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Church History, 1953-2005

Bethlehem United Church of Christ (Tenth Legion, Va.)

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VALLEY FAITH



Courtesy Photos

Bethlehem United Church of Christ's old stone church, right, was built in 1845. The newer, brick church, above, was built in 1952.



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

By Rev. Robert D. Edwards
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Located in Tenth Legion on Route 11, the Bethlehem United Church of Christ campus consists of two distinctly different structures. There was originally a log church building on the site which was built in the mid-1700s.

The Old Stone Church was built in 1845 and was used by a variety of worshipping communities including Quakers, Brethren and German Baptists. In 1881 it became the spiritual home of the New Bethlehem Christian Congregation which eventually became the Bethlehem United Church of

Christ.

During the Valley Campaign of the War Between the States, the church served as a hospital for soldiers. Shell fire destroyed the rear gable, and the doors and windows were shattered.

In 1952, a new church was built beside the Old Stone Church by Tom Good and others. In 1957, on a national level, the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches united to form the United Church of Christ.

The name Bethlehem was given to this location by Moravian Brethren who camped here on their way from Bethlehem, Pa., to

Winston-Salem, N.C., in 1753.

Its mission today is to provide a spiritual home and a place of worship for many who live within this region of the Shenandoah Valley. Many of the members of this church have deep roots in the greater community of Broadway and Tenth Legion. There are currently 135 members.

Bethlehem UCC is located at 11923 North Valley Pike, Broadway. Christian Education and Worship — Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Minister — Rev. Robert D. Edwards.

For more information, call 896-3975.

Share with our readers your church's history, a photograph and your current church activities.

The history should include date the church was founded, location, minister's name, number of members, the church's mission and times of services.

Submit an article, 200-250 words, to shenjrn@aol.com with two jpeg photographs. Or mail a single space, typed history, with photographs to Journals, P.O. Box 824, Dayton, Va. 22821. Photographs will not

The Old Stone Church Is Rock Solid

Settlers of the New World left much behind in the Old — and jettisoned some of what they carried across the storm-scudded waves of the Atlantic Ocean. But they held to hope for a better life and practice of a strong religion. For ex-

Remembrances

by
Nancy
Bondurant Jones



ample, Moravian Brethren missionaries from Bethlehem, Pa., spread their faith traveling through this area in 1749 — before Rockingham was carved from Augusta County in 1778.

A journal of their trek through the wilderness shows they stayed at the Adam Miller farm and preached in the "Mesanoten" community. They also pitched their tents beside a spring at Harrison's plantation, now Harrisonburg. And near Valentine Seiver's tavern near Tenth Legion, they were welcomed by Quaker families who worshiped in a log meeting-house on Smith Creek, on land owned by Seiver and later sold to Sebastian Martz. By 1782, the Quaker population allegedly exceeded 1,000.

But by the middle of the following century, Quaker congregations had diminished and the Old Meeting House was crumbling with age. So in 1844, Sebastian's son, Jacob Martz, empowered his

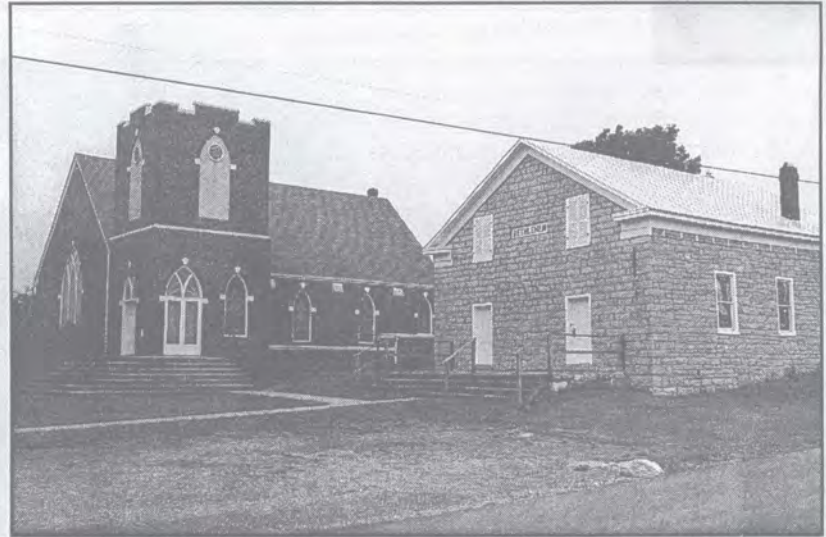
brother, Martin, his nephew, Jackson, and two neighbors, John and Jacob Cowan, to serve as trustees and supervise construction of a "house of Divine Service" on the same site. Not a Quaker, Martz deeded the land for the sum of \$1 "to promote the principles of Christianity ... at the Cross Roads and the Valley Turnpike," according to the deed, dated Sept. 21, 1844.

Named for Bethlehem's Moravian travelers, Bethlehem Church is the oldest stone church extant in the county and second organized Christian congregation. (Antioch Church near Greenmont was organized in 1832, but the current building wasn't erected until 1880.) The Old Stone Church, as it is often called, was constructed by stonemason Jeremiah Clemens before he migrated to Missouri. Clemens is listed in the 1850 Census of Rockingham County as a stonemason, 29 years old.

Clemens knew his craft. The church is on the Virginia Historic Register.

During the Civil War, shelling damaged the roof and shattered windows and doors. The congregation held services across the road and turned the church into a hospital.

Confederate inscriptions still mark attic walls: "John H. Christman stayed all night in this house. All night being confined by an arbitrary power for opinion sake. March 24 (or 7), 1862 ... J.S. Maupin C.S.A. 82 Va. Regiment



News-Record Photo By Allen Litten

Old Stone Church (right) in Tenth Legion.

... 1864 Ewell Division."

After the Civil War, repairs included a replacement roof lower than the original. The original roof had accommodated a balcony for slaves. With restoration completed, membership grew until it constituted a leading congregation in the Valley of Virginia Christian Conference, with conferences often held there in the 1800s. Also, other denominations worshiped at Bethlehem Church.

The 20th century brought further modifications. Stained glass windows came in the last decade of the building's use for regular services. Front steps were replaced, new hardwood floors and pews installed. But walls couldn't

be pushed outward, so in 1952 — due to increased membership — a new church was built adjacent to the old one. On May 31, 1953, Bethlehem Congregational Christian Church was dedicated. (In 1931, Congregationalist and Christian denominations had merged.)

For most of the next three decades, The Old Stone Church stood unused. But many in the community still considered it their "home church." In 1981, it was cleared of debris and dust for a homecoming service on Pentecost Sunday, and it became an annual affair. The 1988 gathering marked the "250th year of continuous

See CHURCH, Page 7



Church Events



Bethlehem United Church of Christ Tenth Legion Homecoming Celebration June 4, 1995

- 9:00 a.m. - Open invitation with coffee & donuts
- 9:30-10:30 - History of the Church & Service with Communion
- 10:30-11:00 - Gospel Music by Mike Shank, Old Gospel Songs of your choice, Special Music by others
- 11:30-12:00 - Visit in the Old Stone Church and view displays of the past.
- 12:00 - Covered Dish Dinner - Meat & Drinks provided by the Women's Fellowship.

Everyone's Invited!

■ **MISSION LIFE LECTURE IN BRIDGEWATER:** North River Baptist Church in Bridgewater will host missionary Deneen Harris of Stuarts Draft at 4 p.m. Sunday. Morning worship will be at 9:30.

■ **GR...**
host an
benefit th

Continued from Page 6
Christian worship on this site," according to program notes.

■ **FEL...**
will meet
Ken Gibs

On Sunday, the 150th anniversary of The Old Stone Church will be celebrated at morning services. Mary Ellen Harrison, homecoming chairwoman, says, "Our goal is 150 people to attend for 150 years of worship."

■ **CON...**
Sunday at

■ **COVE...**
Bridgewater
the summ

■ **BETE...**
Sunday w

■ **CED...**
Church, o
at 8:45 a.n

■ **CON...**
"minister

■ **HOM...**
Brethren
10 a.m. a

■ **SUM...**
Church in
program
informatio

The celebrants will begin with coffee and doughnuts at 9 a.m. The remainder of the schedule offers a history of the church during the communion service, 9:30-10:30; a music program, including gospel by Mike Shank, with requests allowed, 10:30-11:30; tours of The Old Stone Church, 11:30-12:00; and a covered-dish meal — meat and drinks provided — to round out the morning.

Nancy Jones is a longtime Valley resident and historian.

United Methodist Church will
Community Center. Proceeds will

ip of Evangelical Ministers
restaurant. Speakers will be

nd will perform at 7 p.m.

ant Presbyterian Church in
nip at 9:30 a.m. throughout

Church of Christ will hold
a.m., throughout August.

Grove United Methodist
11 a.m. and Sunday school

russell of Chesterfield will

Pleasant Church of the
e at 9:45 a.m., worship at

Vestminster Presbyterian
Summerlee, W. Va., work
are welcome. For more



Bobby Harrison

Christine Harrison
Felp
Bradshae

Buddy Harrison



Patsy Lohr Harrison

Wayne Harrison

Mary Ellen Halseng
Harrison

F.H. Harrison Jr.

