleston. Tim and Dan complimented Village on having a collaborative style, displaying a deep caring for and commitment to the community, and an ability to see present challenges. The Thriving Congregation team will return to Montreat in October.

Minutes of the **March 30th** Worship Ministry Team indicated a review of Amy Parker's Job Description. Her duties as Minister of Education and the Arts included education ministry, technology and streaming, worship ministry, pastoral care, arts ministry and working with the Session.

The April edition of The Villager announced that the church has received an automated external defibrillator (AED) from an anonymous donor, and it has been installed in the alcove leading into the Julian Sockman Fellowship Hall. Patti Salisbury hosted a training session for the use of this device for members of the congregation.

A sad day in the life of the Parish Churches as on Sunday, **May 7**th at 3:00 p.m. the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church located at 1698 Quarrier Street hosted a Closing Worship service and reception. Participants in the service included remaining members and musicians of the Church.

Bluestone Conference Center, in **2023**, experienced issues with a portable water storage tank and the pool filtration unit for its swimming pool. As a result, the facility indicated it needed to raise $60,000 to deal with these issues. The Session allocated $1000

from the Skaggs Fund for Bluestone and also asked the congregation to contribute additional funds to assist with the Bluestone need.

A Pews to Chairs Task Force which included Patti Salisbury, Roger Sockman, Patty Skaff, Sharon Curnutte, Sandy Bowles, Amy Parker, and Todd Wright was formed to investigate and make recommendations to remove some of the front rows of pews and replace them with upholstered chairs. This initiative would better accommodate those with wheelchairs, and walkers who want to sit closer to the front of the sanctuary and also to allow arranging chairs in a variety of configurations for small, special services like Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Blue Christmas, and the Taizé services. It was determined that each pew seats 8 individuals and removing four pews on each side would project the need for 64 chairs (4 pews X 2 X 8). The Task Force visited Bream Presbyterian Church to observe and "try out" chairs to determine "comfort". Material swatches and a sample chair were obtained to evaluate the perspective chair and try to determine color if the decision is made to go to chairs. In August of **2023**, the congregation response regarding the pews to chairs project was positive and the Session moved forward with approving the purchase of chairs to replace four pews in the sanctuary. Anonymous donors pledged $3000 to pay for the purchase of the chairs and in the final analysis, four rows of pews were removed, donated to another church, and replaced with comfortable chairs.

It was reported that in recent times, homeless folks have been sleeping under cover of the Church to get out of the rain and to be "covered" from those passing by. Dr. Wright reported that when a man stayed on the property, one of the Church neighbors was "nervous". However, the individual "inhabiting" Church property weeded and swept the area where he stayed and the assumption was that he was not likely to be of concern to the neighborhood!

On Saturday and Sunday, **April 15th** and **16th**, a flyer indicating, "The Church has left the building . . . "proclaimed a weekend of volunteer activities that the congregation could engage in over this time. Activities included six organizations including the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Society for which volunteers could walk dogs or donate dog food, toys, old towels and sheets. The Dream A Way Cat Rescue provided an opportunity to donate cat food, litter, carriers and other gently used equipment, and cat toys. The Bream Shower Ministry requested donations of soap and body wash, shampoo and conditioner, lotion, towels, laundry detergent and gently used clothing. The Service Ministry Team prepared lunches which members of the Church could purchase with the proceeds going to a fund for the Regal Apartment residents (a facility which had recently burned). Volunteers could go to the Ronald McDonald House to prepare and serve breakfast on Saturday morning. And lastly, volunteers, under the direction of the Property Ministry Team, could assist with cleaning the Fellowship Hall and attic or helping with a spring clean-up of the lawn and mulching. All in all, a busy weekend!

The **2023** Worship in the Park was held at Coonskin Park on **June 4th**. A special addition to the service was the baptism of Kaia and Crosley Blank, the daughter and son of T'Aja and Kyle Blank and grandchildren of Kathy Kruk. Their mother, T'Aja, was also baptized and joined Village Chapel by profession of faith.

In **June 2023**, the Session received information regarding the installation of solar panels and what refurbishing would have to be done to the roof prior to going to solar power. The estimate for the roof work came in at $39,444. This work must be done prior to going to solar power. In a meeting of the Session on **June 28th**, it was recommended that Dr. Wright apply to the Louis and Sandra Berkman Foundation, Presbytery Foundation, and other resources to obtain funding to go forward with "going solar". As a result of this recommendation, four grant applications were submitted seeking funding to cover the cost of the solar units. The Presbytery approved a grant for $10,000. The signage of a contract to move forward with adding solar panels was announced in the **November 15th** Session meeting. The Church worked with a group called Solar Holler, a West Virginia non-profit group that has installed solar at the Presbyterian churches in Spencer and Glenville and is working to do the same at Bream here in Charleston. Their analysis indicated that 64 panels on the roofs of our Education Building and Fellowship Hall would supply 101% of the Church's electrical needs, providing Village Chapel an estimated savings of more than $141,000 over the next 25 years.

A Village Arts Camp was held on **June 19-21, 2023,** in the evening and was based on the theme, "Jesus Calls Disciples". Activities included Net Print T's, Fisher of Folks bracelets, Improv Storytelling, Following Jesus Mural, Quilling Cross, Yoga, and snacks! A fun time had by all!!

Another activity that members of the Church have engaged in are prayer walks in which groups walk through a specific area or neighborhood praying for those residing in the area. In **July**, a group walked over to and prayed for staff and patients at the CAMC Cancer Center. In **September** a group walked through the neighborhood adjacent to the Church.

Village Chapel is now hosting another community group - the Vandalia Rotary Club—meeting in the Fellowship Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

In **2023**, it was determined that the HV/AC system in the Education Building needed to be replaced. The quote for doing this was $12,500.

In **August**, thirty-three backpacks were donated and distributed to Mary Ingles Elementary School. The congregation was asked to fill the backpacks with notebooks, folders, pencils, colored pencils, erasers, glue, loose leaf paper, rulers, hand sanitizer, tissues, simple snacks, etc. This project has been carried out by Village Chapel for a number of years.

World Communion was celebrated on **October 1st** with a focus on "world" and two international students from the University of Charleston were invited to participate in the service reading scriptures in their own languages.

Ecumenical services this fall were very successful, including a Joint Reformation Service with Trinity Lutheran as a follow-up to last year's service with Trinity on **October 29th**. The service included communion with representatives of both churches presiding at the table. Following the service, the congregation moved to the Fellowship Hall for a tasty luncheon.

On **November 19th** at 7:00 p.m. a joint Thanksgiving Service hosted by Village Chapel was held with St. Agnes and Morris Memorial United Methodist churches. The offering was taken to support Common Grounds and their ongoing ministry to the hungry.

Following the **October** Thriving Congregation meeting, the group met to discuss options identified in the one-on-one sessions as well as the group sessions and narrowed the list generated to thirteen options. The group will need to continue to reduce the number of options and to finally identify viable foci for the Church to pursue.

On Saturday, **November 11, 2023**, the annual Pay-It-Forward was held. Members of the congregation were asked to bring housewares, blankets, sheets, towels, toys, seasonal decorations, coats, jackets, and sweaters. Anyone coming to this event could take anything with no charge – only that they too "pay-it-forward" and do good things for others.

The annual Christmas poinsettias in **2023** were provided by an anonymous donor and in lieu of taking up donations for the purchase of these flowers, an offering was taken in memory of loved ones. This offering was donated to Common Grounds.

On Wednesday, **December 20th**, at 7:00 p.m., Village Chapel gathered in the sanctuary for a Taizé' style Longest Night Service. There was opportunity for prayer, singing, and silence, giving those in attendance an opportunity to reflect on what participants were grieving and what gives hope! Betty King and Ken Long were present to join in the music. The new chairs were in place, offering opportunity for the congregation to sit in a comfortable circle.

The year **2023** ended with a Christmas Carol Sing on **December 31st**. The congregation was encouraged to come sing "best-loved" carols and wear a favorite Christmas sweater, tie, or socks!

On **January 14th** Sharon Curnutte, Don Parker, Jim Smith, and Barb Smith were recognized in The Villager as "Heroes of the Day". Sharon for providing music "when the snowstorm meant Caroline (Perrine) was stuck at her home on a hill. Sharon played the

piano with only her left hand since her right arm was in a brace after shoulder surgery less than two weeks before. Don stepped up to play guitar on the hymns with "little notice." In addition, the Smiths were busy filling in as "Jim spent the Sunday School hour clearing the sidewalks around the church as the snow fell, and Barbara staffed the sound mixer so Don would be free to help with music."

In the Session meeting minutes of **January 19, 2024**, an update on the progress of improvements to the roof over the various areas of the Church was provided. It was noted that water leakage from under and around the steeple has fallen on pews in the sanctuary. The cost to remove the steeple, repair the wood roof, and replace the shingles would cost $59,000. A new steeple constructed of Pollywood fiberglass would cost $10,000. Part of the repair costs have already been made by donations. After much discussion regarding how to pay for the repairs, it was decided that an "Envelope Campaign" would be the best method to include all of the Church membership in donating funds. This would entail placing 200 envelopes on the walls of the Fellowship Hall with numbers ranging from 1 to 200 – the number on the envelope indicating the amount one would be willing to pay toward the total amount needed. This effort was scheduled for February **25 to March 17th**.

Sarah Gottleib shared information about a community project called "Guns to Gardens" in which individuals can donate their unwanted gun(s) to a group called Raw Tools and have them chopped up, melted, and repurposed into garden tools. To raise funds to support this effort, the Session recommended that the congregation be involved through a special offering – the resulting funds going to support this effort to combat gun violence. This event was held at St. Marks Methodist Church and 27 guns were surrendered.

While communion dates totaled twelve over the year, the Church continues to deliver "Traveling Communion" to those who are not able to attend church services four times per year. For 2024 the sacraments were taken to those homebound on the following dates:

February 18, 2024
May 19, 2024
August 4, 2024
December 1, 2024

Typically, two individuals serve communion to an individual using a prepared script which includes scripture, the invitation, prayer, words of institution, and distribution.

The Souper Bowl of Caring founded by the Senior High Fellowship of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina in 1990 and initiated at Village Chapel in 1995, was celebrated again in **February 2024** – now 29 years in the running!! Nationally, this effort has raised nearly $200 million dollars with donations going to local food

charities. The congregation here at Village continues to bring "cans or cash" and these are donated locally to Common Grounds.

In the February **2024** Session Minutes, the Personnel Ministry Team reported that Carolyn Perrine, the Village Chapel organist for 47 years, will retire at the end of June. Upon her retirement on June 30th, Carolyn was named "Organist Emeritus" and a reception was held in her honor. Efforts have been made to try to find a replacement with no success to date. A task force will be formed to explore options. In the meantime, Sharon Curnutte will serve as both choir director and pianist/organist.

In **February**, it was announced that the now empty house adjacent to the Church may be a good site for Common Grounds and Todd Wright has spoken with the President of that organization regarding this possibility. If this should come to pass, the use of this facility would be an in-kind donation, with Common Grounds only paying for utilities used over and above the basic rate. If this is to occur, the neighbors in the Church block will need to be made aware. In addition, a ramp will need to be added to the front of the house to facilitate moving in and out of the facility. (The building of the ramp was accomplished in **November** by a crew made up of Village and St. Agnes workers and a $3000 mission grant from the Presbytery of West Virginia.)

The Thriving Congregations team attended a working meeting at Montreat on **March 13-15** with the goal of narrowing the thirteen suggestions made for possible focus down to one area of interest and to develop a specific plan to achieve whatever is identified. At this time, the areas receiving the most interest included: schools, music, outreach/fellowship, and an older adult ministry. The Session recommended focusing on schools (tutoring), music (choir and group concerts), outreach (feed the hungry), and membership (internal member activities, recruiting new members). The Session suggested four possible areas to consider: 1. A community garden, 2. Game nights, 3. Speakers on current topics, and 4. Reviving the Village Vittles program to provide soup and food to shut-ins. As a result of the March meeting, the Thriving Congregation Team was able to narrow the possible areas from thirteen to two: 1. Partnering with local school(s), and 2. Developing an older adult ministry. Two research teams will be formed to determine how Village might partner with existing organizations.

As the 75th anniversary of Village Chapel will occur in **March of 2025**, the following individuals were suggested to serve on the 75th Anniversary Planning Team: Shannon Bland, Sandy Bowles, Susan Caldwell, Pat Jacobs, Kathy Kruk, Harriet Nottingham, Patti Salisbury, Rita Sockman, and Sarah Stebbins.

An Ashes-to-Go held at the YMCA was attended by only ten individuals. However, the Ash Wednesday service at the Church went well.

In **March**, 56 individuals attended Jule Sockman's 101st birthday celebration featuring cake and goodies. Later, on Memorial Day, Jule was honored as a serviceman, a World War II veteran as he was a member of the U. S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division. He served as the WWII Parade Marshall for the Herbert J. Thomas Memorial Armed Forces Day Parade in South Charleston. Also, in the fall of **2023**, Sandy Bowles did a one-on-one interview with Jule which was videotaped for the 75th Anniversary of the Church. In this video, Jule describes what brought him to Charleston (he was originally from Moundsville, WV), and what Charleston was like when he came here. He described Kanawha City, the Church and its founding and the people of the early Church.

In response to a challenge from Maureen Wright, the Transitional General Presbyter, the congregation via the Session, was asked to identify ways the church building serves as a resource and what burdens does it present? The positives/ways it adds to the community include: Worship, Sunday school, blood drives, bridge group, quilters, narcotics anonymous, fellowship, Pay-it-Forward, arts camp, book club, confirmation class, Bible study, Tai Chi, and outside meetings related to the Presbytery. Burdens presented include upkeep of the grounds and facilities which present a great deal of hard work on the part of the Property Ministry Team and cost of maintenance and necessary repairs.

The **May** Session minutes provided the following updates: A service weekend held in April resulted in providing services for the Bream SHOP (Showers + Healthcare Outreach Program) and the Kanawha-Charleston Animal Shelter. Fifty lunches were made and all but nine were sold. The money earned and leftover lunches were donated to Common Grounds. An opportunity to make special cards under the direction of Rita Sockman provided a fun activity. The opportunity to engage in Church chores was a popular option and involved members of all ages.

On **May 26th** the Fellowship Ministry Team conducted a Fellowship Hour and Family Game Day after the worship service with 20 attending the Fellowship activity and 12 participating in the games that followed.

In **June**, Dr. Wright was able to take the opportunity to go to Spain to hike the Camino. This had been planned for his previous sabbatical but due to COVID, it was cancelled. However, in **2024**, the Columbia Theological Seminary announced "Preachers on Pilgrimage" and Todd applied, his application was accepted and he joined 15 other pastors hiking from San Sabastian in the Basque region to Bilbao along the Northern route, and then, after a bus ride, from Vialba to Santiago do Compostela. During his absence, the Martin Sheen movie, "The Way" was made available to the congregation to better appreciate this accomplishment.

Over the year, Church rolls were reviewed and those individuals not actively participating in the life of Village Chapel were transferred to the "inactive roll". Twenty-five individuals were so moved.

In August of **2024,** the installation of 69 solar panels on the Education Building and Fellowship Hall roofs was completed and the AEP, (local electrical power company) inspected the set-up. flipped the switch, and Village Chapel officially became solar powered!

Another special event occurred in **August**. Emily Wright, daughter of Maureen and Todd Wright, and her fiancé, Matt, were married by Dr. Wright in Boston.

To update the Thriving Congregations project, the focus was narrowed to two areas – working with local elementary schools, and Chamberlain Elementary in particular, and developing a program for the older members of the Church. In regard to the school project, under the leadership of Rita Sockman, backpacks were collected, and members of the Church have become involved with the children and staff at Chamberlain. The congregation also provided an "Undie Sunday" for needy children at the school. In response to the need to identify approaches to developing an older adult ministry, Sandy Bowles conducted and tabulated a survey to determine the needs and desires of the older members of the Church to serve as a guideline for moving forward with this group and Peter Markham was appointed to serve in the leadership role for this group. The survey findings are included in Appendix J.