Kieran Eaton
Harrison

1963







FRIDAY NIGHT
Fried Catfish Dinner

SATURDAY NIGHT
Prime Rib Dinner

is on Nov. 11

1, with military ID
ber 11
se salad & baked potato.
included.)

et, VA 740-3141

**Big With Your Family
his Christmas!**



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- Lighting
- Home Accents
- All the Accessories

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Iaugen Furniture makes
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lat-top desks.

available in Oak and Cherry.



Isaac Sweeney

The women's fellowship at Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Tenth Legion put together this quilt. It is being raffled as a fundraiser for the fellowship.

Nation's quilt

Quilt honors
country, raises
money for
church

By Isaac Sweeney
STAFF WRITER

The women's fellowship at Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Tenth Legion has put their sewing talents together to make a quilt honoring the nation. The quilt has the name for all 50 states in front of that state's flower.

The quilt will be raffled as a fundraiser for the fellowship. According to Vivian Harris, fellowship member, the fellowship gives money to different causes throughout the country throughout the year.

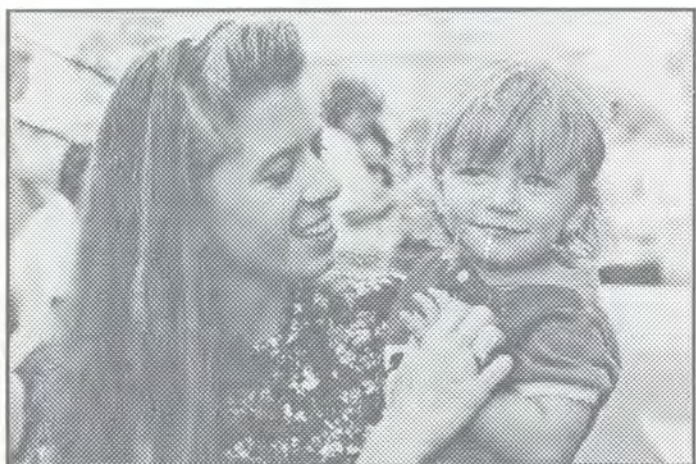
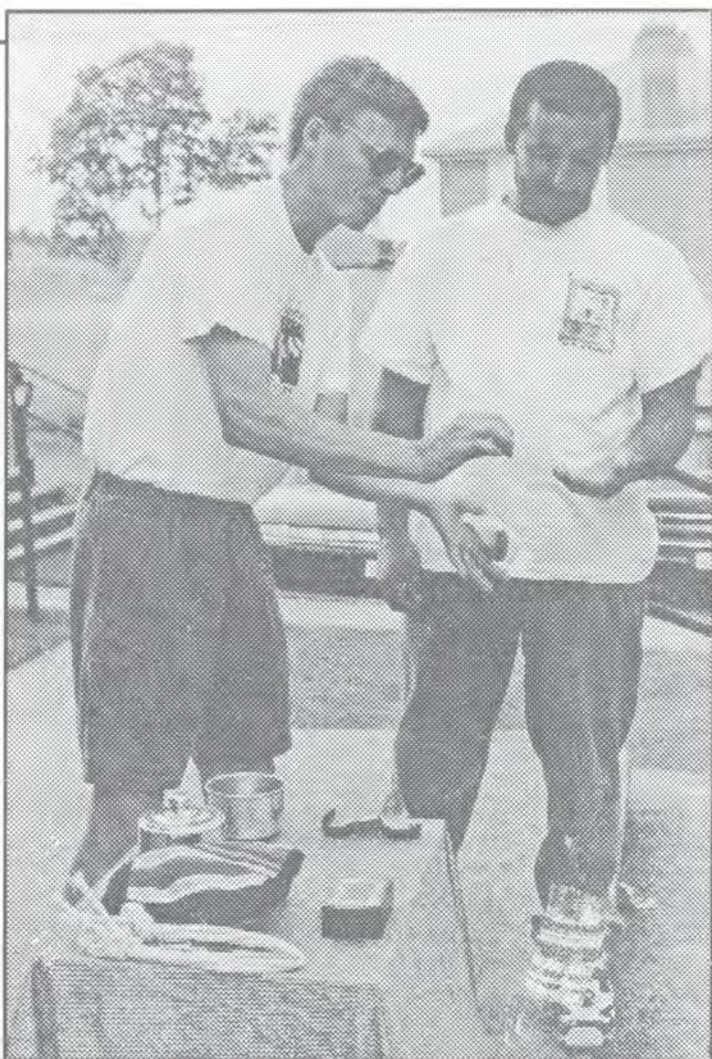
"We do with [money] what is needed," Harris said.

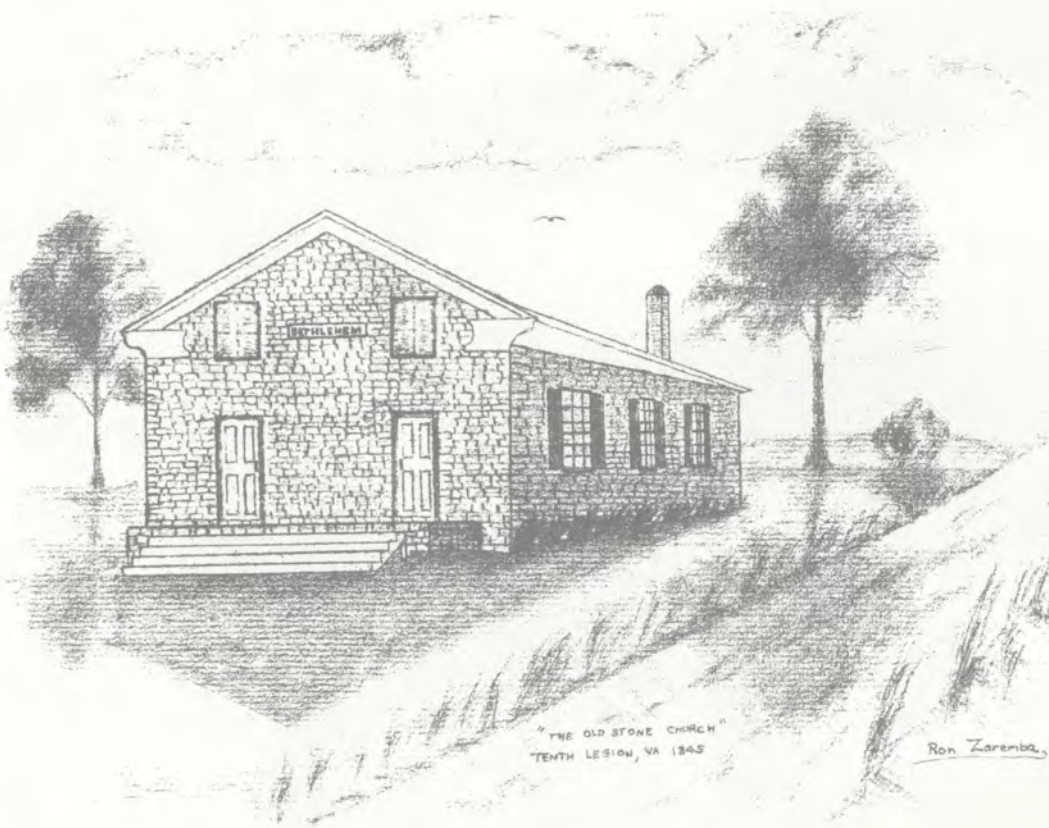
The handmade quilt took "quite a while" to put together, Harris said. Every woman - about 10 of them - did their part. In the end, they had a quilt that is meant to be one of the fellowship's main fundraisers.

Raffle tickets are \$5 for one or \$10 for three. So far, the women have sold \$450 worth of tickets. The tickets may be purchased ahead of time or at the church's bazaar on Nov. 19. The drawing will also be Nov. 19.

To purchase tickets, call 896-4133, 896-8042 or 896-2070.

November is fruit insurance deadline

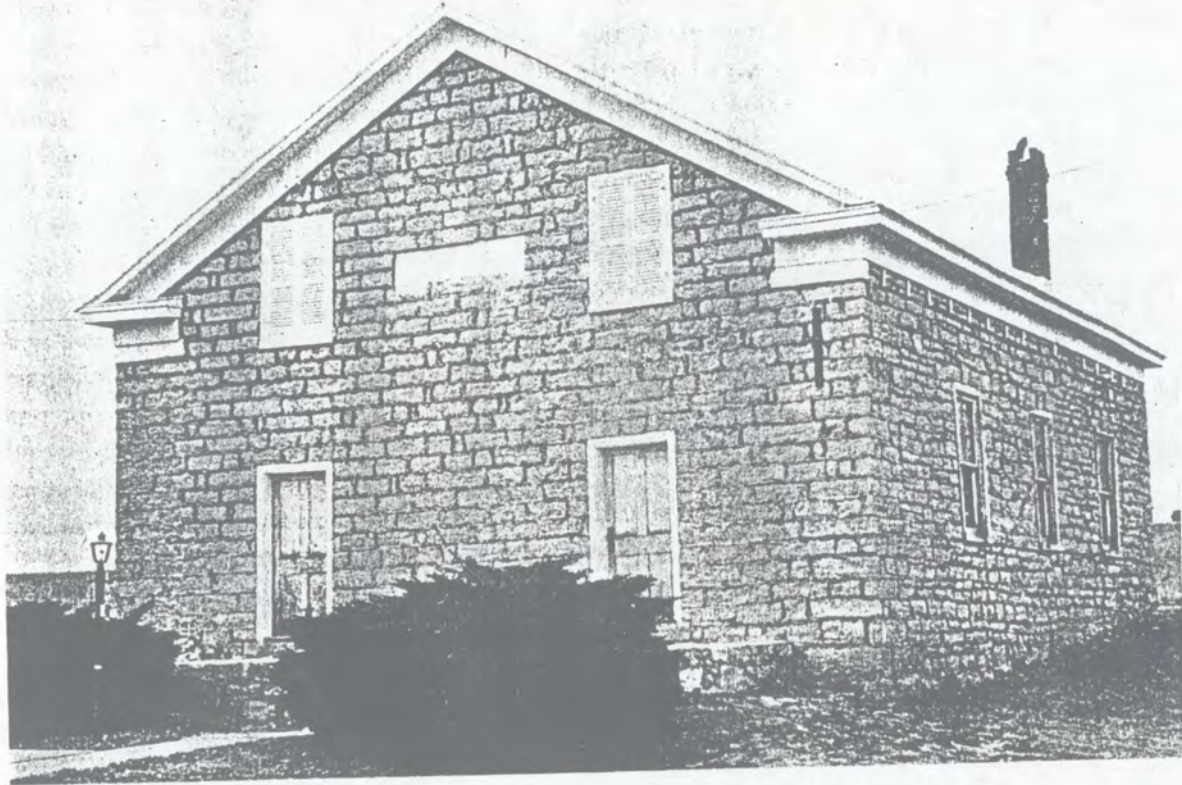




"THE OLD STONE CHURCH"
TENTH LESION, VA 1845

Ron Zarembo

In 1844, a deed was made for the lot where the Bethlehem Brethren Church now stands at



Bethlehem Brethren Church—This old stone church which stands on the west side of Route 11 at Tenth Legion was erected in 1844 on or near the site of an earlier Quaker meeting house. This church was named for the Moravian Brethren from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, who traveled this way in 1753.



1845—1945

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

at

Bethlehem Christian Church

Tenth Legion, Va.

March 26—April 1, 1945

Services will be held each evening at eight o'clock.
Subjects as follow:

Monday—Jesus Returns to the City.

Tuesday—Jesus in the Temple.

Wednesday—Jesus Among His Friends.

Thursday—Jesus Forsaken.

Friday—Jesus On The Cross.

Saturday—Jesus in the Tomb.

Easter Sunday A. M., Jesus Alive Forevermore.

The public is cordially invited to worship and meditate with us at this century old shrine during this series of studies on the greatest event in all the history of the world.

GUY H. VEAZEY, Pastor.



Light Fixtures from
Bethlehem Old Stone
Church, Shenandoah Region,
Va. Pictures taken
Fall of 1989
N. H. Sellers



Light Fixtures from
Bethlehem Old Stone
Church, Pentec Legion,
Va. Picture taken
Fall of 1989
N. H. Sellers

Pat No 433-5503
Daily News

Carol Ann

HOMECOMING CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
TENTH LEGION - SUNDAY JUNE 4, 1995
Opening at 9:00 A.M. with coffee & doughnuts
Covered Dish Dinner at 12:00

This
on back
page
next
week

Shen. Valley
Herald

HOMECOMING CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Bethlehem United Church of Christ will be having Homecoming on Sunday, June 4th 1995 starting at 9:00 with coffee and doughnuts. At 9:30 there will be services with the history of the "Old Stone Church" dating back 150 years. At 10:30 there will be Gospel singing with Old Time Favorites. special music by people of the church. At 11:30 a time to visit the "Old Stone Church" and enjoy all the displays from the past. At 12:00 a covered dish dinner with meat and drinks provided. Come to Tenth Legion and join us for a morning worship celebrating 150 years.

Rem this
on Church
Section
next week

Send me a bill
Oct-3 Bot 25
B'way. Va.
22 815

Yard & Bake Sale

Summer Opening -Second Hand Treasures
Saturday-May 4th-8:00-1:00
New items for you & the home
Country Ham Sandwiches

Rem
May 3rd

Also
back
page
next
week

The CHRISTIAN SUN

ORGAN OF THE SOUTHERN CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

In Essentials Unity — In Non-Essentials, Liberty, — In All Things, Charity

VOLUME CIV

RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1952

NUMBER 9

GROUND BREAKING at TENTH LEGION Virginia Valley Conference



Left to right: Shirley White, Clarence A. Phillips, R. B. Dofflemyer, Conference President; J. L. Rhodes, Mrs. R. A. Whitten, Jim Lohr, Stanley Lohr, Rev. R. A. Whitten, Rev. Ralph Galt, Tom Good, Rev. S. E. Madren, J. S. Sellers, Robert Sellers. Bethlehem "Old Stone Church" in background.

Photo by Daily News Record

An event long awaited by the members of the more than a century old Bethlehem Congregational Christian congregation—the breaking of ground for a new brick edifice to be constructed on the same plot on the west side of the Valley Pike—attracted more than 100 persons on Sunday afternoon, February 17.

The new church, which will be built south of the present 107-year-old structure, will be modern in every respect and provide needed facilities for the enlarged program of the church. The old stone church will remain and be put to church use.

First Spadeful Turned.

After brief ceremonies, Stanley Lohr, chairman of the building committee, turned the first spadeful of earth. Mrs. J. S. Sellers followed as president of the Women's Aid Society, and Miss Nancy Williams and James Lohr, representing the young people. Other members also turned spades of earth.

The pastor, the Rev. Ralph Galt, presided over the service. There was an invocation by the Rev. D. S. Weiford, pastor of the New Market and Broadway Methodist Churches. Clarence A. Phillips read the report of the building committee, which

was completed after months of study. The Rev. J. S. Roller, of the Fairview Church of the Brethren, gave a brief history of the Tenth Legion Community.

R. B. Dofflemyer, of Elkton, president of the Virginia Valley Central Conference, brought greetings.

The Rev. R. A. Whitten, of Winchester, a former president, said he knew the ground-breaking had been looked forward to for years by members of the growing congregation. This congregation in its 107 years has been firm and constant, he stated.

He pointed to the need of expanded quarters to meet the larger program of the church and said he is sure the new edifice will be used for the high Christian purposes which have always marked the services in the old, but now outgrown stone church. Rev. Mr. Whitten spoke of yesterday, today and tomorrow and predicted it might not be too many years until the congregation will have to have an even larger church than the one now planned.

The new church will follow the lines of the Genoa Church of the Brethren built in 1950 by Tom Good, a member of the Bethlehem congregation. Roy Good will be the contractor.



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

MICHAEL F. DUFFY, PASTOR
CHURCH: (703) 896-3975
RESIDENCE: (703) 896-6100

ROUTE 3, BOX 104-A
BROADWAY, VA 22815

August 23, 1990

Dear Friend:

This year marks the 145th Anniversary of worship at Bethlehem, and we want to invite you to a celebration! Beginning with our worship service on September 30, we have a week of special events planned. At some of them we will remember the past of our church, and at others we will be looking forward to our future.

Calendar of Events

September 30

10:30 a.m. - A "Homecoming" Worship Service, with The Rev. Bob Spaulding, former pastor of Bethlehem, preaching

This Sunday has also been designated "Conference Sunday" by the Central Atlantic Conference, and we are expecting a Conference representative to be with us

Historical exhibits

Exhibits that will tell you something of who we are today

Our Annual Church Picnic - a cook-out on the church grounds

October 3

7:30 - Worship Service in the Old Stone Church, with The Rev. Dr. Bernie Zerkel preaching**

October 7

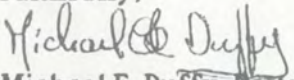
10:30 - Worship Service, with a focus on where we go from here!

A presentation on the environment - a new Outreach project for Bethlehem

A Fellowship time, with refreshments, after the service to close the week's celebration

If you have any questions, feel free to call the Pastor, at one of the numbers above, or the Moderator, Larry Brown, at 896-7683. We hope that you will be able to be with us at any or all of these events!!

Faithfully,


Michael F. Duffy, Pastor

**Please note that there is limited space for the Wednesday night service in the old church. We will plan to accommodate all who wish to come, but we would like to know how many people will be with us. We would very much appreciate it if you would send us the form below if you will be attending this service. Thanks!

 Yes, I will be attending the worship in the Old Stone Church

Name _____ Phone _____



The Bethlehem Christian Church



Shirley Secrest Rosalie Sellers Robert Sellers
 Matthew Secrest Brenda L. Driever Sellers
 Sellers
 Wedding party of Brenda & "Bob" Sellers
 22 Apr. 1983

Emmett Foltz Family



Back row - Rosalie F. Sellers, Clark
 Foltz, Thomas Sellers.
 Front Row - Marjorie Foltz Whitman
 Rena Thomas Foltz. Empty chair
 for Frances who died when she
 was a young girl. (14 Apr. 1936)

BETHLEHEM CHURCH, TENTH LEGION Often known as "The Old Stone Church," Bethlehem Church is located on the west side of Route 11 in the village of Tenth Legion in Rockingham County. This arresting landmark stands on land given in 1844 by Jacob Martz, Sr., who appointed four trustees "to superintend the building of a house for Divine Service." Bethlehem Church is believed to be the oldest stone church extant in the county and the second oldest Christian Church.