Community outreach activities in **2024** in addition to the backpacks for Chamberlain Elementary School, and the Guns to Gardens event included a blood drive organized by Heather Barry in partnership with the Red Cross on **October 9th** which resulted in the collection of 30 units of blood. A laundromat project was held in the fall for those residing at the Village Apartments – "Suds of Love" for which 9 loads of laundry were washed and dried and a very successful Pay-it-Forward was held on **November 2nd.**

As a result of an automobile accident, the Blessing Box (the sidewalk library) and one of the dogwood trees on the 39th street side of the church were damaged/destroyed. The tree was removed and as Dr. Wright indicated, "It had given its life to save damage to the Church" and was badly damaged. The Blessing Box has been restored.

On **November 18th** a class, "Balance with Barb", was started to provide gentle exercises and tips for keeping your body balanced and flexible. The class was led by Barbara Smith and attended primarily by the older members interested in "staying upright".

A joint Thanksgiving service hosted by Morris Memorial Methodist Church was held on Sunday, **November 24th** along with St. Agnes Catholic Church and Village Chapel. A reception followed the service.

Over **2024**, twelve individuals joined or rejoined the church. In April, Matt and Raechel Chambers from the First Presbyterian Church in Ashland, KY; Bob and Patty Pogue from Stone Presbyterian Church in Wheeling, WV; and Cindy Sloan from the Elk Hills Presbyterian Church. In September, Meg Green transferred her membership from the Bible Center in Charleston and Vicki and Mike Frisk, previous Village members who moved to Florida several years ago, rejoined Village Chapel. The Frisks have participated in church services and meetings via virtual services and meetings. In December, Bobby Lee Rhom Knight joined Village Chapel by baptism and profession of faith and Tina Renee Bairefoot joined by reaffirmation of faith. Four of these individuals (Matt Chambers, Raechel Chambers, Vicki Frisk, and Mike Frisk) were featured in a New Member Spotlight in the **November** issue of The Villager.

In **2024,** the church lost three long-standing members – Kathryn Ann Hickman McCrary; Sherry S. Russell and David Allen Dawson.

Kathryn, in addition to being a member of Village Chapel, was a dedicated Christian Educator with both Village Chapel and Ruffner Memorial churches. She eventually became the Associate Presbyter for Education, Presbytery of West Virginia. In addition to other honors received, her many contributions to the Presbyterian Church were recognized when she was given a Life Achievement Award from the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and a Life Membership by the Presbyterian Women at Village Chapel.

David Dawson was also a long-time member of the church serving as a Sunday School teacher and member of the choir. "Dave spent many hours researching and preparing for Sunday School lessons over the years – it was one of his greatest passions.

In December, when the Christmas decorations were removed from storage, a box of Chrismon decorations made by two previous ladies of the church, Evelyn McClure and Mildred Wrenn were discovered. The word "Chrismon" comes from the words "Christ" and "monogram" meaning symbols of Christ. Traditionally, the symbols are white and gold—the white representing the "Purity of the Lord" and the gold "His Nobility". It was a real joy to see these placed on a tree in the narthex where everyone could enjoy them!

**VILLAGE CHAPEL'S 75th ANNIVERSARY!**
**1950 - 2025**

At the beginning of its Anniversary Year, **2025**, the church statistical report indicated the total active members as 171. Of this number, 104 were women and 67 were men. One hundred percent were listed as white. The age ranges listed were:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17 and under | 1 | .01% |
| 18 – 25 | 5 | .03% |
| 26 – 40 | 42 | .25% |
| 41 – 55 | 12 | .07% |
| 56 – 70 | 47 | .27% |
| Over 70 | 64 | .37% |
| | 171 | 100% |

The year **2025** brought a number of happy and unhappy occurrences.

On Sunday**, February 2nd** at 3:00 p.m. a memorial service was held for Nancy Beane Wallace, mother of Amy Wallace Parker and a member of the Church. Nancy was a wonderful musician and piano player, often playing duets with Sharon Curnutte, which in recent times even included videos of her playing from her home.

On a happy note, the Church, under the leadership of Barbara Tabaretti, Kathy Kruk, Debbie Sockman, and Vicki Cunningham held a bridal shower and brunch in honor of Ellan Ann Sockman as she looks to her marriage in the spring of 2025.

As an outcome of the Thriving Congregations project, a Men's Dinner Group was organized by Roger Sockman. This group involves men of the Church coming together once a month to go out to local restaurants for food and fellowship. This activity has gradually increased in attendance, and the group enjoys sampling a variety of Charleston restaurants.

The children's Thriving Congregation initiative with Chamberlain Elementary School continues to "thrive" with the congregation providing backpacks in the fall and attending birthday luncheons and a variety of activities for the children.

On Sunday, **March 2nd**, the Church celebrated Jule Sockman's 102nd birthday with bagpipes as part of the service and a special reception after the worship service in the Jule Sockman Fellowship Hall.

In early **March**, Common Grounds, which had been located near the former location of K-Mart in upper Kanawha City closed that location and moved to the house next door! It is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This location will certainly be more convenient for Village Chapel volunteers. To facilitate transport in and out of the

facility, a ramp was constructed shortly after Common Grounds moved into their new location adjacent Village Chapel.

Prior to the actual celebration of the 75th Anniversary on **March 23rd**, the Church engaged in a number of activities related to the event as planned and organized by the 75th Anniversary Planning Team. This team included: Shannon Bland, Sandy Bowles, Jane Harich, Pat Jacobs, Kathy Kruk, Harriett Nottingham, Patti Salisbury, Rita Sockman, Roger Sockman, Sarah Stebbins, and Todd Wright.

Under the direction of Shannon Bland, youth volunteers from local schools and the Church distributed plastic bags beautifully labeled with Village Chapel and information about pick-up to homes throughout the Kanawha City area on Saturday, **March 8th** and these were then picked up on **March 15th** with a very successful gathering of food for Common Grounds.

In the weeks prior to the anniversary celebration, the pictures of the six ministers serving Village Chapel over its 75 years were moved from the Education Building classroom where they were previously hung to the Fellowship Hall, adding our current minister, Todd Wright, to the collection.

Throughout the past year, Rita Sockman, wife of Roger and daughter-in-law of Jule Sockman, gathered pictures from a variety of sources and created about ten scrapbooks which for the Anniversary and following weeks, were displayed in the alcove of the Fellowship Hall for guests and members to review. She worked with children of charter members and long-time members to identify many of the individuals portrayed in the pictures.

The creation of this history or "Snippets" from the histories, Session minutes, Presbyterian Women minutes, The Villager, documents available in many files, "word of mouth" and many other sources was created over many months by Sandy Bowles, a member of the Church since 1985 – one of those "labors of love"!!

In **January** a communication addressed to "Members and Friends" was distributed inviting them to "Save the Date! (March 23rd) to come and celebrate the anniversary of the Church's founding! It provided information about the services leading up to the March date, information about parking and the dinner which was a wonderful addition to the celebration.

In **March**, the Charleston City Council issued a proclamation with Charleston Mayor Amy Goodwin present along with Council members and representatives of Village Chapel. The Proclamation recognized Village Chapel's contributions as a Church and its service to the Charleston community.

**THE CELEBRATION**

On **March 26, 1950** Village Chapel Presbyterian Church was officially organized with 239 members – the largest charter membership of any church in the Southern Presbyterian Church! As a Church, we have several "older siblings" as Village was the ninth church to be built in the Kanawha Valley by First Presbyterian Church, four of them by Dr. J. Moody McNair who also served as the first pastor of Village Chapel.

Now, in **2025**, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Village Chapel, we are recognizing the Church and its history over these 75 years. The celebration has been planned to extend over a period of ten weeks beginning with **January 19th** and concluding with the actual celebration of the birth of the church on **March 23rd**. The services prior to the "birth date" will follow the pattern of the services with each decade beginning with the 1950s. The bulletins for each of the services will use the same format and order of worship of each of the decades. Also, for each service, a different communion set will be used. For example, for the first service representing the 1950s, the communion ware decorated with a grape pattern on the pitcher and goblet, was used. The communion ware was donated by Kathyrn McCrary who began her work at Village Chapel in 1953. For each of the services, on alternate weeks, five individuals who have had a significant connection to Village Chapel were invited to come back to participate in a worship service. A bit about each of the services, the individuals participating and how Village Chapel has influenced their life follows.

**Denny Dodson**
**January 19, 2025**

The first guest preacher to participate in the Anniversary Celebration was the Reverend Denny Dodson. Denny is the son of Elmer and Polly Dodson, charter members in 1950. He is also the first child to be baptized in the Church. Denny grew up here at Village Chapel and went on to be ordained as a minister of the word and sacrament. He currently serves the Belle Presbyterian Church. Within Denny's sermon, he made reference to his growing up in the Church and how his experiences here impacted his life and his choice to go on to become a minister. At the end of the service, he provided the following benediction in song:

May blessings be upon you Village Chapel,
As you celebrate the years you've had.
You've done so very much with all the lives you've touched
Through times of joy and those times that were a little sad.
You started out with only a few good members,
But with fate you managed to be strong,
You built community your faith was plain to see
God's work through you has lasted oh so long.
The children that you raised were good seeds planted,

You watched them grow; you nurtured them along the way,
You helped them understand for them God has a plan
They too will be the church in their own day.
It has been a good day to be with you,
I feel God's spirt in this saintly room
The memories run deep to mingle with the sheep
That God has called to make his flowers bloom.
And as you go today away from this place,
Share the word of God with all you see,
Put a smile upon your face,
Share God's love and grace,
Be at peace with God through all eternity.
May blessings be upon you, Village Chapel
Go in peace.

As an addition, this service also included the ordination of elders for the Class of 2027 which includes Heather Barry, Matt Chambers, Bob Pogue, and Vicki Frisk. Vicki was unable to attend and will be installed at a later date. Kelsey Rorrer will continue another year as the Youth elder on the Session.

**Nelle Dodson Howard**
**February 2, 2015**

The second guest presenter, two weeks later on **February 2nd** and representing the decade of the 1970s, was Nellie Dodson Howard. Nelle was also the daughter of Elmer and Polly Dodson, and the sister of Rev. Denny Dodson who represented the 1950s. The communion set on this day was a simple white set with a golden cross on the pitcher and goblet. The title of Nelle's sermon was "I Think I Love You" and the theme of Love permeated the Call to Worship, the Prayer of Confession and the Scripture Lesson which was First Corinthians 13: 1-13 which speaks of love . . . "all their spiritual gifts are as nothing unless they have love, which is the greatest gift of all." The hymns for Nelle's service were "God of the Ages" and "For the Beauty of the Earth". This service also included the Sacrament of Communion.

**Daniel "Dan" Bowles**
**February 16, 2025**

Our third guest speaker was Dan Bowles, son of John and Sandy Bowles representing the decade of the 1990s. The amethyst communion set used in this service was a gift to the Church in 1997 in memory of Michael David Bowles by his parents. Dan used Luke 5:1-11 which speaks of Jesus instructing his disciples to "fish for people" and the title of his sermon was "Have You Been Caught"? Dan spoke of "Being Caught" by Village Chapel, his

Presbyterian church in Oak Ridge, North Carolina and for the last seven years, by a group of men active in F3 Nation, a group which empowers men through the principles of Fitness, Fellowship and Faith while also promoting a belief in something bigger than oneself. Dan spoke of how Village Chapel influenced him as he participated in Youth Fellowship, particularly activities he engaged in during his junior and senior high years including Youth Sunday and his doing the sermon as a senior. Dan also spoke of his other involvements including his marriage to his wife, Leslie; the baptism of their first daughter, Macy; his drawings of bulletin covers; and his doing the Eulogy for his father. The hymns, "Earth and All Stars" and "Here I Am, Lord" spoke to his faith.

The bulletin in the 1990s included a "statement of purpose" which was adopted by the Session in 1995 and was prominently displayed on the cover:

> Village Chapel is a congregation of God's people. We know God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We are called to do God's work in the world.
>
> Our mission is to accomplish God's work through evangelism, service and prophetic witness (God's message to society). To equip ourselves for this mission: We worship God. We study God's Word. We minister to one another.

**Kari Preslar**
**February 23, 2025**

Kari Preslar served as the Director of Christian Education for Village Chapel (??) in the mid-1990s. She was the guest presenter on Sunday, **February 23rd** representing the decade of the 2000s. The Affirmation of Faith was from The Study Catechism 1998 of the PCUSA, Question 80:

> What do you mean when you speak of "the forgiveness of sins"?
>
> That because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone, not my merits, is the basis on which God has forgiven me in him. Faith alone, not my works, is the means by which I receive me in him. Faith alone, not my works, is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.

**Frank Mansell, III**
**March 23, 2025**

The Service of Celebration of Village Chapel's 75th Anniversary took place on **March 23rd**, **2025**. The service began with a ringing of chimes followed by a procession of the acolytes, Paul and Addison Markham, the ministers, and the choir. The service was

proceeded by the dedication of a new cross. This cross was created out of raw steel and copper recycled from the original church steeple that had to be removed in 2024 due to leakage around the steeple. The new cross was created by metalworkers, Matt and Tessie Wallace, and gifted to the church by Charlie and Sarah Stebbins. Following the dedication and welcome to special guests, special presentations of hand drawn pictures of the church were made to Todd Wright (15 years), Amy Parker (23 years) and Sharon Curnutte (50 years).

The service continued with the call to worship and singing of the hymn, "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy", followed by the prayer of confession, assurance of pardon, and sharing of the peace. Special music by the choir was the singing of "Speak, O Lord" which was followed by the Time with Children.

The guest minister for the service was the Reverend Frank Mansell, III, the son of our previous pastor, Frank Mansell, Jr. and his wife, Joan. Frank is the pastor at Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Frank's sermon was titled, "Remember and Go" and he shared with the congregation that at age 53, nearly 80 percent of his life has been connected to Village Chapel. Since coming here at age 11, he indicated that the Church here has made an "indelible mark" on his life. He described himself, as a youngster, as a "church orphan" with his mother singing in the choir and his father the minister. It was clear that he feels a very strong connection to "this church, these people, and this place!" He also stressed the importance of not only celebrating the past, but looking forward to the future, to discover what God is calling us to do. "God is with you always in Jesus Christ, so now go tell others of that good news." Communion was served using the original silver communion set.

Following the service, Janet Rorrer took a group picture of the seated congregation, just as those taken in past anniversaries. A luncheon was served by Café Appalachia and following this, Dr. Wright shared communications from various groups. Maureen Wright brought greetings from the Presbytery of West Virginia.

All in all, it was a wonderful ten-week celebration of 75 years of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, and the Church can now look forward to its next anniversary – its Centennial!!

**A BRIEF SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND CONCERNS**

In looking to the celebration of Village Chapel's 75th Anniversary and the conclusion of this history, the author, in looking back over this document, notes some of the concerns or issues that have occurred over these seventy-five years and the notable strengths of Village Chapel.

The issues/concerns in comparison with the strengths are few, but significant. The Church's experience with purchasing properties in the neighborhood and attempting to generate money by renting these resulted in unsuccessful and frustrating experiences. Since COVID and the installation of virtual services, attendance at worship services has decreased significantly. The upside of continuing virtual services is that they are available to those unable to come to church in-person; however, they also provide reason to watch from home for those who might otherwise attend in person. Unfortunately, no longer available, but in the past, the youth program at Village was a tremendous asset not only to the Church but to the community. The Church provided significant impact on the youth growing up in the Church as validated by the four speakers involved in the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Today's Church activities reflect little involvement of the youth of the Church family. And this leads to the greatest concern – the decrease in numbers of young families and young people with a concomitant increase in the "greying congregation" particularly since COVID. This raises the serious question, "How long can Village Chapel continue to function/thrive as it loses active membership through the gradual demise of the aging congregation?"