During the Valley Campaign, Bethlehem Church was used for a hospital. Inscriptions of Confederate soldiers still remain in the attic. The church was in the line of battle during the Civil War and suffered shell fire which damaged the roof and shattered windows and doors. The Bethlehem congregation became leaders in the Valley of Virginia Christian Conference and membership increased rapidly. A new church, which stands adjacent to the stone structure, was built in 1952. Many changes in church organization also have taken place since 1844. Today the Bethlehem Church is known as the Bethlehem United Church of Christ.

Tea is being served from 10:00 until 5:00 at the church on the day of the Historic Garden Week tour.



*Spotswood Garden Club of Harrisonburg
sponsors the annual*

*Home and Garden Tour
for Historic Garden Week
in Virginia*

April 25, 1984



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Garv Riner

Bethlehem Church

In the year 1738 while this area was still a comparative wilderness beside an Indian trail (now Rt. 11) a group of interested friends met to discuss the need of a "Meeting House". The soil was consecrated, and a house of sturdy logs was erected, in which to worship God. This crude house served the religious purposes of the community for over one hundred years.

In the year 1844 several members of the Martz family and neighbors by the name of Cowan met together to discuss the meeting house which was crumbling with age. At this time Jacob Martz Sr. made a deed for the land on which the present Stone Church was erected by one Jeremiah Clemens in the year 1845. The neighbors who were with Mr. Martz at the first planning meeting were the trustees for the building and for the carrying on of the business of the operation of the new church.

During the Valley Campaign of the War Between the States in 1864 the Church was requisitioned as a hospital for the sick and wounded. The building was badly damaged - the rear gable was struck and destroyed by shell fire. The benches and patients were moved across the road to a log building. After the war this building and benches were used for a school, as well as for a meeting house. This was known as the "Smith Creek Congregational."

Twice between 1865 and 1881 Conference was held here. On June 1, 1881 there was a meeting with the two surviving trustees of the Old Stone Church. Three more trustees were appointed. These five drew up an agreement with the Bethlehem Church and the Christian Conference to assume the work of refitting, improving, rebuilding the Bethlehem Church. There were twenty-one original members who joined in the project.

The Church membership continued to grow. Twenty-two in 1882. In 1884 there were ten more. In 1886 there was a great revival at which time there were thirty members added to the roll.

There were other denominations who held services in Bethlehem Church as well as the Christians. Some of these were "The United Brethern in Christ" and "The German Baptist Church".

Eventually the Christian denomination was the only one to hold meetings here. In 1931 the Congregationalist and the Christian denominations were united. They were known as the "Congregational Christian". The Mid-Winter meetings of the Valley Conference were always held at Bethlehem as it as a central location. This was a one-day meeting. Then every few years, as their turn came up, the Annual Conference, which was a two and half day meeting, was held at Bethlehem. For many years there was a Sunday School Convention of one full day held in one of the Valley Churches with each Church taking their turn. Most of these meetings were during the summer and a bountiful lunch was served out under the trees. When the meetings were for several days, the delegates and visitors were welcomed into the homes of the members.

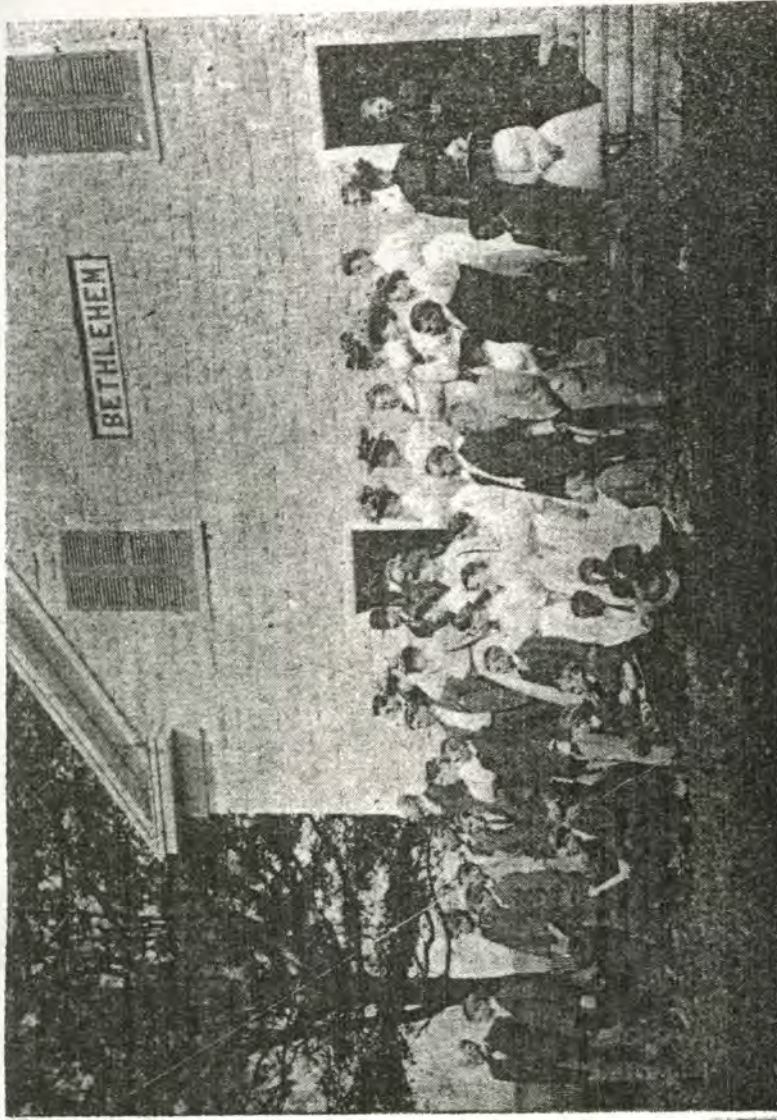
Almost every year for many years at least a week long revival meeting was held with a guest minister. There was usually several people uniting with the Church by confession of faith. Sometimes a baptismal service was held in one of the nearby streams, or a pouring or sprinkling type of baptism in the Church.

In 1952 after much prayer, sacrifice and work the new brick building was erected. It was dedicated at a wonderful all-day meeting with many of the former ministers taking part in the service.

The Stone Church was no longer used for services. The young people used it for parties and some meetings. It began to fall into a state of deterioration. The birds began to dig out the lime mortar and even build nests. The stone was still beautiful and one of the members received an offer to tear the building down and remove it. A small memorial was to be erected on the site of the Church. Many of the members were grieved to think of losing the Stone Church. When people in the surrounding communities learned of the threatened loss of the landmark they immediately rallied to the cause of "Save the Stone Church".

The congregation voted against tearing down the Church, but it must be repaired. At a special meeting of interested people an organization was formed to begin repairs. Repointing the stone was the first thing to be done. A new porch was built, woodwork painted and other things. The donated money was about exhausted. Right now we need a real rally to complete the job of restoration of Stone Church. At least the deterioration was stopped and it is hoped the restoration will soon be completed.

When the U.C.C. denomination was started Bethlehem began a new life with this larger organization.



(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Catherine Bro
OVER FIFTY YEARS' TIME—On July 7, 1908, Bethlehem Church congregation, together with Sunday School, posed for a photographer. With a few exceptions, the group seemed shy and did face the camera directly. This factor made identity difficult of all persons in this picture.

Right of center, directly behind a little boy, far right of first row, stands the pastor, the Rev. T. Walkers. Next to him, holding his hat and an umbrella, is James M. Bradford, Sr. Next to James M. Bradford, Sr., stands the Rev. P. S. Sailor, a visiting minister. J. C. Bradford, Sun School superintendent, leans, unconsciously, like a football lineman at rest, holding derby hat in left hand. Behind him, third from left, in first standing row, is an unidentified young boy. Notice in last row, third left, standing at south side of door, a gentleman dressed in a derby with a Spanish war style mustache.

First row, last right, facing photographer, stands a primo little girl, her hands folded. Who is she? Both ministers, the Sunday School superintendent and Mr. James M. Bradford, Sr., are all deceased

Many Tenth Legion Persons, Shown In Photo, Still Live; Others Gone

—1961— By E. F. Myers

Tenth Legion, Nov. 27—An old because the group did not square face the photographer. photo of a group posing in front of the ancient Bethlehem Church, still standing on highway 11, appears elsewhere in this issue of the Shenandoah Valley.

This photograph should stir the memory of many local residents.

Because many persons in the photo cannot be identified whom I know were there, names of these people are included in this news story.

Many Of Your Friends Were Present?

However, the following persons, who appear in the picture, although unidentified, are still living: Mrs. Myrtle Martz Conquist, Mr. Leonard Lohr, Miss Allie Branner, Miss Ella Pickering, Mrs. Martha Pickering Driver, Mrs. Rena Thomas Foltz, Mrs. Detta Smith Holsinger, Miss Cora Smith, Walton, Hugh and Frank Harrison.

Also, still living, are Clyde and Ray O'Roark, Russell and James Bradford, Mrs. Maud Reid Phillips, Mrs. Mary Reid Clettuer, Miss Bertie Martz, Mrs. Edna Carl Mathias, Mrs. Artie Carl Nair, Mr. Wilmer Earman, Mr. Charles Aiken and this correspondent.

Others in the photo are Mrs. Mettie Smith, Mrs. Rebecca O'Roark, Miss Mary Lipe (deceased), Mrs. Mary Thomas, Miss Edna Martz, Mr. Will Lohr, Mrs. Will Lohr, Miss Mary Pickering, Mrs. Lydia Pickering, Clarence Harrison, Mrs. Hannah Bradford, Mrs. Amanda Smith, Mr. Al Deavers, Mr. G. N. Brown and Mr. Sam Earman.

Perhaps Mr. Hampton Sprinkle was in this photo.

Miss Lipe Collected Toll at Toll House

Miss Mary Lipe, now deceased, who appears in the picture, was collector at the toll house on Highway 11, mentioned in a Shenandoah Valley feature several weeks ago.

Positive identification of everyone in the photo was impossible

1961 reprint of picture

Tenth Legion church to celebrate its long history this weekend

Jane Etter

Valley-Herald staff writer

TENTH LEGION - Beginning 9 a.m. Sunday, June 4, the Rev. Michael Duffy will conduct services on land where religious freedom has been enjoyed since early 1738.

The Bethlehem Church in Tenth Legion had its beginnings as a meeting house in the wilderness along the "Indian trail" which is now U.S. 11.

In 1844, members of the old log church decided to build a new stone church on land donated by Jacob Martz Sr. The stone church was erected in 1845 by Jeremiah Clemens.

The church is believed to be the oldest in Rockingham County and the second oldest Christian church.

During the Civil War, the church was used as a hospital and was badly damaged by shell fire. After the war, the church was used for a

school as well as a meeting house and was known as Smith Creek Congregational.

Church membership grew with the years and it was decided in 1952 to construct a new brick building which stands adjacent to the old stone church.

Morning worship service will begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and donuts. The history of the church service with communion will be held 9:30-10:30 a.m. when gospel music will be performed by Mike Shank and other selections will be presented.

At 11:30 a.m., a visit to the old stone church which has been named to the Virginia Landmarks Register, will be conducted.

At noon, a covered dish dinner will be held.

Homecoming chairman Mary Ellen Harrison said they hope to have 150 worshippers for 150 years of worship at the old stone church.

HOME COMING CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

Tenth Legion - Sunday, June 4, 1995

Opening at 9 a.m. with coffee & doughnuts

Covered Dish Dinner at 12 p.m.



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

MICHAEL F. DUFFY, PASTOR
CHURCH: (703) 896-3975
RESIDENCE: (703) 896-6100

ROUTE 3, BOX 104-A
BROADWAY, VA 22815

April 30, 1995

Friends & Family,

You are cordially invited to attend a Homecoming Celebration on June 4th, 1995. It will be 150 years of the " Old Stone Church" of continuing worship at Bethlehem U.C.C. in Tenth Legion. We have a Special Day planned. We would like for you and any others you know to come and enjoy this special day with us. The program will be as follows:

- 9:00 A.M. Open invitation with coffee & doughnuts
- 9:30 - 10:30 History of the Church & Service with Communion
- 10:30 - 11:00 Gospel Music by Mike Shank, Old Gospel Songs of you choice, Special Music by others
- 11:30 - 12:00 Visit in the Old Stone Church and view displays of the past.
- 12:00 Covered Dish Dinner - Meat & Drinks provided by the Women's Fellowship.

Please mark your calender and come enjoy a day with good fellowship and good food. Members will provide the meal. There will be a Wishing Well for the ones who would like to donate \$1.50 for the up keep of the Old Stone Church. We will be looking forward to seeing you on June 4th-Sunday - starting at 9:00 A.M.

Homecoming Chairperson

Mary Ellen Harrison

Contact if questions at

703-896-8042 or Rt. 3 Box 25 Broadway, Va. 22815

A History of Bethlehem United Church of Christ

(Compiled for the June 4, 1995 Homecoming from accounts written during the last 50 years.)

By 1738 a log meetinghouse had been built on or near what is today the site of the Old Stone Church. At least until the early 1800's, this meetinghouse was used regularly for worship by some of the many Quaker families in the Valley. By 1807, however, many of these Quakers had migrated westward, and the Smith Creek Friends ceased meeting on this site.

By 1844, the meetinghouse was crumbling and Jacob Martz, the owner of the land on which it stood, deeded it to several trustees. He appointed John Cowan, Jacob N. Cowan, Martin Martz, and Jackson Martz "to superintend the building of a house for Divine Service on a lot of land of the said Jacob Martz as well for and in consideration of his strong desire to promote the principles of Christianity as of one Dollar Current Money . . ." (Rockingham Deed Book 17; 21 Sept. 1844, p. 381).

The Old Stone Church was built in 1845 by a Rockingham County stonemason named Jeremiah Clemens, who was about 24 at the time, and who later migrated to Missouri.

There is much about the religious history of the church in the decades following its construction which is unclear. It may be that more than one religious group or denomination was using the Old Stone Church for services at one time, or it may be that different groups used the building in succession. It appears that groups called the "United Brethren in Christ" and the "German Baptist Church" worshipped there. It is said to have been named for some Moravian Brethren from Pennsylvania who traveled through the Valley in the 1753.

The Church served as a hospital during the Valley Campaign of the War Between the States. (There are soldiers' inscriptions above the current ceiling.) Shell fire destroyed the rear gable, and the doors and windows were shattered. Patients and benches were moved across the road to a log building, which was used as the Smith Creek Congregational Church until 1881.

On June 18, 1881, with only two of the original trustees surviving, J. B. Smith, Michael Lohr and Michael J. Martz were appointed to join John Cowan and Jackson Martz as trustees. These five, representing the New Bethlehem Christian Congregation, entered an agreement with the Virginia Valley Christian Conference to restore the Old Stone Church. 21 members joined in the project, and it appears that membership almost tripled within the next five years.

In 1942 a new hardwood floor was added to the church and the raised chancel area with divisions for Sunday School classes was constructed; new pews were added shortly thereafter. The stained glass windows were also installed in the 1940's.

National events have local impact, and, on June 27, 1931, in Seattle, Washington, the Christian Church merged with the Congregational Churches to form the Congregational Christian Churches; the Tenth Legion congregation was to become the Bethlehem Congregational Christian Church. In 1932 and 1933 the General Synod of the Reformed Church and the Evangelical Synod of North America voted to unite; on June 26, 1934, the Evangelical and Reformed Church was born in Cleveland, Ohio. On June 25, 1957, also in Cleveland, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches united to become the United Church of Christ. Three weeks from today is the 38th anniversary of that union, a union which soon resulted in the birth of Bethlehem United Church of Christ.

In 1952, a new church was built beside the Old Stone Church by Tom Good and others. The Old Stone Church was little used for the next three decades. In 1976, church and community members raised funds to make repairs on the building, and in 1981 it was used for a Homecoming service on Pentecost Sunday. Also in that year it was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Today the Old Stone Church is primarily used for the "Second Hand Treasures" outreach project of the Bethlehem Women's Fellowship, which sells clothing and household items inexpensively to the surrounding communities. Various individuals and groups ask to see the building from time to time, and the congregation welcomes such community interest.

Today we welcome you to our church, and we hope that you will be aware of God being with you during your time of worship and fellowship with us.

Clarence
Phillips
1948-50 CA

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Today the citizens of this community have met to lay the corner stone of a noble and beautiful edifice, symbolizing the bountiful blessings God has bestowed upon his children.

Two hundred and fourteen years ago in 1738 this was a wilderness beside an Indian Trail, then pious friends met upon this consecrated soil and erected a meeting House of sturdy logs, in which to worship their God.

As these, some of their descendents lift their faces heaven word today they can almost catch the echo of those sanctify hosts, as they proclaim, and plead--

Almighty God we sing your praises,
you were than our staff and might,
Give them strength to live and labor,
Seek for Truth, and fight for Right .

These men and women had fled from the wrath of a sovereign, they had felt the sting of religious persecution, yet they did not fear the dangers of an unknown wilderness.

Today, Christianity faces a deadly danger, a philosophy which is creeping over the land, and evil that will shackle in iron tentacle, and plunge it into outer darkness. Accepting this challenge, the citizens of this community are erecting strong new walls which will notify all who see them, that there within this house the Principles of Jesus of Bethlehem shall be taught to our children, and our children's children, and that no lonely soul need fear within these wall to seek a friendly God.

This plot was contained in an early grant made to Valentine Sevier and Joanna Goode his wife-

Living close by at an early date, were Thomas Loakey, William Pickering, Jacob Woodley, Solomon Mathews, John Phillips, Philomon O'Roark and other families.