On the positive side, Village Chapel Presbyterian Church has many strengths! In reading the artifacts of the Church's history, the most striking thing is that it is a caring and giving Church and this is consistently reiterated across its seventy-five-year history. When one considers the number of gifts Village Chapel has donated to community agencies over and over throughout its history, it is amazing! The number of "special" giving opportunities that have been provided for not only organizations, but to assist individuals and families reflects upon the inherent caring and concern for the members of the congregation, the Church, the greater Church, and the community. If one were to do a "search" for agencies like Common Grounds, Manna Meal, Sojourners, Bluestone, Covenant House, and the list goes on, these are mentioned almost annually.

Closer to the Church, Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, whenever it has needed additions, renovations, repairs, whether a building addition or lightbulbs, the congregation has stepped up to provide the funding whether through special fund-raising opportunities, increased giving, anonymous donors, or other means, there is little or no evidence of the necessary funding being unavailable. The provision of a furnace for a member, cleaning out a member's home to make it more livable, providing funds for scholarships or books for students, the institution of "Pay-it-Forward" to make necessities for the underprivileged at no cost other than asking partakers to "do something good for others" provides further evidence of a "giving church". Community giving and continued community outreach at Village Chapel are amazing!

It is a concerned Church as evidenced by the institution and continuation of the Prayer List, the Shepherd's Program to keep in contact with the membership, particularly in times of distress. The support of bereaved families with providing food and fellowship for funeral services. For providing food for the homebound through the "Soup" program and traveling communion for those unable to attend worship and communion services provide ongoing evidence of a concerned entity.

Over its history, Village Chapel has been blessed with good leadership. The six pastors have been caring, flexible, supportive, and have encouraged the Church's involvement, community outreach and the internal needs of the Church. Most have been involved not only in Village Chapel activities, but in the Presbytery and in ecumenical activities of area churches. Over the years the continuation of ecumenical services not only among the four "parish" Presbyterian churches, but services with other denominations have been well received. They have engaged in creative planning, particularly with involvement with the arts and the recent activities with the Thriving Congregation initiative.

Music has been a strength of Village Chapel with long-standing and talented leadership. When children were active, the inclusion of children in musical programming was well done. The involvement of area musicians in special services has been a very positive addition to the regular choir and instrumental programming. Members of the congregation have said "they come to Village to enjoy the music"!

**CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, the preparation of this document, the gathering of "snippets" of the history of the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church from a multitude of sources has been a very interesting and personally rewarding experience. I have relied on those individuals who have noted the history of the Church in their minutes, notes, letters, personal interactions, etc. to gather the information and record it sequentially. Of course, there are a lot of "snippets" missing for a variety of reasons; however, the content and appendixes reflect a great deal of the Church's seventy-five years. It is my hope that this "collection" will serve to be of some value to those who are interested in planning for change in the Church or of the continued evolution of Village Chapel. And, when the time comes for the celebration of its Centennial, that this document and the filed supportive documents will provide a foundation for writing the 100th Anniversary History!!

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## APPENDIX A

## CLERGY AT VILLAGE CHAPEL

## VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PASTORS

**J. Moody McNair**
September 10, 1950 – January 10, 1954

**Hugh Fredrick Ash**
November 1, 1954 – February 28, 1959

**James Renwick Kennedy**
October 10, 1959 – August 1, 1968

**Conrad G. Crow**
February 23, 1969 – June 30, 1983

**William Franklin Mansell, Jr.**
November 13, 1983 – September 30, 2006

**Todd R. Wright**
June 1, 2009 - Present

## ASSOCIATE AND INTERIM MINISTERS

**Michael E. Williams (Assistant Pastor)**
September 1971 – May 1995

**Felicia Stewart Hoyle (Assistant to the Pastor)**
October 1995 – May 2001

**William A. Benfield (Interim Pastor**)
July 1982 – December 1982 and March 1983 – August 1983

**J. Harrell Harper (Interim Pastor)**
March 1983 – November 1983

**Amy Wallace Parker (Pastoral Assistant; Minister of Education and the Arts)**
October 1, 2002 - Present

**Robert E. Lee (Interim)**
March 1, 2007 – May 31, 2009

## APPENDIX B

## SUMMER INTERNS AT VILLAGE CHAPEL

## SUMMER INTERNS AT VILLAGE CHAPEL

1995 Robyn Garrison (McMullen)

1996 Stephanie Hanson (Boaz)

1997 Bridget Nichols and Elizabeth Terrell

1998 Amy Salmon (Lincoln)

1999 Matthew Camlin

2000 Anne Ross

2001 Jerry Deck
Ordained at Village Chapel May 15, 2005, Installed as designated pastor of the Zionsville Presbyterian Church, Zionsville, Indiana on February 23, 2014

2002 None

2003 Alice Plotts

2004 None

2005 None

2006 Christa Brewer

## APPENDIX C

## INDIVIDUALS SERVING AS SECRETARY OF THE CHUCH

## INDIVIDUALS SERVING AS VILLAGE CHAPEL SECRETARY

| | |
|---|---|
| 1950 – 1956 | Not Identified |
| 1956 – 1982 | Jane King |
| 1982 – 1982 | Mrs. Richard Wells |
| 1982 – 1989 | Nancy Cole |
| 1989 – 2012 | Linda Meadows |
| 2012 – 2017 | Terry Asseff |
| 2017 – 2019 | Mary Howard |
| 2019 – Present | Leslie Bremar |

# APPENDIX D

# NEW BEGINNINGS

# NEW BEGINNINGS

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 1946 | **Women's Circle (1)** of 35 members began to meet when the early Church was meeting at Horace Mann Junior High School. |
| 1981 | The Women of the Church began collecting **2 Cents a Meal** offering on the last Sundays of November and December. |
| 1981 | The Reuter **organ** in the sanctuary was dedicated. |
| 1981 | Village Chapel provided support to **Covenant House and Manna Meal** as part of its community outreach. |
| 1984 | **Process to elect Nominating Committee** revised to elect seven members from fourteen individuals nominated by the congregation and two named by the Session. |
| 1984 | The Women of the Church (WOC) formed a **Prayer Chain** under the Personal Faith and Family Life Committee. |
| 1986 | Village Chapel became a **corporation with three Trustees.** |
| 1990 | The **Shepherd's Program** was initiated. |
| 1990 | **Blue Hymnals** were dedicated. |
| 1991 | Mildred Wrenn & Evelyn McClure began to assemble **book bags for children** to use when attending worship service. |
| 1991 | The Church celebrated **Worship in the Park** at Coonskin Park. |
| 1995 | Village Chapel participated in **Souper Bowl Sunday** for the first time. |
| 1998 | **Passing of the Peace** added to worship services to help foster fellowship among the congregation. |
| 1998 | **Care of Members Committee** initiated. |
| 2000 | Session Committees became **Ministry Teams with Ministry Team Leaders.** |
| 2000 | Five Teams of Elders began taking **Traveling Communion t**o those unable to attend Church. |

2000 The Worship Ministry Team began placing **roses--**white for a birth or red for a death and a card recognizing the individual on the Communion Table. Following the service, the rose and the card were given, or taken, to the family.

2000 **Grand Friends** program was established at Marmet Elementary School. Members of the congregation and Rev. Mansell went weekly to the school for a Read Aloud Program as well as to serve as mentors for the children.

2000 A **Prayer Basket** was placed in the narthex with request slips which the congregation could fill out and place in the basket prior to the service. When requests were made, the basket/prayer request were carried forward by the acolyte(s) to be available to the minister to read during "Prayers for the People".

2001 On All Saint's Day, those who died in the past year were recognized with the announcement of their name followed by a **"chime"** and the congregation's response, "Praise be to God for the life of Name" followed by a pause prior to announcing the next name.

2004 The Session approved adding a **youth member** to the **Session** serving a one-year term. This brought the number on the Session to 19 and provided input from the younger members of the congregation.

2004 Members of the congregation gathered at Vicki and Ira's home to **prepare gift bags for residents of the Veteran's Home in Barboursville**.

2006 Session **reduced the number of elders from 18 to 15.** The previous addition of a youth elder, when available, made the total Session number 16.

2008 The Church joined with St. Agnes Catholic Church and Morris Memorial Methodist Church to offer **Common Grounds** services to eligible individuals and families in the community.

2009 The **2 Cents a Meal** (Cents Ability) collection changed to the **last Sunday of every month for the congregation.**

2009 **Pay it Forward** sale was initiated.

2009 The addition of a **second person to "count"** the collection each time to bring Village Chapel into compliance with the Book of Order.

2009 **Close Encounters** – puppetry and music program for children initiated.

2010 **Coffee and Conversation** – As Sunday School was discontinued during the summer months, the adults were invited to read a series of articles each week and gather during the hour prior to the worship service to discuss these.

2010 **Health Support Fund** available for congregation members needing assistance with health care costs.

2010 A 40-hour **Easter Vigil** was done from 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday until the Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. Members of the congregation signed up to serve for one hour to keep watch, pray, sing, read scripture and meditate.

2010 On days when there is to be a **baptism** or baptism is highlighted in worship (Baptism of the Lord Sunday) the **font is to be moved to the center of the chancel** and that water be poured into the font on ALL Sundays.

2014 **Ashes to Go** – Ashes made available at Town Center Mall.

2014 Institution of a "**New Funeral Policy**" that stresses the importance of the Church providing a meal as part of the reception. Also, the document, "**Planning for the Time of Death**" was made available for individuals to complete and make available to their family and to the Church.

2015 Village Chapel began offering **Blood Drives** with two scheduled in 2015. In Subsequent years the church offered four each year.

2016 **Sunday Morning Cards for Members** displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Members can sign cards for those members and friends currently dealing with illness, grief, homebound, celebrations, thank you, etc. The Membership Ministry Team will address and mail the card.

2016 Aud**io of worship services** was made available on the church website: vcpresby.com/audio-of-worship-service.

2017 The **number of Elders serving on the Session shall be 12**, with the possibility of a 13th by having a youth member serving a one-year term.

2017 Kanawha City congregations from area churches met at Village Chapel for a "**Carrying of the Cross**" over a two-mile distance, stopping seven times to reflect on the last words of Christ.

2017 Village signed on to the **Kroger Rewards** program. Any member who signed up for the program will have a certain amount donated by Kroger to the Church when they use their Kroger card.

2018 **Blessing Bags**, containing basic needs, were filled and made available for the congregation to "give out" to those in need.

2019 A "**Free Library**" using re-purposed materials from the Habitat Resale Store was built in 2015 and was this year installed at the 39th Street corner. It offers books that may be borrowed or exchanged as well as seasonal items such as scarves, gloves, etc.

2021 Decision made to **incorporate** Village Chapel. Incorporation was achieved on January 1, 2022.

2021 Property Ministry Team created **notebook of property item concerns/ record(s).**

2021 Communion was delivered using a **cube of bread and a grape** inserted on a toothpick to minimize contact with others during in-person services following COVID-19.

2021 During the COVID-19 pandemic, the necessary hardware and software was purchased and the staff learned to use this to **deliver virtual services**.

2022 A **Safety and Security Policy** was approved by the Session

2022 The first **Village Apartment picnic** was held.

2023 The decision was made to **install solar panels** to decrease the electrical bills.

2023 The front four rows of **pews were replaced by upholstered chairs** in the sanctuary.

2023 Members of the congregation began to do **"prayer walks"** in the vicinity of the church.

2023 The **Vandalia Rotary Club** began having meetings at Village Chapel on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

## APPENDIX E

## CHARTER MEMBERSHIP
## 1950

# CHARTER MEMBERSHIP
# VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
# 1950

Mrs. W. M. Anderson
Mr. George E. Archibald
Mrs. George e. Archibald
Mr. John C. Arter
Mrs. John C. Arter
Mr. Clarence Arthur
Mrs. Clarence Arthur
Miss Betty Lou Arthur
Mr. J. W. Arthur
Mrs. J. W. Arthur
Tommy Bailes
Mr. Earl Bailey
Mrs. Earl Bailey
Ernest L. Bailey
Mary I. Bailey
Mr. Lon H. Barringer, Sr.
Mrs. Lon H. Barringer Sr.
Mr. Lon H. Barringer, Jr.
Mr. Thomas V. Beatty
Mrs. Thomas V. Beatty
Mr. Robert L. Beranek
Mrs. Robert L. Beranek
Robert Beranek, Jr.
David Beranek
Mr. Doyne B. Berlien
Mrs. Doyne B. Berlien
Mrs. M. V. Bickle
Mr. Harold Black
Mrs. Harold Black
Mr. E. L. Boggs
Mrs. E. L. Boggs
Betty Jane Boggs
Judy Boggs
Mary Leslie Boggs
Mrs. Harry Brawley
Mrs. Elton S. Brown
Mr. Payne Brown
Mrs. Payne Brown
Michael Burch
Mr. Joe Burdett
Mrs. Joe Burdett
Dickie Callard
Mr. Paul D. Camp
Mrs. Paul D. Camp
Miss Joyce Ann Camp
Mr. Alfred Carrington
Mrs. Alfred Carrington
Mr. Harry K. Gidley
Mrs. Harry K. Gidley
Gordon Lee Gidley
Mrs. Ivan Gladwell
Carolyn Sue Gladwell
Mrs. Normal Gordon
Mrs. Francis M. Grimsley
Mr. Raymond W. Gross
Mrs. Raymond W. Gross
Mrs. Mary Darnold Hague
Mr. Eddie Joe Hague
Mary Margaret Hague
Mr. John W. Handlan
Mr. William Harris
Mrs. William Harris
Mr. C. R. Haynes
Mrs. C. R. Haynes
Mrs. Florence Hearne
John F. Holsclaw
W. Duncan Holsclaw
Mr. Charlotte Hughes
Mrs. W. B. Johnson
Miss Barbara Jones
Mr. Leon Jones
Mr. Kenneth Kamberg
Mrs. Kenneth Kamberg
Mr. Kenath Kettle
Mrs. Kenath Kettle
Mr. Alan H. King
Mrs. Alan H King
Mr. Donald King
Mr. Paul M. King
Mrs. Paul M. King
Mr. Wilbur Kraus
Mrs. Wilbur Kraus
Robert Kraus
Mr. Alex W. Laing, Jr.
Mrs. Alex W. Laing, Jr.
Miss Jean LaRue
Mr. R. A. LeMaster
Mrs. R. A. LeMaster
Mr. Robert George Linn
Mrs. Robert George Linn
Mrs. H. D. Litaker
Louise Litaker
Mr. Harold Litton
Mrs. Harold Litton
Mr. Lester Nicolet
Mrs. Lester Nicolet
Samuel G. Oliver
Mrs. Samuel G. Oliver
Mr. Leroy Osborn
Mrs. Leroy Osborn
Winifred Anne Osborn
Mr. Henry C. Parmer
Mrs. Henry C. Parmer
Pamela Parmer
Mr. R. B. Parrish
Mrs. R. B. Parrish
Mr. J. W. Paul
Mrs. J. W. Paul
Mr. Gene Pauley
Mrs. Gene Pauley
Mr. Donald Pitzer
Mrs. Donald Pitzer
Donald Edward Pitzer
Mr. Gordon Preston
Mrs. Gordon Preston
Miss Beverly Pullen
Mr. William C. Reichard
Miss Patricia Ricks
Mr. Jerry A. Rogers
Mrs. Jerry A. Rogers
Mr. C. J. Rose
Mrs. C. J. Rose
Mrs. Paul Schneider
Mr. John H. Shadle
Mrs. John H. Shadle
Mr. George W. Shetler
Mr. L. K. Simpson
Mrs. L. K. Simpson
Mr. Frank H. Smith
Mrs. Frank H. Smith
Mr. Paul A. Snyder
Mrs. Paul A. Snyder
Betty Jean Snyder
John Latour Snyder
Mr. Julian H. Sockman
Mrs. Julian H. Sockman
Mr. Joseph Soto
Mrs. Joseph Soto
Linda Lee Soto
Mr. James V. Stanley
Mrs. James V. Stanley