Into this community came Sabostion Marche (Now Martz) whose sons married the daughters of these Quaker families.

The old Meeting House was crumbling with age when Jacob Martz, Senior, the Son of Sabostion, Called his neighbors John and Jacob Cowan, his brother Martin and his nephews, Dorilrs and Jackson Martz to him, on September 21, 1844.

On this date he made a deed for 156 poles of land more or less, together with all the appurtenance thereon, and in consideration of his strong desire to further the principles of Christianity, he appointed the

foregoing men, as trustees to superintend the building of a house for Divine Service.

It is conceded that the present stone church was laid up by one Jeremiah Clemens, who migrated to Missouri, and that it was built in 1845, that the church was erected in a reverential and harmonious atmosphere cannot be doubted.

Jackson Martz who was the last surviving Trustee made his demise in 1900, and he many times likened this construction to that of Solomon Temple.

From 1860 until 1881 this peaceful community suffered many vicissitudes. The church was requisitioned as a hospital for the sick and wounded in the Valley Campaign, and was in the line of battle, during the war between the states. It was badly damaged by shell fire and left to stand a delapidated, shattered structure with paneless windows and broken doors, into which cattle and sheep wandered at random for more than sixteen years.

Across the road where the Crown Filling Station now stands, there was a log structure into which the benches and patients had been moved during the war-this now became both a School and Meeting House.

It must not be supposed that the Smith Creek's Congregational Church had ceased to worship for the lack of a Church.

Twice between 1865 and 1881 it is recorded that Conference was held at Bethlehem. In 1868, John Burkholder and Martin Strickler, and again in 1878 Jessie Burkholder and C.J. Rolston met with the congregation and held conference. On June 18, 1881, the Rev. D.T. Deames called a meeting of the New Bethlehem Christian Congregation which had been founded out of the Old Smith's Creek Congregation and consisted of twenty-one of the original members.

A previous meeting with the Trustees of the church had been held on June 1, 1881 at the first meeting only John Cowan and Jackson Martz had survived of the original trustees, at the June 18th. meeting J.B. Smith Michael Lohr and Michael J. Martz had been newly appointed. These five Trustees drew up an agreement with the Bethlehem Church and the Valley of Virginia Christian Conference, in which they covenanted and agreed that the Valley of Virginia Christian Conference was the proper one to assume the work of Refitting, Improving or Rebuilding the Church of Bethlehem, and to assume its future care and protection, in order to carry out the wishes and purpose of the donors.

There were five very simple principles which these 21 individuals associating themselves together as a church in reorganization, set apart

- (1) Christ is the only head of the Church
- (2) The name of Christian is the only appellation by which we will be known, to the party or sectarian names
- (3) The Holy Bible or the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament is our only creed or confession of faith.

(4) Christian Character, or vital piety, is the true scriptural test of fellowship and of Church membership.

(5) The right of private judgement, and the liberty of conscience is a right and privilege that should be accorded to and exercised by all.

The twenty one to annex their names to these articles were:

Phillip Holsinger
Leanna Allison
Rachel Holsinger
Mary Lee
Elizabeth Evers
Catherine Shomo
Sara F. Devers
R.J. Crider
Emma F. Rhodes
Hettie Fately
Amanda V. Martz

Jacob Huntsberry
Rachel Thomas
Rebecca Holsinger
Marin Martz
G.C. Huntsberry
Rebecca Bradgett
Martha A Spitzer
S.N.C. Martz
Virginia Fogol
Isaac Martz

Early in 1882 by profession of faith 22 other members were taken into the Congregation as follows:

Alice Lincoln
Lottie Shomo
J.J. Lincoln
Olivia W. Koontz
Mamie Summers
Fannie Huddle
Josie Grandle
Lucy K. Lincoln
Rebecca Thomas
H.P. Cline
Lydia Yates

Mariah Huffman
Amanda Clalor
Sallie G. Summers
Charles Summers
William L Powell
Maggie Lowman
D.G. Shomo
Elizabeth Chue
C.H. Lincoln
Ida Yates
Jennie F. Huddle

Two Years later by confession of faith there were added ten more members in 1884.

Sallie F. Rosenberger--later Sallie Long a donor to the church
Nelia A Rosenberger
Later Mrs. Dorilas Driver the Mother Bessie Driver Sellers
Jesamie Rosenberger-wife of John Harrison Mother of Frank and
Walton Harrison.
Ada J. Rosenberger
Mary H. Lohr
Jacob Bazzle

Fannie Zirkle
George B. Rosenberger
Eliza Thomas, wife of Madison Thomas
A Deacon appointed in 1898

There was a great revival in 1886 in which 30 members were received upon confession of faith:

Lumie C. Pickering --wife of J.W. Pickering who long led the church choir ~~the~~ Song and the Mother of Mrs. Willie Driver and Ella Pickering

Gideon Rosenberger
Dewitt Martz
Wilbert Rosenberger

James A. Hillyard
William Fulk
John Bradford--The beloved "Jack Bradford" of Toll House Farm, who was Sunday School Supt. for many years.

Appointed Deacon in 1898 and served faithfully.

Armentrout
Mary Graves
Cleta Armentrout
Hannah Pickering
Bettie Pickering
Mollie Devers
Mamie Yates
Mattie Donovan
Cline

Delia Rosenberger
Fanny Rosenberger
Emma F. Rosenberger

Mary Martz

Amanda Huff
Willie Evers
Mrs. Mattie Fulk
Kate Neff
Hannah Martz A brilliant woman whose work as a teacher in the Rockingham school has seldom been equaled
Madison Thomas--Son of Col. Isaac Thomas of the War of 1812, and Elizabeth West Thomas who with his Sister, Maria Catherine Martz were the "Angels of Mercy" of Tenth Legion where soldiers were hospitalized in the Church, appointed Deacon in 1898.
Jennie Sellers
Addison Martz--Who for many years served the quarterly Conference session as Secretary.

Julia Kerlin
Lydia Martz

At the meeting in 1881 Rev. A. Hoover representing the United Brethern Church in Christ, Rev. J. Zigler, representing the German Baptist Church, Jessie Burkholder and Col. Emanuel Sipe, Deacons were their respective Christian Churches, James M. Bradford Esq. D.G. Shomo, Esq and Dr. J.E. Lincoln were all present as representation men of their neighborhoods.

At this meeting it was decided to appoint a committee composed of D.T. Deaves, A. Hoover, J. Zigler, D.G. Shomo, J.F.D. Rhodes, Major Longacre, John Yates, Jacob Sellers, C.G. Jennings, E. Driver, Phillip Holsinger and Elias Eswiller to solicit funds for the use of the building committee.

Again the restoration of this church met with God's favor and in 1882 the Valley of Virginia Christian Conference met at Bethlehem. Conferences were then held here in the following years 1887, 1890, 1893, 1901. and has been continued by the present congregation until this day.

It would be an unpardonable omission if one did not pay tribute to those noble men and women whose loyalty, labor, and Christian Spirit kept alive the spirit of fellowship and brotherly love in this community. Aside from the donors who were not known to be a member of any church--yet gave of their service and their means to build and perpetuate Bethlehem, there were many men and women who carried the burden cheerfully and in good faith.

Upon this honor roll should be placed the name of Michael Martz II, the first man known to have become a Christian Minister at Tenth Legion.

James M. Bradford Sunday School Superintendent-

Mrs Lummie Pickering and Mrs Laura Martz young women whom death claimed. Col. Emanuel Sipe, J.J. Lincoln an educator and early secretary of the church, Mrs. Emma S. Rhodes. Mrs Alice A Lincoln, wife of Dr. J.E. Lincoln and Motner of Dr. Asa Liggett Lincoln a prominent physician in New York City. William Pickering who led the choir for many years, and whose daughters Mrs Willie Driver and Miss Ella Pickering have been faithful workers all their lives. D.G. Shomo whose daughter, Lottie Holsinger gave much in service and whose children and grandchildren are still working in the present congregation. Mrs. Jennie Welch, Elizabeth Smith and husband Joseph Smith who were large donors to the Church. J. Smith, a trustee, and the first sexton. Abraham Reid, whose children and grandchildren, and great grandchildren can be found today as active members of the congregation. Jacob Sellers whose descendant are a part of the Church structure. Mrs. Ella Long Lincoln A Sunday School teacher of the girls class. Mrs. Sallie N.C. Martz wife of David and daughter of Jackson one of the five trustees who superintended the building of the church. She walked humbly with God and loved her church, becoming an organized member in 1881 and remaining until her death in 1930. The Rosenberger families each member of which made large contributions in service and of their resources. Madison Thomas, a deacon, who with his wife Eliza Brady Thomas supplied the Sacrament for the Lord's Table for many years.

Hannah Pickering Bradford whose kindly deeds and God like Spirit shall ever remain a sweet faced memory in the congregation. Abraham Pickering, her father who although a United Brethern in Christ gave of his resources and time in the reconstruction of Bethlehem. Mr. Pickering was a direct descendant of William Pickering and wife Barbara Woodley. His ancestors helped to construct the original log meeting house. Mrs Lydia Sellers Martz mother of Addison Martz a young man of his death, who was secretary of the congregation for many years. Ruben Myers and Samuel W. Lincoln who gave of their time and resources.