Alfred Baskerville Carrington, Jr.
Mr. Willis Chambers
Mrs. Willis Chambers
William Chambers
Mr. Fleming C. Chisholm
Mrs. Fleming C. Chisholm
Mr. Friend Crider Cochran
Mrs. Friend Crider Cochran
Mr. George Cochran
Mary Elizabeth Cochran
Mrs. Don L. Cook
Mr. W. F. Comstock
Mr. Donald L. Cork
Mrs. Donald L. Cork
Mr. Edward C. Cork
Mrs. Edward C. Cork
Ben Cork
Susan Cork
Mary Louise Cork
Catherine Cork
Harriet Cork
Mrs. E. C. Crews
Martha Crews
Mr. Bruce Davis
Mrs. Bruce Davis
Miss Ann Davis
Karen Davis
Mr. James B. Dilger
Mrs. James B. Dilger
Mr. Elmer Dodson
Mrs. Elmer Dodson
Marie Putnam Duduit
Mrs. Anne Louise Empkie
Julie Ann Empkie
Mr. R. G. Eversole
Mrs. R. G. Eversole
John A. Field, Jr.
Mrs. I. B. Foster
Mrs. Edward C. Frank
Mr. Samuel A. Gardner
Mrs. Samuel A. Gardner
Miss Helen Geary
Mrs. John R. Gherman
Mrs. Jack Gibson
Mr. W. M. Lowman
Mrs. W. M. Lowman
Mr. M. M. Maloney
Mrs. M. N. Maloney
Miss Harriet Lou Maloney
Mr. Hugh A. Markey
Mrs. Hugh A. Markey
Mr. Jules A. Martin
Mrs. Jules A. Martin
Mr. R. G. Massey
Mrs. R. G. Massey
Mr. Robert B. McCue
Mrs. Rober B. McCue
Mr. J. T. McNutt, Jr.
Mrs. J. T. McNutt, Jr.
Mr. John R. Mendenhall
Mrs. John R. Mendenhall
Mr. Floyd Messner
Mrs. Floyd Messner
Mr. Harold Miller
Mrs. Harold Miller
Danny Miller
Jerry Miller
Mrs. Lillian B. Miller
Carol Suzanne Miller
Mr. Wm. C. Mitchell, Jr.
Mrs. Wm. C. Mitchell, Jr.
Mr. P. J. Moore
Mrs. P. J. Moore
Mrs. P. J. Moore, Jr.
Mr. William Moore
Mrs. William Moore
Mr. John D. Morgan
John Dee Morgan
Mr. Lewis Morgan
Mrs. Lewis Morgan
Mr. Leslie R. Morris
Mrs. Leslie R. Morris
Mr. C. P. Murrey
Mrs. C. P. Murray
Mrs. Newman H. Newhouse
Mrs. S. L. Nichols
Mr. Fred E. Nicholson
Mrs. Fred E. Nicholson
Mr. H. L. Stock
Mrs. H. L. Stock
Mr. J. H. Sturges
Mrs. J. H. Sturges
Mr. John Frank Suter
Mrs. John Frank Suter
Mrs. B. F. Thomas
Mr. Herbert Tully
Mrs. Herbert Tully
Sandra Lee Vaughan
Clyde Byron Vaughan
Mr. Herbert Vaughan
Mrs. Herbert Vaughan
Mr. J. W. Wantling
Mrs. J. W. Wantling
Mr. Kermit West
Mrs. Kermit West
Miss Betty West
Mrs. Gertrude Byrne White
Mrs. Raymond Wigington
Billy Wigington
Mr. George l. Wilson
Mrs. George L. Wilson
Mr. Fred W. Wiseman
Mrs. Fred W. Wiseman
Nancy Lee Wiseman
Mr. H. B. Wolfe
Mrs. H. B. Wolfe
Miss Ernestine Wolfe
Mr. Maurice Wooddell
Mrs. Maurice Wooddell
Mr. Fred Work
Mrs. Fred Work
Mr. Kenneth F. Wrenn
Mrs. Kenneth F. Wrenn
Kenneth Frederick Wrenn, Jr.
Mr. Paul J Wright
Mrs. Paul J. Wright
James Wright
Mr. Stewart M. Yarbro
Mrs. Stewart M. Yarbro
Stewart M. Yarbro, Jr.
Mr. Ralph C. Young, Jr.
Mrs. Ralph C. Young, Jr.

## APPENDIX F

## ACTIVE MEMBERS – MARCH 22, 2000
## "50th ANNIVERSARY

## VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
## Active Members – March 22, 2000
## "50th Anniversary"

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Glenna Adams | Jeannie Allen | Larry Allen | Bill Anderson |
| Betty Arthur* | Jim Arthur* | Lou Arthur* | Susan Bays |
| Jean Blair | Paula Bland | Shannon Bland | Greg Blank |
| Kathy Blank | Keri Blank | Daniel Bowles | Elizabeth Bowles |
| John Bowles | Sandra Bowles | Bill Brackenridge | Betty Brawley* |
| Jennifer Britton | Gerry Brown | Lucy Brown | Sarah Brown |
| Jill Burford | Betty Burton* | Lib Cabell | Alma Cadle |
| Bobby Caldwell | Dorothy Caldwell | John Callard, II | Jeffrey Callard |
| Richard Callard* | Sharon Callard | Bob Campbell, Jr. | Bob Campbell, Sr |
| Brook Campbell | Clarke Campbell | David Campbell | Jason Campbell |
| Mary Ann Campbell | Patti Campbell | Sandy Campbell | Shirley Campbell |
| Mike Carey | Pat Carey | Chris Carney | Bill Chevalier |
| Blanche Chevalier | Beth Chiparo | Jeff Chiparo | Sally Clark |
| Dick Clendenin | Lynn Clendenin | Molly Clingenpeel | Bill Coffey |
| Inez Coleman | Adam Cook | Karen Cook | Rick Cook |
| Peggy Cooley | Barry Cunningham | Jan H. Cunningham | Ryan Cunningham |
| Vicki Cunningham | Brian Curnutte | Daniel Curnutte | Doug Curnutte |
| Scott Curnutte | Sharon Curnutte | Steve Curnutte | Emily Danzer |
| Sheila Danzer | Warren Danzer | Mary Arnold Dillon | Barry Dobson |
| Cindy Dobson | Kate Dobson | Polly Dodson* | Ray Dodson |
| Nova Duff | Helen Eberbaugh | Robin Edens | Bill Ellis |
| Dianne Ellis | Heather Ellis | Marissa Ellis | Camden Ferrell |
| Bill Field | Christopher Field | Colleen Field | Perry Field |
| Ryan Field | Martha Foster | Melissa France | John France |
| Beth Friske | Michael Friske | Mike Frisk | Vicki Frisk |
| Geoffrey Gage | Katie Gage | Nathan Gerencir | Marcelen Gatewood |
| Mabel Gladfelter | Sue Graham | Roger Griffith | Jack Grimm |
| Peter Grimm | Sheila Grimm | Margaret Grizzell | Celeste Gunnoe |
| Nancy Gunnoe | Judy Haddock | Chad Hall | Cindy Hanna |
| Debbie Hanna | Jennifer Hanna | Laura Hanna | Rick Hanna |
| Sam Hanna | Betty Hanson | Bob Harding | Patty Harding |
| Bill Hardman | Curtis Harman | Jonathan Hardman | Demetrice Hardman |
| Candice Hawley | John Hawley | Mary Haynes* | Tish Hodovan |
| Joyce Holden | Carolyn Houston | David Hoy | Harriet Hoy |
| Anita Jackson | Mary Jackson | Tom Jackson | Pat Jacobs |
| Rhonda Jacobs | Jonathan Jarrett | Linda Jarrett | Mike Jarrett |
| Richie Jarrett | Chris Johnson | Paige Johnson | Patricia Johnson |
| Alan Johnston | Nancy Johnston | Brenda Jones | Emmalee Jones |
| Eric Jones | Gray Jones | Heather Jones | Larry Jones |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Marshall Jones | Candace Joseph | Fred Joseph | David Joslin |
| Dottie Joslin | Laura Joslin | Marilyn Joslin | Mary Lee Jung |
| Bill King, II | Bob King | Bruce King, Jr. | Jane King* |
| Julie King | Betty Kizer | Lynn Kramer | Barbara Kruk |
| Hazel Kuhn | Betty LeClere | Becky Lippitt | Eloise Litton* |
| Harold Litton* | Phyllis Livesay | Luke Mafazy | Terri Mafazy |
| Corena Maiden | Joan Mansell | Frank Mansell, II | Hugh Markey* |
| Penn Markham | Katie Martin | Lou Maxson | Cathy McClung |
| Grace McClung | Mike McClung | Buford McClure | Evelyn McClure |
| Bill McCrary | George McCrary | Kathryn McCrary | Jane McNeil |
| Ken McNeil | Linda Meadows | Kemp Melton | Mae Melton |
| Mary Ruth Misiti | Sara Misiti | Dot Moore | Jo Ann Moore |
| Mildred Moore | Ronald Moore | Margaret Morgan | Louise Morris |
| Sally Mullins | Curt Mullins | Charlotte Murphy | Mary Nickell |
| Isabel Oxley | Paul Oxley | Joanie Panger | Mike Pang |
| David Parks | Heather Parks | Dot Peden | Robert Peden |
| Betty Perkins | Carolyn Perrine | Terry Perrine | Whitney Perrine |
| Mary Jane Pickens | Rick Pickens | Don Pitzer* | Brian Pratt |
| Linette Pratt | Charles Priestley | Blanche Priestley | Deshele Randolph |
| Wilma Reichard | Sharon Richardson | Bethany Robertson | John Robertson |
| Kim Robertson | Howard Salisbury | Patti Salisbury | Amanda Sampson |
| David Sampson | Matthew Sampson | Eric Schwarz | Jack Schwarz |
| Shirley Schwarz | Buel Sears | Margaret Sears | Sara Sears |
| Kay Shamblin | Lynn Sheets | George Singleton | Helen Singleton |
| Jeffrey Singleton | Berry Skaggs | Lynne Slamick | Sara Slamick |
| Becky Smith | Dorcas Smith | Kathryn Smith | Erin Snyder |
| Paul Snyder* | Ruth Snyder* | Jule Sockman* | Mary Sowards |
| Gretchen Spella | Carolyn Stevens | Alatheia Stickler | Danny Stickler |
| Zela Stover | Nancy Stump | Andrea Tetrick | Jessica Tetrick |
| Kim Tetrick | Rick Tetrick | Bob Trost | Phoebe Trost |
| Vande Linde, Alice | Bonnie Waggy | Gene Waggy | Nellie Wagner |
| Jean Wallace | Aleshia Weekley | Christie Werkman | Maisie Whitlock |
| Sandra Wilkerson | Jennifer Wilson | Trippi Wisecup | Tommy Wiseman* |
| Mildred Wrenn* | Jack York | Pat York | Sandra Zubick |