David Richard Martz, a direct descendent of Thomas Loakey, A Quaker who lived in the white house at the second bend of the ridge road, and of Sabostian March, whose son John fought in the war of 1812, Mr. Martz welcomed the minister to his home, sick or well., he loved the visits of his neighbors on the Sabbath. He believed "The right of private judgement and the liberty of conscience is a right and privilage that should be accorded to and exercised by all."

To that legion of other beloved souls, none of whose names are omitted in the great books of life, we pause to pay tribute, and realize that they like late young pastor Rev. A.W.Andes, are rejoicing that their consecrated Service is now reaping an abundant harvest.

Into this Cornerstone we place an offering which venerates the past, and upon it we build a firm foundation for the future.

BETHLEHEM

United Church of Christ

PENTECOST and
HOMECOMING

May 22, 1988

1988 marks the 250th
year of continuous
Christian worship on
this site.

Invitation to the dedication
of the new building.

You are cordially invited to attend the Dedication Services

*Sunday,
May 31,*

1953

SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 A.M.

CHURCH WORSHIP
11:00 A.M.

LUNCH
12:00 NOON

DEDICATION
SERVICE
2:00 P.M.



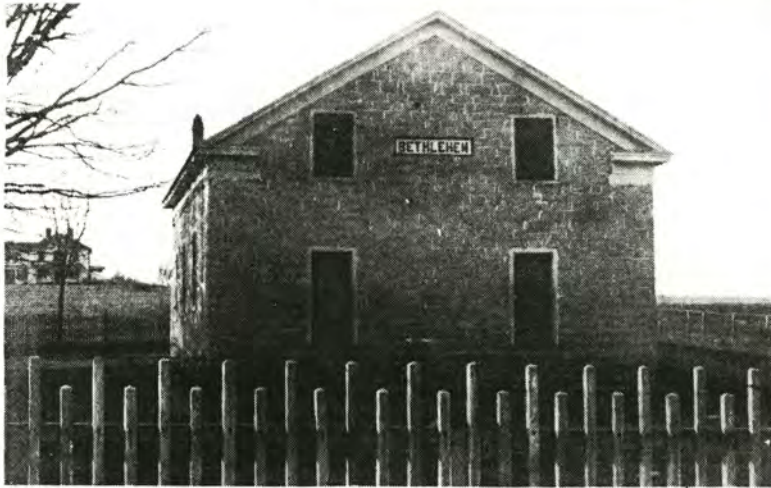
Bethlehem Congregational Christian Church - Tenth Legion, Va.



Invitation to the dedication
of the new building.

Bethlehem Congregational Christian Church - Tenth Legion, Va.

DEDICATION
SERVICE
2:00 P.M.



A 1910 post card.



A Tom Thumb wedding at Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bradford's 50th wedding anniversary. Standing, from left: Clarene Sheets, Jim Rhodes, Anna Foltz, Jim Driver, Betty Jo Cline, Polly Bazzle, Donald Cline, Janalee Sheets. Kneeling: Jack Driver, Bob Rhodes, Charles Rhodes, Gene Driver.



About 1930. From left: Miss Ella Pickering, Louise Blakemore, Marie Driver, Mrs. Jessie _____, Abbie Welch. (Order is doubtful.)



1944. "Young Folks Class".



The Bethlehem Sunday School.



1952. L to R starting at front row: Jack Rhodes, Ralph White, Shirley White, Bob Sellers, Rev. and Mrs. Galt, Clark Foltz, Stanley Lohr, Clarence Phillips.

1952. Clearing trees for the new church are (L to R): Clarence Phillips, Warren Lohr, Stanley Lohr, Lester Lohr.



1952. Ground breaking for the new building (L to R): Shirley White, Clarence Phillips, R.B. Dofflemyer, conference president, J. L. Rhodes, Mrs. R.A. Whitten, Jim Lohr, Stanley Lohr, Rev R.A. Whitten, Rev. Ralph Galt, Tom Good, Rev. S.E. Madren, J.S. Sellers, Robert Sellers.





1956. Back (L to R): Charlie Rhodes, Freddie McCoy, Garth Kagey, Clifton Good, Bill Good, Katherine Lohr Evans. Front: Frances Foltz, Mooney, Barbara Rhodes Fleming, Miriam Mooney Good, Kay Kagey Wine, Anna Lou Shope Miller.



1978? Willie and Tom Good cut 50th wedding anniversary cake.



1957. Polly Shope (left) and Clark Lohr.

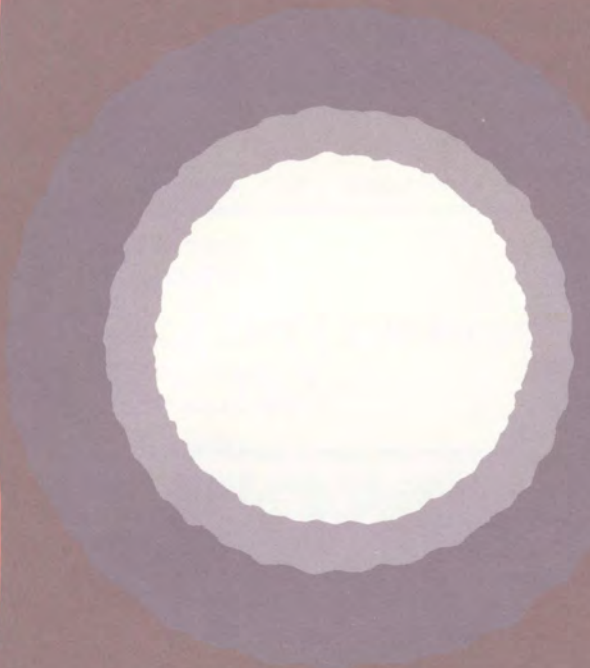


1957. Rev. and Mrs. J.L. Neese.



1987. Present pastor Mike Duffy.





...CALLED
TO
FREEDOM

Bethlehem

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

U.S. 11, Tenth Legion • Rt. 3, Box 104A, Broadway, Virginia 22815 • 703-896-3975



Charles White, Moderator
703-740-3437(H) or 434-6717(O)

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost June 29, 1986
Michael Duffy, Interim Minister
Pauline Shope, Organist

THE PERIOD OF PREPARATION

As the organist begins to play, let the congregation quietly prepare for worship.

*Hymn of Praise-W&S 49 "O for a Thousand Tongues"

*Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Organ Interlude

Our Common Cares and Concerns

THE PERIOD OF INTROSPECTION AND CONFESSION

*Hymn-W&S 235 "I Need Jesus"

Old Testament Lesson - I King 19: 15-21

Special Organ Music

Morning Meditation and Pastoral Prayer

THE PERIOD OF PROCLAMATION

Choral Anthem

Epistle Lesson - Galatians 5: 1, 13-18

The Gospel Lesson - Luke 9: 51-62

Sermon

THE PERIOD OF THANKSGIVING AND STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Sentence and Organ Offertory

The Presentation of Offering

*Offertory Hymn- "Doxology" Front Cover of Hymnal

*Prayer of Dedication

THE PERIOD OF COMMITMENT

*Hymn of Commitment - W&S 455 "Our Best"

*Prayer of Benediction and Singing "Amen"

*Organ Interlude

*The Congregation will please stand.

Flowers on the altar today are the gift of Vivian Harrison.

Choir Practice here at the church at 7:00 P.M.

The Trustee's are planning a work evening here at the church Wednesday July 9th. Please bring shovels rakes, and tools to work with. Would like to have several wheelbarrows. If any question you may contact one of the trustee's Mitchell, Carl or Clark.

Softball game this afternoon at 5:00 P.M. at Ruritian Park with John Wesley Methodist Church.

July 13th. Mid-Year Church Meeting at 10:00 A.M. with Church Services at 11:00 A.M.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 29, 1986

Galatians 5:13

Fireworks, picnics, and parades beckon us to our 4th of July holiday, Friday, when we celebrate the freedoms guaranteed by the laws of our land. But Paul says we as Christians are called to a greater freedom with no limit of national boundary or law. Our guarantor is Christ. Our only law: "love your neighbor as yourself." Who are our neighbors? The poor, the discouraged, and the oppressed of all nations. In the words of the old hymn, "We've a story to tell to the nations . . . of truth and mercy." We are "called to freedom."

Rev. Glen A. Halbe
Community Congregational Church, UCC
Provo, Utah

FROM FOREST TO WHEAT FIELD IN ZAMBIA

The Kafue Secondary School, sponsored by the United Church of Zambia in southern Africa, stands on an old colonial estate. Much of the 2,000 acre grounds is undeveloped dense forest.

Pressed by the Zambian government, the school administration recently agreed to clear some of its land and develop a farm to help feed the seven hundred boys who board there.

Burl and Aloha Wyckoff, a United Church Board for World Ministries missionary couple with agricultural backgrounds in the American Northwest, were sent out for four years to develop the farm. After analyzing the costs, they began the search for funds. The resulting agricultural development project represented a partnership of the UCBWM, United Methodist Church Overseas Relief, and the school, which received a government loan through the Agricultural Development Bank of Zambia.