**APPENDIX G**

**"75TH ANNIVERSARY"**

**CURRENT MEMBERS**
**MARCH 23, 2025**

## Current Members (2025)
## “75 Anniversary”

| NAME | PREFERRED NAME | DATE RECEIVED |
|---|---|---|
| Tina Renee Bairfoot | Tina | 12/22/2024 |
| John Macintosh Barry | John | 05/14/2000 |
| Heather Hatcher Barry | Heather | 05/14/2000 |
| Hallie Catherine Barry | Hallie | 04/09/2006 |
| Frances Elaine Barry | Elaine | 03/28/2010 |
| Paula Bland | Paula | 04/22/1998 |
| Shannon Maxwell Bland | Shannon | 05/16/1999 |
| Robert Noell Bland | Noell | 05/16/1999 |
| Jackson Doran Bland | Jack | 05/22/2016 |
| Andrew Maxwell Bland | Max | 05/22/2016 |
| Kevin Thomas Blank | Kevin | 04/08/2001 |
| Steven Kyle Blank | Kyle | 04/04/2004 |
| T’Aja Binegar Blank | T’Aja | 06/04/2023 |
| Sandra Lee Sulsberger Bowles | Sandy | 09/08/1985 |
| Krista Louise Brogan | Krista Louise | 04/08/2001 |
| Susan Lea Caldwell Bays | Susan | 04/15/1973 |
| Sharon Kinder Callard | Sharon | 06/16/1974 |
| Matthew Paul Chambers | Matt | 04/07/2024 |
| Raechel Michelle Chambers | Raechel | 04/07/2024 |
| Blanche Chevalier | Blanche | 09/28/1958 |
| Elizabeth Ann Richardson Chiparo | Beth | 03/23/1975 |
| Jeffrey Anthong Chiparo | Jeff | 11/10/1991 |
| Adam Joshua Cook | Adam | 03/04/1999 |
| Lauren Alexandra Cook | Alex | 04/09/2006 |
| Erin Elizabeth Cook | Erin | 03/16/2008 |
| Mary Kaitlyn Cook | Katie | 03/16/2008 |
| Sandra Copeland | Sandra | 04/15/2012 |
| Vicki Lynn Moore Cunningham | Vicki | 05/04/1986 |
| Barry Andrew Ratburn Cunningham | Barry | 04/04/1993 |
| Larry Douglas Curnutte | Larry | 01/23/1972 |
| Sharron Joy Shingleton Curnutte | Sharon | 01/23/1972 |
| Scott Allen Curnutte | Scott | 12/24/1977 |
| James Brian Curnutte | Brian | 04/08/1982 |
| Sheila Ann Danzer | Sheila | 12/05/1993 |
| Warren Keith Danzer | Warren | 12/05/1993 |
| Laura Leigh Hanna Duray | Laura | 04/05/1997 |
| Dianne Sundstrom Ellis | Dianne | 11/23/1969 |
| Donzella Fleck | Donzy | 12/20/2006 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Fleck | John | 12/20/2006 |
| Kate Nicole Dobson Forman | Kate | 03/28/1999 |
| Martha B. Foster | Martha | 09/05/1993 |
| Mary Melissa France | Melissa | 04/02/1969 |
| John M. France | John | 03/03/1985 |
| William Carter France | Carter | 04/08/2001 |
| Julia Marie France | Julie | 03/16/2008 |
| Fredrick Michael Frisk | Mike | 08/15/2024 |
| Victoria Rhodes Frisk | Vicki | 08/15/2024 |
| Sarah Hoy Sears Gottlieb | Sarah | 06/12/1994 |
| Meg Green | Meg | 09/15/2024 |
| Peter Jackson Grimm | Peter | 03/27/1997 |
| Sheila Corbitt Grimm | Sheila | 10/13/1996 |
| Jack Call Grimm | Jack | 12/13/1996 |
| Lynn Gunnoe | Lynn | 07/20/1997 |
| Judith Ann Haddock | Judy | 09/22/1996 |
| Richard Mark Hanna | Rick | 04/12/1981 |
| Debbie Hanna | Debbie | 04/12/1981 |
| Cynthia Wilkerson Hanna | Cindy | 06/12/1994 |
| Fredrick Jameson Hanna | Jamie | 04/09/2006 |
| Jane Yeager Harich | Jane | 10/13/2002 |
| Christopher Herndon Harich | Christopher | 12/29/2002 |
| Philip Louis Harich | Phil | 10/13/2002 |
| John Wesley Hawley | John | 09/08/1996 |
| Candice Hawley | Candy | 09/08/1996 |
| Robert Hiser | Bob | 10/21/2018 |
| Letitia Hodovan | Tish | 09/09/1979 |
| George Patrick Jacobs | Pat | 03/23/1967 |
| Rhonda Lynn Jacobs | Rhonda | 06/05/1994 |
| George Patrick Jacobs, Jr. | Jake | 04/01/2012 |
| Lillie Katherine Jacobs | Lillie | 04/01/2012 |
| Robert Alan Johnston | Alan | 01/06/1991 |
| Peggy Palmer Johnston | Peggy | 04/06/2003 |
| Robert Alan Johnston, Jr. | Bobby | 04/08/2001 |
| Keri Elizabeth Jones | Keri | 03/28/1999 |
| Robert Bruce King | Bob | 12/04/1977 |
| Julia Doak King | Julia | 12/04/1977 |
| Bruce Robert King | Bruce | 03/15/1989 |
| Margaret Sharon King | Sharon | 02/20/2006 |
| Janet C. Kinzer | Janet | 12/20/2006 |
| Bobby Lee Rhom Knight | Bobby | 12/22/2024 |
| Katherine Ann Kruk | Kathy | 04/14/1968 |
| Teresa Lawlor | Teresa | 10/21/2018 |
| Bruce Albert Lawson | Bruce | 10/23/2011 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lisa Carol Lawson | Lisa | 10/23/2011 |
| Noah Braxton Lawson | Noah | |
| Becky Lippitt | Becky | 03/23/1975 |
| Jeanne Elspeth MacDonald | Jeanne | 03/11/2001 |
| Joan Mansell | Joan | 10/02/1983 |
| Tara Marcum Markum | Tara | 03/20/2022 |
| Cathy Chevalier McClung | Cathy | 03/26/1970 |
| Dennis Michael McClung | Mike | 04/04/1982 |
| Grace Nicole McClung | Grace | 03/26/1999 |
| Joel Michael McClung | Joel | 04/06/2001 |
| Lisa Renee McClung | Lisa | 04/04/2004 |
| Linda Jean Meadows | Linda | 03/24/2006 |
| Mary Ruth Richardson Misiti | Mary Ruth | 02/05/1984 |
| Brian Michael Misiti | Brian | 04/04/2004 |
| Sharon W. Murray | Sherry | 03/18/2007 |
| Stephen Murray | Stephen | 03/18/2007 |
| Joan Myers | Joan | |
| Gerald Nottingham | Gerald | 11/03/2002 |
| Harriet Brawley Nottingham | Harriet | 11/03/2002 |
| Alexander Michael Panger | Alex | 04/09/2006 |
| Peyton Elizabeth Panger | Peyton | 04/01/2012 |
| Don Christopher Allen Parker | Don | 10/13/2002 |
| David Christopher Parks | David | 06/17/1990 |
| Heather Bland Parks | Heather | 06/17/1990 |
| Kristen Noell Parks | Kristen | 04/08/2001 |
| Tonja Parsons | Tonja | 05/15/2016 |
| Carolyn Clark Perrine | Carolyn | 01/28/1979 |
| Whitney Furness Perrine | Whitney | 04/04/1993 |
| Patricia Pogue | Patty | 04/07/2024 |
| Robert M. Pogue | Bob | 04/07/2024 |
| Maggie Powell | Maggie | 02/23/2020 |
| Angela M. Price | Angie | 05/19/2013 |
| Greg Rader | Greg | 02/26/2017 |
| Terry Rader | Terry | 02/26/2017 |
| Sharon Lynn Richardson | Sharon | 03/26/1972 |
| Kelsey Marie Rorrer | Kelsey | 05/15/2022 |
| Patti Lynn Singleton Salisbury | Patti | 03/26/1972 |
| Howard G. Salisbury | Howard | 08/03/1985 |
| David Patrick Salisbury | David | 04/09/2003 |
| Margaret Jean Sears | Maggie | 03/28/1999 |
| Ellen Elizabeth Sears | Ellen | 03/16/2008 |
| Butch Singleton | Butch | 12/10/2017 |
| Sandy Singleton | Sandy | 12/10/2017 |
| Cherrie Lynn Sizemore | Cherri | 04/20/2008 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Patty Skaff | Patty | 12/21/2008 |
| Rick Skaff | Rick | 04/15/2012 |
| Lynne Slamick | Lynne | 09/28/1980 |
| Sara Lynne Slamick | Sara | 04/01/1987 |
| Cindy Sloan | Cindy | 04/07/2024 |
| Jeffry A. Smith | Jeff | 07/26/2009 |
| Rona Charlene Smith | Rona | 07/26/2009 |
| Madison Nora Elspeth Smith | Maddy | |
| Jacob Smith | Jacob | 04/13/2014 |
| Payne Smith | Payne | 04/13/2014 |
| Barbara Jo Smith | Barb | 11/23/2014 |
| James Allbee Smith | Jim | 11/23/2014 |
| Ellen Ann Sockman | Ellen Ann | 08/09/2020 |
| Rita Sockman | Rita | 08/09/2020 |
| Roger Sockman | Roger | 08/09/2020 |
| Julian H. Sockman | Jule | 03/26/1950 |
| Charles Fleming Stebbins | Charlie | 11/03/2002 |
| Sarah Brawley Stebbins | Sarah | 11/03/2002 |
| Alatheia M. Stickler | Alatheia | 09/05/1993 |
| Samuel Reilly Stickler | Samuel | 04/01/2012 |
| Joseph Ray Stonestreet | Joey | 10/18/2020 |
| Barbara Tabaretti | Barbara | 03/18/2007 |
| Joan Thomson | Joan | 12/10/2017 |
| Nancy Lee Trotter | Nancy | 10/13/2002 |
| Sharon Lynn Waggy | Sharon | 07/26/2009 |
| Rose Ann Walker | Rose Ann | 03/21/2004 |
| John Joseph Walker | John | 03/21/2004 |
| Helen Warren | Helen | 02/20/2022 |
| Elizabeth White | Betsy | 03/20/2006 |
| Dreama Faye White | Dreama | 01/09/2011 |
| Sandra Taye Wilkerson | Sandra | 03/12/1995 |
| John Allen Willis | John | 11/03/2002 |
| Adolfina Julia Wolfe | Fifi | 03/11/2001 |
| Heather Renee Wolfe | Heather | 04/09/2023 |
| Nicholas Victor Wolfe | Nick | 04/09/2006 |
| Maureen Wright | Maureen | 11/22/2009 |
| Emily Rose Wright | Emily | 11/22/2009 |
| Nathan Wright | Nate | 04/01/2012 |
| Sandra Lou Caldwell Zubick | Sandra | 12/24/1977 |
| Todd Zubick | Todd | 04/21/2004 |
| Tyler Austin Zubick | Tyler | 04/01/2012 |

## APPENDIX H

## MUSICIANS AT VILLAGE CHAPEL

## ORGANISTS

SHARON CURNUTTE
CAROLYN PERRINE
STEVE RAMSEY
ERIC ROTH
BILL WREN
MARGARET GROSS
HAZEL DUNN
KATHRYN MCCRARY
MABEL HOWARD
CLYDE FERGUSON

## CHOIR DIRECTORS

SHARON CURNUTTE
CAROLYN PERRINE
DIONNE CANTEBURY-CHILDREN
STEVE RAMSEY
ERIC ROTH
BILL WREN
CLYDE FERGUSON
MARGARET GROSS
MARY KENNEDY-YOUTH
NINA HOLT BROWN

## VILLAGE CHAPEL CHOIR MEMBERS 1950 – 2025

| SOPRANO | ALTO | TENOR | BASS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maureen Wright | Amy Parker | Rick Hanna | Howard Salisbury |
| Sharon Richardson | Rita Sockman | Doug Curnutte | Don Parker |
| Teresa Lawler | Nancy Wallace | Dave Dawson | Chuck Stump |
| Patty Pogue | Kathryn McCrary | Bobby Caldwell | Mike Jarrett |
| Patti Salisbury | Dianne Ellis | Terry Perrine | Rick Blair |
| Lynn Gunnoe | Julie King | Jim Caudill | Ed Maier |
| Sheila Danzer | Helen Kelly | Friend Cochran | Hal Broughton |
| Paula Bland | Kelly Kirkpatrick | Tom Carmichael | Clark Thurston |
| Janet Kinzer | Bitsy Preston | Tom Johnson | Steve Perkins |
| Jessica Gentry | Betty King | Pat Dinsmore | Kirk King |
| Terry Mafazy | Kay Rice | Bob Newman | Rick Cook |

Jean Wallace
Kari Preslar
Joan Mansell
Charlotte Stallard
Nancy Bulla
Suzanne Sims
Judy Rapp
Jane King
Janet Armstead
Norma Cochran
Rita Hall Altizer
Vicki Frisk
Jane McNeil
Susan Ainsworth
Linda Meadows
Tish Hodovan
Bonnie Waggy
Maxine Murphy
Vivian Newbrough
Gwen Maloney
Sally Brown
Maxine Andreas
Lee Groff
Zemma Holcomb

Greta Williams
Shirley Randolph
Mary Arnold Dillon
Leah Lewis
Peggy Cooley
Mary Ross
Martha Foster
Martha Walker
June Shabb
Mary Jo Shabb
Elsie Cochran
Gladys Craigo
Polly Morgan

Elmer Dodson

Al Williams
Jerry Walker
Conrad Crow
Chuck Daugherty
John King
Mike Panger
Delane Randolph
Paul Livesay
Joe Hudson
Mike Craigo
Kermit West
Bill Gross
Harry Huff
Samir Shabb
Bill Best
Dick Wangelin
Dick Young

## VILLAGE CHAPEL MUSIC PROGRAM INSTRUMENTALISTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Rick Hanna | Trumpet |
| Don Parker | Guitar/Percussion |
| Kenn Long | Recorder |
| Nimal Suhir | Violin |
| Noah Lawson | Guitar |
| Brendan Stump | Percussion |
| Erin Chiparo | Violin |
| Lilly Jacobs | Cello |
| Whitney Perrine | Flute |
| Terry Perrine | Clarinet |
| Marisa Ellis | Flute |
| Betty King | Flute |
| Julia Danzer | French Horn |
| Emily Salisbury | Clarinet |
| Sam Henderson | Percussion |
| Frank Mansell, III | Trombone |

| | |
|---|---|
| Steve Curnutte | Guitar |
| Brian Curnutte | Trombone/Guitar |
| David Joslin | Tuba |
| Chuck Crow | Guitar |
| Allen Gordon | Accordion |

| | |
|---|---|
| Emily Danzer | Liturgical Dance |
| Sara Misiti | Liturgical Dance |
| Angie Price | Liturgical Dance |
| Rona Smith | Liturgical Dance |

## CHILDREN PARTIIPATING IN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Anderson | Will Anderson | Chad Berry |
| Brooke Campbell | Clark Campbell | Erin Chiparo |
| Alex Cook | Samantha Cook | Barry Cunningham |
| Daniel Curnutte | Cory Dobson | Beth Dodson |
| Scot Dodson | Marissa Ellis | Christopher Field |
| Mark Flannery | Jamie Hanna | Johathan Hardman |
| Jared Hawley | Sara Hawley | Jacob Hoyle |
| Jonathan Jarrett | Carey Kelly | Elizabeth Kelly |
| Forest Kirkpatrick | Elliot Maier | Elizabeth Maier |
| Lisa McClung | Brian Misiti | Philip Mullins |
| Whitney Perrine | Allison Roberson | David Salisbury |

*Not all inclusive, but a sampling

## APPENDIX I

## VILLAGE CHAPEL ELDERS SERVING BY SESSION/CLASS

**SESSION MEMBERS SERVING THE CHURCH**
**ELDERS 1950 – 2025**

**SESSION OF 1951**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John C. Arter | Payne Brown | Friend C. Cochran |
| Edward Cork | Joseph Sota | Kenneth Wrenn |

**SESSION OF 1952**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Payne Brown | Willis Chambers | Edward Cork |
| Bruce Davis | Elmer Dodson | Leslie H. Nicolet |
| Fred Wiseman | | |

**SESSION OF 1953**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Arter | Willis Chambers | Bruce Davis |
| Elmer Dodson | Leslie Nicolet | Herbert Tully |
| Fred Wiseman | Kenneth Wrenn | |

**SESSION OF 1954**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Arter | Payne Brown | Willis W. Chambers |
| Bruce Davis | Elmer Dodson | Robert Massey |
| Joseph Desoto | Herbert Tully | Kenneth Wrenn |

**SESSION OF 1955**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Arter | Payne Brown | Willis W. Chambers |
| Bruce Davis | Elmer Dodson | Robert Massey |
| Joseph Desoto | Herbert Tully | Kenneth Wrenn |

**SESSION OF 1956**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur, Jr. | Harry M. Brawley | Payne Brown |
| William A. Coffey | Elmer Dodson | Robert Massey |
| Harold A. Miller | Leslie Nicolet | Joseph Soto |
| Fred Wiseman | | |

**SESSION OF 1957**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur, Jr. | Harry M. Brawley | Friend Cochrane |
| William A. Coffey | A. Gordon Custer | Elmer Dodson |
| Harold A. Miller | P. J. Moore | Leslie Nicolet |
| Kermit O. West | Fred Wiseman | |

**SESSION OF 1958**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Harry Brawley | Payne Brown | William A. Coffey |
| Friend Cochran | Elmer Dodson | Robert G. Massay |
| Harold A. Miller | P. J. Moore | Joseph Soto |
| Herbert C. Tully | Kermit O. West | |

**SESSION OF 1959**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Payne Brown | A. B. Carrington | Friend Cochran |
| Edward Cork | Clyde R. Haynes | Harold Litton |
| Robert Massay | P. J. Moore | Leslie Nicolet |
| Joseph Soto | Richard S. Wangelin | Kermit O. West |

**SESSION OF 1960**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kenneth H. Bowyer | Payne Brown | A. B. Carrington |
| Edward C. Cork | Elmer Dodson | Clyde R. Haynes |
| Richard S. Wangelin | Fred E. Wiseman | Thomas D. Woodrum |

**SESSION OF 1961**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kenneth Bowyer | A. B. Carrington | William Chevalier |
| Elmer Dodson | William Graham | William Gross |
| Harry Huff | Jack Martin | James McNutt |
| Harold Miller | William Reichard | Samir Shabb |
| Joseph Soto | Richard Wangelin | Tr??????? |
| Harold A. Miller | Gordon Preston | William Reichard |
| Samir Shabb | Thomas D. Woodrum | Kenneth F. Wrenn |

**SESSION OF 1963**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur | Payne Brown | Alfred B. Carrington |
| Elmer Dodson | Robert Eberbaugh | William Graham |
| Harry C. Huff | Jack Martin | Robert Massey |
| Gordon Preston | William Reichard | Samir Shabb |
| Richard Wangelin | Fredrick Winterkamp | Kenneth Wrenn |

**SESSION OF 1964**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur | Kenneth Bowyer | Payne Brown |
| Alfred B. Carrington | William A. Coffey | Elmer Dodson |
| Robert Eberbaugh | Robert Massay | Thomas Mayne |
| Alan R. Miller | Harold A. Miller | Gordon Preston |
| Richard S. Wangelin | Frederick H. Winterkamp | Kenneth Wrenn |

**SESSION OF 1965**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Edward C. Cork | James B. Dilger | J. Arnold Dillon |
| H. P. Dinsmore | William H. Gross | William T. Harris |
| William H. Hensley | Raymond N. Jackson | Frank P. Jarrett |
| William E. Lawton | John G. Perkins | R. C. Milbourne |
| Mrs. G. H. Rhodes | Peter M. Sutphen | |

**SESSION OF 1966**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur, Jr. | Kenneth Bowyer | Mrs. A. B. Carrington |
| William A. Coffey | H. P. Dinsmore | Polly Dodson |
| William T. Graham | Harry C. Huff | Jack Martin |
| Thomas W. Mayne | James T. McNutt | Alan R. Miller |
| Harold A. Miller | William Reichard | Louis Southworth |

**SESSION OF 1967**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur, Jr. | Kenneth Bowyer | Mrs. Alfred B. Carrington |
| William Coffey | Polly Dodson | H. P. Dinsmore |
| William T. Graham | Harry C. Huff | Jack Martin |
| Thomas W. Mayne | James T. McNutt | Alan R. Miller |
| Harold A. Miller | William Reichard | Louis Southworth |

**SESSION of 1968**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur, Jr. | Payne Brown | Bobby Lee Caldwell |
| Mrs. A. B. Carrington | William Coffey | David Conger |
| H. P. Dinsmore | Polly Dodson | Robert Eberbaugh |
| Harry C, Huff | Harry Ingram | Jack Martin |
| James T. McNutt | William Reichard | Louis Southworth |

**SESSION OF 1969**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur, Jr. | Payne Brown | Bobby Lee Caldwell |
| Mrs. A. B. Carrington | William Coffey | David Conger |
| H. P Dinsmore | Polly Dodson | Robert Eberbaugh |
| Harry C. Huff | Harry S. Ingram | Jack Martin |
| James R. McNutt | William Richard | Louis Southworth |

**SESSION OF 1970**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| James W. Arthur, Jr. | Payne Brown | Bobby Lee Caldwell |
| Mrs. A. B. Carrington | Mrs. W. A Coffey | David Conger |
| J. Arnold Dillon | Elmer Dodson | Robert Eberbaugh |
| Harry Ingram | Raymond N. Jackson | Thomas A. Mayne |
| Steven McNutt | Harold A. Miller | Steven D. Moore |

**SESSION OF 1971**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Payne Brown | Bobby Lee Caldwell | Mrs. A. B. Carrington |
| Mrs. W. A. Coffey | J. Arnold Dillon | Elmer Dodson |
| Robert Eberbaugh | Harry Ingram | Raymond Jackson |
| Thomas A. Mayne | Steven McNutt | Harold A. Miller |
| Steven D. Moore | | |

**SESSION OF 1972**

Bobby Lee Caldwell
Mrs. W. A. Coffey
David Conger
Elmer Dodson
J. Arnold Dillon
Harry Ingram
Raymond Jackson
Jack Martin
Thomas A. Mayne
Harold A. Miller
Donald Pitzer
William Reichard
Robert J. Trost

**SESSION OF 1973**

Robert N. Bland
Betty Brawley
Roland L. Cozart
Charles E. Daughterty
Mrs. O Bruce Davis
Elmer Dodson
Raymond N. Jackson
John King
Paul Livesay
Jack Martin
Harold A. Miller
Sylvia Newman
William Reichard
Joe Settle
William A. Smith
Robert J. Trost
Gene T. Waggy
H. Jarrett Walker
Al E. Williams

**SESSION OF 1974**

Larry Allen
Betty Brawley
Al Carrington
Roland L. Cozart
Doug Curnutte
Dot Davis
Ann Griffith
Larry Jones
John King
Paul Livesay
Jack Martin
William Reichard
Mary Ross
Joe Settle
William Smith
Jack Schwarz
Gene T. Waggy
J. Jarrett Walker

**SESSION OF 1975**

Larry Allen
Betty Brawley
Dot Caldwell
Dot Davis
Ann Griffith
Lora Ingram
Larry Jones
Fred Joseph
Sylvia Newman
Don Pitzer
Mary Ross
Joe Settle
George Singleton
William Smith
Jack Schwarz
Roger Sockman
Clark Thurston
Gretta Williams
Gretta Williams

**SESSION OF 1976**

Bucky Barber
Jim Bricker
Dot Caldwell
Doug Curnutte
Rod Dillon
Elmer Dodson
Ann Griffith
Lora Ingram
Larry Jones
Fred Joseph
Paul Livesay
Don Pitzer
Bill Reichard
Mary Ross
Helen Settle
George Singleton
Jule Sockman
Jack Schwarz
Clark Thurston
Gretta Williams

**SESSION OF 1977**

Grant Archibald
Nancy Cowan
Ann Griffith
Ray Jackson
Paul Livesay
Bill Reichard
Jule Sockman
Bucky Barber
Rod Dillon
Sally Hudson
Larry Jones
Don Pitzer
Helen Settle
Jack Schwarz
Dot Caldwell
Elmer Dodson
Lora Ingram
Fred Joseph
George Reeves
George Singleton
Clark Thurston

**SESSION OF 1978**

Grant Archibald
Bill Coffey
Rod Dillon
Ray Jackson
Beckey Lippitt
Don Pitzer
Helen Settle
Betsy Thurston
Bucky Barber
Bob Campbell
Sally Hudson
Gordon Jung
Paul Livesay
Bill Reichard
George Singleton
Clark Thurston
Dot Caldwell
Nandy Cowan
Lora Ingram
Larry Jones
Jack Martin
George Reeves
Jule Sockman
Gretta Williams

**SESSION OF 1979**

Grant Archibald
Nancy Cowan
Harry Gunnoe
Larry Jones
Jack Martin
George Singleton
Bob Campbell
Rosalie Dillon
Sally Hudson
Gordon Jung
Gordon Preston
Troy Stallard
Bill Coffey
Helen Eberbaugh
Ray Jackson
Becky Lippitt
Helen Settle
Fred Wiseman

**SESSION of 1980**

Grant Archibald
Nancy Cowan
Harry Gunnoe
Larry Jones
Beckey Lippett
George Singleton
Fred Wiseman
Bob Campbell
Polly Dodson
Sally Hudson
Gordon Jung
Jack Martin
William Smith
Ron Cole
Margaret Grizzell
Ray Jackson
Bob King
Gordon Preston
Troy Stallard

**SESSION OF 1981**

Bob Campbell
Polly Dodson
Larry Jones
Becky Lippett
Susan Perkins
George Singleton
Ron Cole
Helen Eberbaugh
Gordon Jung
Jack Martin
Terry Perrine
William Smith
Rosalie Dillon
Harry Gunnoe
Bob King
Kathryn McCrary
Gordon Preston
Troy Stallard

Fred Wiseman

**SESSION OF 1982**

Ron Cole
Margaret Grizzell
Bob King
Kathryn McCrary
Don Pitzer
William Smith
Sharon Curnutte
Ray Jackson
Mark Kramer
Susan Perkins
Bill Reichard
Charlotte Stallard
Polly Dodson
Gordon Jung
Elliott Leake
Terry Perrine
Richard Stevens

**SESSION OF 1983**

Jim Arthur
Mike Jarrett
Elliott Leake
Bill Reichard
Richard Stevens
Sharon Curnutte
Gordon Jung
Kathryn McCrary
Helen Singleton
Clark Thurston
Ray Jackson
Marc Kramer
Susan Perkins
Charlotte Stallard
Phoebe Trost

**SESSION OF 1984**

Jim Arthur
Denny Dodson
Jane King
Elliott Leake
Bill Reichard
Phoebe Trost
Ron Cole
Mike Jarrett
Julie King
Jack Martin
Helen Singleton
Clark Thurston
Sharon Curnutte
Gordon Jung
Marc Kramer
Bill McCrary
Charlotte Stallard
Trippi Wisecup

**SESSION OF 1985**

Jim Arthur
Denny Dodson
Steve Jarvis
Dean Leake
Helen Singleton
Jack Schwarz
Trippi Wisecup
Kathy Blank
Perry Field
Jane King
Jack Martin
Kay Smith
Clark Thurston
Role Cole
Mike Jarrett
Julie King
Bill McCrary
Julian Sockman
Phoebe Trost

**SESSION OF 1986**

Kathy Blank
Denny Dodson
Harry Gunnoe
Kelly Kirkpatrick
Dean Leake
Jack Schwarz
Ron Cole
Perry Field
Rick Hanna
Jane King
Bill McCrary
Kay Smith
Doug Curnutte
Margaret Grizzell
Larry Jones
Julia King
Steve Perkins
Julian Sockman

**SESSION OF 1987**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kathy Blank | Hal Broughton | Doug Curnutte |
| Perry Field | Margaret Grizzell | Harry Gunnoe |
| Rick Hanna | Larry Jones | Gordon Jung |
| Kelly Kirkpatrick | Rebecca Palmer | Steve Perkins |
| Bill Reighard | Michelle Sampson | Jack Schwarz |

**SESSION of 1988**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sandy Bowles | Hal Broughton | Jim Caudell |
| Peggy Cooley | Doug Curnutte | Margaret Grizzell |
| Rick Hanna | Pat Jacobs | Larry Jones |
| Gordon Jung | Jane King | Rebecca Palmer |
| Steve Perkins | Bill Reichard | Michelle Sampson |
| Charlotte Stallard | Clark Thurston | |

**SESSION OF 1989**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sandy Bowles | Hal Broughton | Jim Caudill |
| Ron Cole | Peggy Cooley | Diane Ellis |
| Pat Jacobs | Gordon Jung | Steve Kelly |
| Jane King | Charlotte Murphy | Rebecca Palmer |
| Delane Randolph | Bill Reichard | Howard Salisbury |
| Michelle Sampson | Charlotte Stallard | Clark Thurston |

**SESSION OF 1990`**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kathy Blank | Sandy Bowles | Bob Caldwell |
| Jim Caudill | Ron Cole | Peggy Cooley |
| Vickie Cunningham | Diane Ellis | Rick Hanna |
| Pat Jacobs | Jane King | Katie Martin |
| Charlotte Murphy | Delane Randolph | Tom Riley |
| Howard Salisbury | David Sampson | Clark Thurston |

**SESSION of 1991**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kathy Blank | John Bowles | Bob Caldwell |
| Richard Clendenin | Vickie Cunningham | Richard Clendenin |
| Polly Dodson | Diane Ellis | Sue Graham |
| Rick Hanna | Brenda Jones | Marc Kramer |
| Katie Martin | Kathryn McCrary | Charlotte Murphy |
| Delane Randolph | Howard Salisbury | David Sampson |

**SESSION OF 1992**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ` Kathie Blank | John Bowles | Richard Clendenin |
| Vickie Cunningham | Polly Dodson | Perry Field |
| Dennis Funkhouser | John France | Sue Graham |
| Rick Hanna | Brenda Jones | Jane King |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kirk King | Katie Martin | Kathryn McCrary |
| David Sampson | Julian Sockman | Jack Schwarz |

**SESSION OF 1993**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John Bowles | Bob Campbell, Jr. | Beth Chiparo |
| Richard Clendenin | Polly Dodson | Perry Field |
| John France | Dennis Funkhouser | Anna-Neale Gerencir |
| Sue Graham | Brenda Jones | Jane King |
| Kirk King | Kathryn McCrary | Mike Misiti |
| DeLane Randolph | Helen Settle | Jack Schwarz |

**SESSION OF 1994**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Susan Ainsworth | Greg Blank | Sandy Bowles |
| Bob Campbell, Jr. | Beth Chiparo | Perry Field |
| John France | Dennis Funkhouser | Anna-Neale Gerencir |
| Laura Hooks | Jane King | Kirk King |
| Mike Misiti | DeLane Randolph | David Sampson |
| Helen Settle | Jack Schwarz | Jack York |

**SESSION OF 1995**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Susan Ainsworth | Greg Blank | Sandy Bowles |
| Bob Campbell, Jr. | Beth Chiparo | Vicki Cunningham |
| Anna-Neale Gerencir | Laura Hooks | Larry Jones |
| Becky Lippitt | Cathy McClung | Mike Misiti |
| Brian Pratt | DeLane Randolph | David Sampson |
| Patti Salisbury | Rose Ellen Sockman | Jack York |

**SESSION OF 1996**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Susan Ainsworth | Greg Blank | Sandy Bowles |
| David Campbell | Vicki Cunningham | Warren Danzer |
| Martha Foster | Sam Hanna | Larry Jones |
| Jane King | Becky Lippitt | Cathy McClung |
| Ken McNeil | Brian Pratt | David Sampson |
| Patti Salisbury | Rose Ellen Sockman | Jack York |

**SESSION OF 1997**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| David Campbell | Jeff Chiparo | Warren Danzer |
| Martha Foster | Demetrice Hardman | Sam Hanna |
| Tish Hodovan | Larry Jones | Jane King |
| Becky Lippitt | Cathy McClung | Ken McNeil |
| Brian Pratt | Patti Salisbury | Sarah Sears |
| Rose Ellen Sockman | Mark Swartz | Tom Wilkerson |

**SESSION OF 1998**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Garry Brown | Bobby Caldwell | David Campbell |
| Jeff Chiparo | Warren Danzer | Martha Foster |
| Jack Grimm | Sam Hanna | Demetrice Hardman |
| Candy Hawley | Tish Hodovan | Harriett Hoy |
| Chris Johnson | Ken McNeil | Sarah Sears |
| Helen Singleton | Tom Wilkerson | Mark Swartz |

**CLASS OF 1999 – Beginning at this point in the Session Records, Elders were identified by "Class".**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jeff Chiparo | Demetrice Hardman | Leticia Hodovan |
| Sara Sears | Helen Singleton | Tomas Wilkerson |

**CLASS OF 2000**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Garry Brown | Bobby L. Caldwell | Candice Hawley |
| Chris Johnson | Jack Grimm | Harriet Hoy |

**CLASS OF 2001**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jean Blair | Michael Carey | Vicki Cunningham |
| Sheila Danzer | Kathryn McCrary | Michael Panger |

**CLASS OF 2002**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sandra Bowles | Richard Cook | Alice Vande Linde |
| J. Kemp Melton | Sharon Richardson | Lynn Gunnoe Sheets |

**CLASS OF 2003**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fred Joseph | Julia King | Kathy Blank |
| John Robertson | Patti Salisbury | Jack York |

**CLASS OF 2004**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Paula Bland | Mark Kramer | Michael Schiano |
| Jack Schwarz | Sandra Wilkerson | John Wolfe |

**CLASS OF 2005**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Shannon Bland | Molly Clingenpeel | Vicki Cunningham |
| Sally Mullins | David Sampson | Sara Slamick |

**CLASS OF 2006**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Heather Berry | Judy Haddock | Don Parker |
| Howard Salisbury | Sarah Stebbins | Alethia Stickler |

**CLASS OF 2007**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Beth Chiparo | Warren Danzer | John France |
| Cindy Hanna | Sherry Russell | John Willis |

**CLASS OF 2008**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Erin Chiparo (Youth) | Dean Dawson | Martha Foster |
| Rick Hanna | Nancy Trotter | Rose Ann Walker |

**CLASS OF 2009**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sandy Bowles | Lucy Brown | David Dawson |
| Jamie Hanna | Lou Maxon | Sharon Richardson |

**CLASS OF 2010**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Melanie Bland | Diane Ellis | Curtis Hardman |
| Sharon King | Sarah Hawley | Sandra Wilkerson |

**CLASS OF 2011**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rick Cook | Kathryn McCrary | Heather Parks |
| Howard Salisbury | Charles Stebbins | Tory Parker (Youth) |

**CLASS OF 2012**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Phil Harich | Julia King | Kathy Kruk |
| Sara Slamick | Todd Zubick | Katie Parks (Youth) |

**CLASS OF 2013**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Peggy Armstrong | Kate Dobson | Kara Duncan |
| H Grimm | Tish Hodovan | Tory Parker (Youth) |

**CLASS OF 2014**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lynn Gunnoe | Rick Hanna | Jake Jacobs |
| Alan Johnston | Alatheia Stickler | Maureen Wright |

**CLASS OF 2015**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Heather Barry | Sarah Gottlieb | Pat Jacobs |
| David Shields | John Willis | Peyton Panger (Youth) |

**Class of 2016**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vicki Cunningham | Sheila Danzer | John France |
| Bruce Lawson | Dreama White | Jake Jacobs (Youth) |

**Class of 2017**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Martha Foster | Debbie Hanna | Patti Salisbury |
| Rick Skaff | Rona Smith | Tyler Zubick (Youth) |

**Class of 2018**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ray Boggs | John Hawley | Barbara Smith |
| Keri Velasco | Rachel Stump (Youth) | |

**Class of 2019**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cindy Hanna | Angie Price | Jim Smith |
| Chuck Stump | Payne Smith (Youth) | |

**Class of 2020**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jack Grimm | Kathy Kruk | Peggy Palmer |
| Patty Skaff | | |

**Class of 2021**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Heather Barry | Greg Rader | Sarah Stump |
| Barbara Tabaretti | Noah Lawson (Youth) | |

**Class of 2022**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Judy Haddock | Bob Hiser | Jeff Smith |
| Rona Smith | Brenden Stump (Youth) | |

**Class of 2023**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sandy Bowles | Vicki Cunningham | Patti Salisbury |
| Roger Sockman | | |

**Class of 2024**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Teresa Lawlor | Sharon King | Jim Smith |
| Joey Stonestreet | | |

**Class of 2025**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| John France | Tara Markham | Sharon Richardson |
| Barbara Smith | | |

**Class of 2026**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sheila Danzer | Sarah Gottlieb | Kathy Kruk |
| Rita Sockman | Kelsey Rorrer (Youth) | |

**Class of 2027**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Heather Barry | Matt Chambers | Vicki Frisk |
| Bob Pogue | Kelsey Rorrer (Youth) | |

## APPENDIX J

## YEARS OF SERVICE OF VILLAGE CHAPEL ELDERS

## ELDERS YEARS OF SERVICE 1950 – 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| Allen, Larry | 1974, 1975 |
| Ainsworth, Susan | 1994, 1995, 1996 |
| Archibald, Grant | 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 |
| Armstrong, Peggy | 2011, 2012, 2013 |
| Arter, John C. | 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955 |
| Arthur, James W., Jr | 1956, 1957, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1983, 1984, 1985 |
| Barber, Bucky | 1976, 1977, 1978 |
| Berry, Heather | 2004, 2005, 2006, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2025 |
| Blair, Jean | 1999, 2000, 2001 |
| Bland, Melanie | 2008, 2009, 2010 |
| Bland, Paula | 2002, 2003, 2004 |
| Bland, Robert N. | 1973 |
| Bland, Shannon | 2003, 2004, 2005 |
| Blank, Greg | 1994, 1995, 1996 |
| Boggs, Ray | 2016, 2017, 2018 |
| Bowles, John | 1991, 1992, 1993 |
| Bowles, Sandra | 1988, 1989,1990, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| Bowyer, Kenneth H. | 1960. 1961, 1964, 1966, 1967 |
| Brawley, Betty | 1973, 1974, 1975 |
| Brawley, Harry M. | 1956, 1957, 1958 |
| Bricker, Jim | 1976 |
| Broughton, Hal | 1987, 1988, 1989 |
| Brown, Garry | 1998, 1999, 2000 |
| Brown, Lucy | 2007, 2008, 2009 |
| Brown, Payne | 1951, 1952, 1954. 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 |
| Caldwell, Bobby L. | 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1990, 1991, 1998, 1999, 2000 |
| Campbell, Bob | 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1993, 1994, 1995 |
| Campbell, David | 1996, 1997, 1998 |
| Caldwell, Dot | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 |
| Carrington, A. B. | 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1974 |
| Carrington, Mrs. A. B. | 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 |
| Carey, Michael | 1999, 2000, 2001 |
| Caudell, Jim | 1988, 1989, 1990 |
| Chambers, Matt | 2025 |
| Chambers, Willis | 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 |
| Chiparo, Beth | 1993, 1994, 1995, 2005, 2006, 2007 |
| Chiparo, Erin (Youth) | 2006, 2007, 2008 |
| Chiparo, Jeff | 1987, 1988, 1999 |
| Chevalier, William | 1961 |
| Clendenin, Richard | 1991, 1992,1993 |
| Clingenpeel, Molly | 2003, 2004, 2005 |
| Cochran, Friend C. | 1951, 1957, 1958, 1959 |
| Coffey, William | 1956, 1957, 1958, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1978, 1979 |
| Coffey, Mrs. William | 1970, 1971, 1972 |
| Cole, Ron | 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990 |
| Conger, David | 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972 |
| Cook, Rick | 2000, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Cooley, Peggy | 1988, 1989, 1990 |
| Cork, Edward | 1951, 1952, 1959, 1960, 1965 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Cowan, Nancy | 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980 |
| Cozart, Roland L. | 1973, 1974 |
| Cunningham, Vicki | 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| Custer, A. Gordon | 1957 |
| Curnutte, Doug | 1974, 1976, 1986, 1987, 1988 |
| Curnutte, Sharon | 1982, 1983, 1984 |
| Danzer, Sheila | 1999, 2000, 2001, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2024, 2025 |
| Danzer, Warren | 1996, 1997, 1998, 2005, 2006, 2007 |
| Daughterty, Charles | 1973 1982 |
| Dawson, David | 2007, 2008, 2009 |
| Dawson, Dean | 2006, 2007, 2008 |
| Davis, Bruce | 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 |
| Davis, Dot | 1973, 1974, 1975 |
| Dilger, James B. | 1965 |
| Dillon, J. Arnold | 1965, 1970, 1971, 1972 |
| Dillon, Rosalie | 1979, 1980, 1981 |
| Dillon, Rod | 1976, 1977, 1978 |
| Dinsmore, H. P. | 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 |
| Dobson, Kate | 2011, 2012, 2013 |
| Dodson, Denny | 1984, 1985, 1986 |
| Dodson, Elmer | 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1977 |
| Dodson, Polly | 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1991, 1992, 1993 |
| Duncan, Kara | 2011, 2012, 2013 |
| Eberbaugh, Helen | 1979, 1980, 1981 |
| Eberbaugh, Robert | 1963, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 |
| Ellis, Diane | 1989, 1990, 1991, 2008, 2009, 2010 |
| Field, Perry | 1985, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994 |
| Foster, Martha | 1096, 1997, 1998, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2015, 2016, 2017 |
| France. John | 1992, 1993, 1994, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2023, 2024, 2025 |
| Frisk, Vicki | 2025 |
| Funkhouser, Dennis | 1992, 1993, 1994 |
| Gerencir, Anna-Neals | 1993, 1994, 1995 |
| Gottlieb, Sarah | 2013, 2014, 2015, 2024, 2025 |
| Graham, Sue | 1991, 1992, 1993 |
| Graham, William | 1961, 1963, 1966, 1967 |
| Griffith, Ann | 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 |
| Grimm, H. | 2011, 2012, 2013 |
| Grimm, Jack | 1998, 1999, 2000, 2018, 2019, 2020 |
| Grizzell, Margaret | 1980, 1986, 1987, 1988 |
| Gross, William | 1961, 1965 |
| Gunnoe, Harry | 1979, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987 |
| Gunnoe, Lynn Sheets | 2000, 2001, 2002, 2012, 2013, 2014 |
| Haddock, Judy | 2004, 2005, 2006, 2020, 2021, 2022 |
| Hanna, Cindy | 2005, 2006, 2007, 2017, 2018, 2019 |
| Hanna, Debbie | 2015, 2016, 2017 |
| Hanna, Jamie | 2007, 2008, 2009 |
| Hanna, Rick | 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014 |
| Hanna, Sam | 1996, 1997, 1998 |
| Hardman, Curtis | 2008, 2009, 2010 |
| Hardman, Demetrice | 1997, 1998, 1999 |
| Harich, Phil | 2010, 2011, 2012 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Harris, William T. | 1965 |
| Haynes, Clyde R. | 1959, 1960 |
| Harris, William T. | 1965 |
| Hawley, Candice | 1998, 1999, 2000 |
| Hawley, John | 2016, 2017, 2018 |
| Hawley, Sarah | 2008, 2009, 2010 |
| Hensley, William H. | 1965 |
| Hiser, Bob | 2020, 2021, 2022 |
| Hodovan, Tish | 1997, 1998, 1999, 2011, 2012, 2013 |
| Hooks, Laura | 1994, 1995 |
| Hoy, Hariett | 1998, 1999, 2000 |
| Hudson, Sally | 1977, 1978, 1979 |
| Huff, Harry | 1961, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 |
| Ingram, Harry | 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 |
| Ingram, Lora | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978 |
| Jacobs, Jake (Youth) | 2012. 2014 |
| Jacobs, Pat | 1988, 1989, 1990, 2013, 2014, 2015 |
| Jackson, Raymond N. | 1965, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1983 |
| Jarrett, Frank P. | 1965 |
| Jarrett, Mike | 1983, 1984, 1985 |
| Jarvis, Steve | 1985 |
| Johnson, Chris | 1998, 1999, 2000 |
| Johnston, Alan | 2012, 2013, 2014 |
| Jones, Brenda | 1991, 1992, 1993 |
| Jones, Larry | 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1995, 1996, 1997 |
| Joseph, Fred | 1975, 1976, 1977, 2001, 2002, 2003 |
| Jung, Gordon | 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1989 |
| Kelly, Steve | 1989 |
| King, Bob | 1980, 1981, 1982 |
| King, Jane | 1984, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997 |
| King, John | 1973, 1974 |
| King, Julie | 1984, 1985, 1986, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2010, 2011, 2012 |
| King, Kirk | 1992, 1993, 1994 |
| King, Sharon | 2008, 2009, 2010, 2022, 2023, 2024 |
| Kirkpatrick, Kelly | 1986, 1987 |
| Kramer, Marc | 1982, 1983, 1991, 2002, 2003, 2004 |
| Kruk, Kathy Blank | 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2024, 2025 |
| Lawlor, Theresa | 2022, 2023, 2024 |
| Lawson, Bruce | 2014, 2015, 2016 |
| Lawson, Noah (Youth | 2019 |
| Lawton, William E. | 1965 |
| Leake, Dean | 1985, 1986 |
| Leake, Elliott | 1982, 1983, 1984 |
| Lippitt, Becky | 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1995, 1996, 1997 |
| Livesay, Paul | 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978 |
| Litton, Harold | 1959 |
| Markham, Tara | 2023, 2024, 2025 |
| Martin, Jack | 1961, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985 |
| Martin, Katie | 1990, 1991, 1992 |
| Massey, Robert | 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1964 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Maxson, Lou | 2007, 2008, 2009 |
| Mayne, Thomas | 1964, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1972 |
| McClung, Cathy | 1995, 1996, 1997 |
| McCrary, Bill | 1984, 1985, 1986 |
| McCrary, Kathryn | 1981, 1982, 1983, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| McNeil, Ken | 11996, 1997, 1998 |
| McNutt, Steven | 1970, 1971 |
| McNutt, James | 1961, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 |
| Melton, J. Kemp | 2000, 2001, 2002 |
| Milbourne, R.C. | 1965 |
| Miller, Alan R. | 1964, 1966, 1967 |
| Miller, Harold, A. | 1956, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1972 |
| Misiti, Mike | 1993, 1994, 1995 |
| Moore, P. J. | 1957, 1958, 1959 |
| Moore, Steven D. | 1970, 1971 |
| Mullins, Sally | 2003, 2004, 2005 |
| Murphy, Charlotte | 1989, 1990, 1991 |
| Newman, Sylvia | 1975 |
| Nicolet, Leslie H. | 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957. 1959 |
| Palmer, Peggy | 2018, 2019, 2020 |
| Palmer, Rebecca | 1987, 1988, 1989 |
| Panger, Michael | 1999, 2000, 2001 |
| Panger, Peyton (Youth) | 2013 |
| Parker, Don | 2004, 2005, 2006 |
| Parker, Tori (Youth) | 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 |
| Parks, Heather | 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Parks, Katie (Youth) | 2010 |
| Perkins, John G. | 1965 |
| Perkins, Steve | 1986, 1987, 1988 |
| Perkins, Susan | 1981, 1982, 1983 |
| Perrine, Terry | 1981, 1982 |
| Pitzer. Donald | 1972, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1982 |
| Pogue, Bob | 2025 |
| Pratt, Brian | 1995, 1996, 1997 |
| Preston, Gordon | 1962, 1963, 1964, 1979, 1980. 1981 |
| Price, Angie | 2017, 2018, 2019 |
| Rader, Greg | 2019, 2020, 2021 |
| Randolph, DeLane | 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995 |
| Reeves, George | 1977, 1978 |
| Richard, William | 1962, 1963, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1989 |
| Richardson, Sharon | 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2023, 2024, 2025 |
| Rhodes, Mrs. G. H. | 1965 |
| Riley, Tom | 1990 |
| Robertson, John | 2001, 2002, 2003 |
| Rorrer, Kelsey (Youth) | 2024, 2025 |
| Ross, Mary | 1974, 1975, 1976 |
| Russell, Sherry | 2005, 2006, 2007 |
| Salisbury, Howard | 1989, 1990, 1991, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Salisbury, Patti | 1995, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| Sampson, David | 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2004, 2005 |
| Sampson, Michelle | 1987, 1988, 1989 |
| Schiano, Michael | 2002, 2003, 2004 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Sears. Sarah | 1997, 1998, 1999 |
| Settle, Helen | 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1993, 1994 |
| Settle, Joe | 1973, 1974, 1975 |
| Shabb, Samir | 1962, 1963 |
| Shields, David | 2013, 2014, 2015 |
| Singleton, George | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981 |
| Singleton, Helen | 1983, 1984, 1985, 1998, 1999 |
| Skaff, Patty | 2018, 2019, 2020 |
| Skaff, Rick | 2015, 2016, 2017 |
| Slamick, Sara | 2003, 2004, 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012 |
| Smith, Barbara | 2016, 2017, 2018, 2023, 2024, 2025 |
| Smith, Jeff | 2020, 2021, 2022 |
| Smith, Jim | 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024 |
| Smith, Kay | 1985, 1986 |
| Smith, Payne (Youth) | 2017 |
| Smith, Rona | 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022 |
| Smith, William A. | 1973, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1981, 1982 |
| Sockman, Jule | 1976, 1977, 1978, 1985, 1986, 1992 |
| Sockman, Rita | 2024, 2025 |
| Sockman, Roger | 1975, 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| Sockman, Rose Ellen | 1995, 1996, 1997 |
| Soto, Joseph | 1951, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1961 |
| Southworth, Louis | 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 |
| Stallard, Charlotte | 1982, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1989 |
| Stallard, Troy | 1979, 1980, 1981 |
| Stebbins, Charlie | 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| Stebbins, Sarah | 2004, 2005, 2006 |
| Stevens, Richard | 1982, 1983 |
| Stickler, Alethia | 2004, 2005, 2006, 2012, 2013, 2014 |
| Stonestreet, Joey | 2022, 2023, 2024 |
| Stump, Brenden (Youth) | 2020 |
| Stump, Chuck | 2017, 2018, 2019 |
| Stump, Sarah | 2019, 2020, 2021 |
| Stump, Rachel (Youth) | 2016 |
| Sutphen, Peter, M. | 1965 |
| Swartz, Jack | 1974, 1975, 1976, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994, 2002, 2003, 2004 |
| Swartz, Mark | 1997, 1998 |
| Tabaretti, Barbara | 2019, 2020, 2021 |
| Trost, Robert J. | 1972, 1973 |
| Thurston, Betsy | 1978 |
| Thurston, Clark | 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990 |
| Trost, Phoebe | 1983, 1984, 1985 |
| Trotter, Nancy | 2006, 2007, 2008 |
| Tully, Herbert | 1953, 1954, 1955, 1958 |
| Vande Linde, Alice | 2000, 2001, 2002 |
| Velasco, Keri | 2016, 2017, 2018 |
| Waggy, Gene T. | 1973, 1974 |
| Walker, H. Jarrett | 1973, 1974 |
| Walker, Rose Ann | 2006, 2007, 2008 |
| Wangelin, Richard S. | 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964 |
| West, Kermit O. | 1957, 1958, 1959 |
| White, Dreama | 2014, 2015, 2016 |
| Wilkerson, Sandra | 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Wilkerson, Tom | 1997, 1998, 1999 |
| Williams, Al E. | 1973 |
| Williams, Gretta | 1975, 1976, 1978 |
| Willis, John | 2005, 2006, 2007, 2013, 2014, 2015 |
| Winterkamp, Fredrick | 1963, 1964 |
| Wisecup, Trippi | 1984, 1985 |
| Wiseman, Fred | 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1960,1979, 1980, 1981 |
| Wolfe, John | 2002, 2003, 2004 |
| Woodrum, Thomas D. | 1960, 1961 |
| Wrenn, Kenneth | 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1962, 1963, 1964 |
| Wright, Maureen | 2012, 2013, 2015 |
| Youk, Jack | 1994, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003 |
| Zubick, Todd | 2010, 2011, 2012 |
| Zubick, Tyler (Youth) | 2015 |

## APPENDIX K

## CLERKS OF THE SESSION

**INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SERVED AS CLERKS OF THE SESSION AFTER 1968**

Harry Huff

J. T. Jim McNutt

Raymond N. Jackson

Ann Griffith

William W. Smith

Jane S. King

Kathryn McCrary

Julia D. King

Kathy Blank Kruk

Rose Ann Walker

## APPENDIX L

## THRIVING CONGREGATION SURVEY RESULTS 2024

## VILLAGE CHAPEL THRIVING CONGREGATION SENIOR SURVEY FINDINGS

| TOPIC | OVERALL SCORE (Based on Possible 10) N = 60 | ATTENDANCE FREQUENCY/PERCENTAGE | COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS POSSIBLE SOURCES |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Music Programs involving a variety of performers & genres. | 6.79 | Yes 38 63%<br>Maybe 1 2%<br>No 14 23%<br>No Response 7 12% | Bill Lepp<br>Mountain Tyme<br>Chamberlain Elementary<br>History Alive<br>Opportunity to partner with schools needing a Place to perform |
| 2. Fun Activities/ Game Nights<br>Food with Guys/Gals | 6.39 | Yes 30 50%<br>Maybe 4 7%<br>No 17 28%<br>No Response 9 15% | Involve Fellowship Ministry Team<br>Susan Campbell<br>Consider having regular days/nights for the guys (the ladies have their circle) |
| 3. Decluttering -Getting rid of "stuff"<br>Estate sales/What involved, preparing for sale, donation options | 5,98 | Yes 29 48%<br>Maybe 1 2%<br>No 18 30%<br>No Response 12 20% | Pay it Forward<br>Determining values of items<br>Need to declutter Church as well<br>Witcher Creek Village<br>Pro Clutter Busters – Gail Pitchford (Facebook)<br>Mountain Treasures Estate Sales<br>Jan and Jeff |
| 4. Recognizing the potential for and dealing with fraud/scams. | 5,75 | Yes 23 38%<br>Maybe 27 45%<br>No Response 10 17% | Needed for older population for sure<br>Protection from scams and what to do is important<br>Representatives from AARP/AARP Publications<br>Charleston Police Department<br>Should be ongoing to keep up with latest tactics |
| 5.Legal Concerns – Information in regard To making a will, trusts, power of attorney, healthcare decisions, trusts, probate, etc. | 5.68 | Yes 31 52%<br>Maybe 1 2%<br>No 25 42%<br>No Response 3 5% | Include hospice/palliative care – Joan Carrol<br>Pat Jacobs, Don Parker, Peter Markham<br>Assistance with getting it done – I know the importance but need assistance with completing & notarizing when needed.<br>Keep it simple. |
| 6.Helping others – Reassurance calls, shopping, taking to appointments, etc. | 5.66 | Yes 23 38%<br>Maybe 2 4%<br>No 28 43%<br>No Response 9 15% | Would do assurance calls<br>Faith in Action<br>Via Face Book Live |
| 7. Understand Medicare & Medicaid - Insurance Supplements | 5.62 | Yes 21 35%<br>Maybe 3 5%<br>No 27 53%<br>No Response 9 15% | So much information & changes so much<br>WV Bureau Senior Services (304) 558-3317<br>DHHR Spokesperson<br>Shepherd's Center – Get speaker |
| 8.Using technology – Computers, cell phones, Zoom, social media, etc. | 5.51 | Yes 21 35%<br>Maybe 2 3%<br>No 27 45%<br>No Response 19 17% | Any teenager<br>Record presentation<br>Need help with privacy settings<br>I have taken courses on OLLI<br>Instagram, Tic Toc, Twitter<br>Matt Chambers |
| 9.Money Management – making a budget/finding ways to reduce expenses | 5.07 | Yes 22 37%<br>Maybe 1 2%<br>No 29 48%<br>No Response 8 13% | Bob Hiser<br>Eric Ayersman |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10.Dealing with health concerns – preventing falls, emergency care, medications, monitoring vital signs, home health care, nursing homes | 4.85 | Yes 20 33%<br>Maybe 1 2%<br>No 33 55%<br>No Response 6 10% | Dr. Doug Curnutte<br>Dr. Aletheia Stickler<br>Great topic, I just don't need it<br>Students from UC Healthcare programs<br>I think I am well informed – but there is always more to learn<br>We have many health care professionals in the Church who might assist |

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

- Would like to see Bible studies more than 2 times a year. I enjoy Lent and Advent studies, but it would be nice to have these throughout the year.
- World Events – I enjoyed the presentations/discussions we have had on the war in Palestine/ Isreal. The work by the Presbytery abroad.
- Bible Study
- Art/Craft projects. I loved painting/creating that we did previously.
- Games/puzzles
- I am not able to go to Circle anymore since I am still working and I miss the connection with others that provided Arts/Crafts programs in daytime or at night online.
- Book study online.
- Thank you for your work with this effort.
- The work put into this survey is to be commended. Many of your topics are very interesting and if we lived in Charleston we could and would participate. However, we don't but are fortunate to be able to attend many things that the Church currently offers via zoom. Therefore, any things that could be presented by zoom we would definitely be interested in attending. You have a wide range of topics that are of our generation's interest, and we wish you the best.

## APPENDIX M

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF VILLAGE CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**REMEMBER -- REJOICE -- RENEW**
**A Brief History**

The Village Chapel Presbyterian Church was first promoted by the Reverend J Moody McNair, Minister of Chapels of the First Presbyterian Church, Payne Brown, and Donald L. Cork. The First Presbyterian Church of Charleston supported the new outpost and on August 18, 1946, voted to purchase the building site at 39th Street and Venable Avenue for the new Church.

On September 15, 1946, Dr. McNair conducted a service of worship at the Horace Mann Junior High School with 47 members present. The new Church continued to meet in the school building until August 1, 1948, at which time services were moved to the clubhouse of the Charleston Boat Club. The fledgling congregation was to meet in this rather unorthodox setting until completion of the new Church building.

Guidance for development of the new Church was provided by a Council, for it was not as yet a constituted Church. Members of the council included Dr. McNair as moderator, John C. Artur, Doyne B. Berlien, Payne Brown, Joe F. Burdette, Elmer H. Dodson, Carolyn H. Cork, Donald L. Cork, Majorie S. Kraus, Robert B. McCue, John Mendenhall, Leroy Osborn, Violet S. Pitzer, Joseph S. Soto, Fred Work and Kenneth Wrenn. This core of individuals continued to sustain the Church through its early development, and their names are indelibly inscribed in the history of Village Chapel.

With guidance from the Outpost Committee of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, the Council appointed a building committee. Donald L. Cork, Chairman, Leroy Osborn, Fred Work, and Dr. McNail were charged with oversight of the building project. Financed with contributions from First Presbyterian, a grant from the Home Mission Advance Fund of Kanawha Presbytery, and contributions from the Village group and interested friends, the Church, as constructed was valued at $85,000.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on May 8, 1949. As part of the ceremony, “a large pan was placed in the newly broken ground and the congregation filed by, dropping in their contributions for the new Church. The offering totaled $1,470.

In the two and one-half years since the first service and despite difficulties of holding Church and Sunday School in a school building and a clubhouse, the congregation had grown from 47 to 95 adults with a Sunday School enrollment of 214.

During the six months the building was under construction, members of the Church, under the direction of Friend Cochran constructed tables, shelves, cabinets and other items to furnish the Church. Many hours were spent creating the pulpit, pulpit chairs and communion table. Church records indicate that Sally Brown, the wife of Payne Brown, donated a leaf from the family’s dining table for use in constructing the mahogany top of the

communion table. During this time a choir was organized, a piano was donated for the Sunday School, and an electric organ was purchased for the sanctuary.

The first service held in the new building was held on November 6, 1949. Fifty-five new members were received into the Church. Three children, Elmer Denison Dodson (Denny), Janie Martin and Andrew Chevalier Cork were baptized. The "Cradle Roll" at this time listed the names of 40 children under the age of three.

The following Sunday, November 13th, a worship service was held at 2:30 p.m. after which an open house was held for all the Presbyterian congregations and other friends in the valley. As part of this event, the builder, H. B. Agsten, presented the keys of the Church to Dr. McNair. Printed in the program for this occasion was a note by Payne Brown that read in part:

> Last Sunday as a group of us met here to get the Church ready for the first service, it was like Christmas. We were hanging curtains instead of stockings. The men brought in the pulpit, just completed . . . Evergreens came from yards to the Church lawn. There was a sense of excitement. We were moving in. It was Christmas and a new home . . .

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, the Village Chapel, with the sanction of the First Church, petitioned Presbytery to complete the organization of the Church. On March 26, 1950, the Village Chapel was formally organized as a Church. On this glorious occasion the membership was 242 and the new Church had the distinction of being the largest Church ever organized in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.

The first meeting of the Session of the Church was held on March 28th. At this first 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 the "Village Chapel – Presbyterian" was adopted. The charter membership of the Church was closed with a membership of 276. A budget of $10,614.50 was adopted for the first year, 1950-51. Receipts that year totaled $19,000.

On May 7, 1950, a pulpit committee recommended to the congregation that Dr. McNair be called to become the first minister. This received unanimous approval and on September 10th, Dr. McNair was installed.

The young Church continued to flourish and by 1951, the membership had grown to 358 with a Sunday School enrollment of 460. In 1950, Mary Hague, with the support of Dr. McNair, opened a kindergarten in her home. The next year it was moved to the basement of the Church. This program provided quality pre-school education for hundreds of Kanawha Valley children until the spring of 1988.

The Church and Sunday School building had been designed so that an additional 30 feet could be added to the sanctuary and another floor to the Sunday School as the need arose and funds became available. Throughout the summer and winter of 1951, attendance continued to increase taxing accommodations to the utmost. Through a tithing program and gifts from friends of the Church, funds were raised for expansion. In April 1952, construction of a second floor to the Sunday School building was begun at a cost of $15,207. About this 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 McNairs in April 1952.

In June 1953, Miss Kathryn Hickman (now Kathryn McCrary), a graduate of Queens College, was employed as the first Director of Christian Education.

In 1954, Dr. McNair accepted a call from the First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, Florida. His successor was the Revered Hugh F. Ash, an Army Chaplain with the Airborne Unit at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. A graduate of King College in Bristol, Tennessee and Princeton Theological Seminary, he served as Captain of the Fort Campbell Pistol Team.

Under Dr. Ash, Village Chapel continued to grow and soon there was the 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 in order to alleviate crowded conditions the property at 3810 Venable was purchased to be used as additional Sunday School rooms until such time as a more expansive building program could be undertaken.

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 Chapel sponsored four Girl Scout troops, two Brownie troops, two Boy Scout troops, and a Cub Scout pack (five dens). The Church sponsored boy's baseball and basketball teams, girl's tennis teams and a rifle team for teenage boys.

An important addition to the Church in 1954 was the Nelle R. Dodson Memorial library established to honor the mother of Elmer R. Dodson. 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.

In May 1955, the first edition of what soon became the "The Villager" was published by the Senior High Fellowship. This newspaper is still published and continues to provide important information for the congregation and friends of the Church.

By 1956, the membership at Village Chapel had grown to 612. Church School attendance averaged 360 on Sunday morning. The Women of the Church had nine circles meeting monthly. The Men of the Church held monthly dinner meetings.

In February 1959, Dr. Ash resigned. The Reverend James R. Kennedy, formerly of Hinton, became pastor. With the continued growth of membership to 684, the need for a larger sanctuary became increasingly evident. In November 1960, a campaign resulted in pledges of $126,000 to fund a new sanctuary, choir room, kitchen, and parlor. Construction began in July 1961 with completion the following year. The new sanctuary, designed to seat four hundred, was dedicated on July 8, 1962.

The new sanctuary was described as a "blend of materials from many sources." The stained-glass windows are of Blenko glass. The laminated beams of the sanctuary came from Arkansas. The red-oak pews were manufactured in North Carolina out of West Virginia wood. A newsman of the time noted, "In the Village Chapel Sanctuary is visible evidence of inspiration. We know that it is inspired for the simple reason it inspires. It elevates. It exalts. It lifts one up. To enter it, in short, is to have a spiritual experience.

Throughout the ensuing years, Village Chapel continued to provide a meeting place for youth and community groups. In 1968 the Charleston City Parks and Recreation Department began a Teen Canteen each Saturday evening from 7:30 to 10:00 in our Fellowship Hall to provide recreation for the young people of the Kanawha City area. That same year a study clinic was set up as a pilot program at Village Chapel.

In 1968, Mr. Kennedy resigned and was replaced in 1969 by the Reverend Conrad Crow. Mr. Crow came to Village Chapel from Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky with his wife, Carolyn and children, Terri Lynn, Marshall and Charles.

Dr. Crow remained at Village until 1982. During those thirteen years, the Church continued to provide a nurturing environment for youth and to contribute to the work of the Greater Church. In 1972, the congregation provided $4,000 to support the work of Dr. Alan and Alma Gordon and their family as missionaries to Brazil. The Gordon's continued in this ministry until their retirement (deleted because don't know what year this refers to). In 1973, Village Chapel celebrated its 25th year.

In 1980, a drive was undertaken to replace the organ. A committee which included current members, William Coffey, Don Pitzer, Kathryn McCrary, Terry and Carolyne Perrine, spearheaded a capital fund to raise $125,000 for purchase of a pipe organ. In August 1981, the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas delivered (in pieces) a 21-rank pipe organ. Installation began in October, culminating in a dedication and recital on November 29th.

On April 19, 1982, Conrad Crow announced that he had accepted a call to the Great Bridge Presbyterian Church of Chesapeake, Virginia. Until a replacement could be found, a number of interim ministers served the Church, including the popular Dr. William Benfield.

On September 4, 1983, Village Chapel welcomed its fifth full-time pastor, the Reverend W. Frank Mansell, Jr. With his wife Joan and their son, Frank, the Mansell's came to us from the Buntyn Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

Over the years to the present time, Village has served an important role in providing a caring and vibrant community of faith. It continues to be a center for youth and community activity. It provides activities for families and senior citizens. It is a survivor—in August 1988, the Church was struck by lightning and suffered severe damage to all but the sanctuary. The members of the congregation pulled together to rebuild the physical Church and in doing so, strengthen the ties within the membership. It is a "giving" Church as it continues to open its doors to be of service to the community as is reflected in the generous allocation of contributions to benevolence in the annual budget and to the many service projects the congregation undertakes. In this year of celebration, the congregation provided over $40,000 and the necessary labor to construct a Habitat House as a gift to the community. The face of Village has changed. Of the 276 charter members, only eighteen are still counted in the current membership. It is sad to note that many individuals so vital to this Church have come to the end of their lives in recent years.

Today, on this glorious occasion, as we pause to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, we Remember its history, we Rejoice in the accomplishments of these 50 years, and we look to Renew our vision as a Church poised to continue a ministry of service and caring into the new millennium.

Sandra S. Bowles
March 26, 2000