The hard work began in 1983. Although bulldozers could clear much of the undergrowth, some eight hundred trees had to be undermined by hand. Clearing the roots and leveling the land took months.

Finally, in 1984, forty-five acres of wheat were planted—only five days after the deadline—and irrigation began. Clearing the remaining land continued until, with the Wyckoff's return to the United States in 1985, one hundred acres had been planted. Now there is wheat, maize, sunflowers, soybeans, and sugar beans—a continuing food resource for our young Christian brothers in Zambia.



Bible School - 1986

Left to right -

Chasity Webster

Tracey Runion

Sara Litten

Amy Hulvey

Aaron Ayala

Krista Baker

Laura Baker

Sharon Harrison (standing)

Dedicated
to the memory of

In Remembrance

ELLA FLORENCE PICKERING

BORN - JUNE 16, 1894

DIED - JULY 3, 1987

— DECEASED FATHER —

JACOB W. PICKERING

— DECEASED MOTHER —

COLUMBIA ROSENBERGER PICKERING

— SURVIVORS —

NUMBER OF COUSINS

— FUNERAL SERVICES —

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1987 - 10:30 A.M.
BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

— INTERMENT —

LACEY SPRING CEMETERY

— CLERGY —

REV. BARBARA RHODES

REV. MICHAEL DUFFY

— PALLBEARERS —

J. S. SELLERS

RALPH WHITE

LESTER LOHR

DRIVER SELLERS

EVERETTE LOHR

F. H. HARRISON, JR.

Services by Grandle Funeral Home, Inc.



Rev. Koon and Tom Good

1961-1965



Merry Christmas

THE LEEBRICKS

1966

~~1961-1965~~

Additional Information

on

Bethlehem Church

The building as you see it is modified from the original in several important ways. The raised chancel area with divisions for church school classes was a later addition, probably 20th century, (before 1939). The stained glass windows were installed only about 40-50 years ago, in the last decade of the building's regular use for worship. The ceiling is, of course, lowered from it's original height, in conformity with the post-Civil War roof replacement. Above the entrance doors one can see the windows which once opened to the balcony for slaves. The new roof would not accomodate a balcony, and of course, after the war it was unneeded. The front steps were replaced recently. Other repairs to the outside of the building and interior will be done when the congregation can afford the work. The only early furnishings still in the congregation's possession are a pulpit, (in the newer building) and chandeliers (in storage and unavailable for today's tour). Unfortunately, the news were sold and lost, and there were few other furnishings to begin with.

Until the Spring of 1981 the Old Stone Church was unused for nearly 30 years. At that time it was emptied of junk and cleaned for a Homecoming service on Pentecost Sunday. That service has now become an annual affair, with special music and dinner on the grounds.

In 1988 Bethlehem United Church of Christ will celebrate 250 years of Christian worship and service on this site.

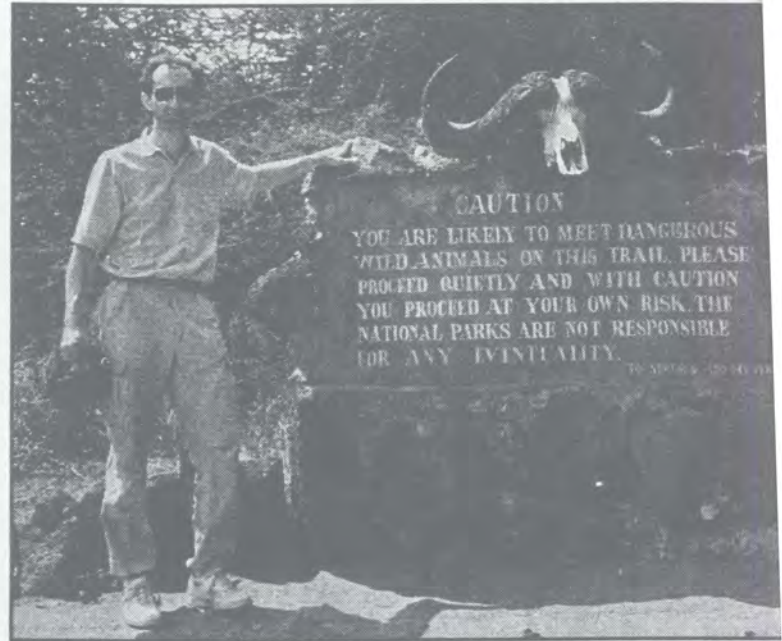
Thank you for your interest,

Michael O. Simmons, Pastor
Nan H. Sellers, Church Historian

P.S. Please take a copy of the history of Bethlehem Church, the oldest stone church in Rockingham County and a Virginia Historic Landmark.

Area News

Feb 15, 1992



Photos Courtesy of Wayne Harrison

A pride of lions was bagged by Wayne Harrison, above, on a photo safari that followed his eviction from his Liberty Street shop to make way for the joint city-county jail and judicial complex.

Long-Gone: Antique Dealer Headed For Africa After Ouster From Liberty Street Shop

By JIM HANKEY

News-Record Staff Writer

Africa beckoned to Wayne Harrison last year when he was forced out of his antique shop on South Liberty Street in Harrisonburg.

Harrison had to abandon the shop to make way for the Harrisonburg-Rockingham jail complex.

Harrison said he began his trip with a two-week tour of Kenya, in East Africa, traveling 100 miles on a photo safari with seven other people.

He and his safari-mates were robbed by gunmen near the Kenya-Tanzania border, he said. The robbers took watches, cameras and money, but were interrupted by police, who recovered some of the cameras, Harrison said.

During his tour of East Africa, Harrison took a balloon ride over Tanzania's Serengeti Plain,

going aloft at dawn and watching the sun come up over the plain, he said. The view was spectacular and the animals were abundant, he said. From the air, an elephant was about the size of a pencil eraser, he said.

The balloon set down in the middle of Serengeti National Park, a wild game reserve, where Harrison was treated to a champagne breakfast, he said. "It was like living through a National Geographic special," he said.

Besides Kenya and Tanzania, Harrison also visited Nigeria and Benin, in West Africa.

The west side of Africa is completely different from the east side, he said. East Africa is set up for tourism, and strangers are welcomed, but in Nigeria, "they don't care if you're there and probably prefer that you weren't," he said. It was the only place in his trip where he couldn't find a postcard, he said.

After his return, Harrison began selling an-

tiques at a Charlottesville co-op store he runs with several other retailers. The store, The Downtown Charlottesville Art and Antique Center, is in the city's downtown mall, near the Omni Theater, he said. He also is teaching Spanish at Fishburne Military Academy.

When he was forced out of Harrison Antiques, he couldn't find an affordable, suitable place in Harrisonburg for his business, he said.

It was a mistake for the city to tear down so much of downtown, and the experience of being forced out has left a sour taste in his mouth, he said.

When he left his store, he left behind a large and intricate mural lampooning the jail complex. His customers drew it, he said. Some were reluctant to write on the wall until Harrison pointed out that it would be torn down.

Among the mural's features was a tombstone that read, "R.I.P. Liberty Street. 1991."



BETHLEHEM STONE CHURCH - ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

On the west side of the old Valley Turnpike (U.S. Route 11) about 10 miles north of the city of Harrisonburg, stands the Bethlehem Stone Church. It is located at the Cross Roads in the village of Tenth Legion, Rockingham County.

The Old Stone Church, as it is often referred to, stands on land which Jacob Martz, Sr. gave in 1844 to four trustees for the building of a house of Divine Service. These trustees were John Cowan, Martin Martz, Jacob N. Cowan and Jackson Martz. By 1845 a church had been constructed of native limestone. It is believed that the stonework was the work of Jeremiah Clemens, a stonemason of Rockingham County. It is the oldest existing stone church in Rockingham County.

As early as 1738 a Quaker meeting house is known to have existed on or near this same site. Journals kept by pioneers refer to attendance at Friends meeting on Smith Creek. It is estimated that by 1782 there were more than 1000 Quakers in the Valley.

Sebastian Martz migrated from Pennsylvania to this Quaker community. His sons married daughters of established Quaker families and in 1777 he bought the Valentine Sevier property on Smith's Creek. It was part of this tract that his son, Jacob Martz deeded in 1844 for the new church.

In 1753 a group of 12 Moravian Brethren Missionaries traveled through the Valley from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They kept a journal in which they refer to Valentine Sevier's Tavern near Tenth Legion and camping near Harrisonburg. The Bethlehem Church was named for these Moravian Brethren from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Bethlehem Church was used for a hospital during the Civil War. Inscriptions of Confederate soldiers can still be seen in the attic. The church was in the line of battle during the war and suffered shell fire which damaged the roof and shattered windows and doors. Services were moved across the road. In 1881 the church was restored and growth of its congregation continued. In 1952 a new church was built which stands today adjacent to the Bethlehem Stone Church.

In 1976 concerned church and community members raised funds to make repairs on a building that had gone without maintenance for some 20 years. The stone work was pointed up, the porch was rebuilt, and painting and cleaning were done. With this initial work the Stone Church was stabilized and further deterioration prevented.

Contributions toward the maintenance and upkeep of this historic landmark may be made to the OLD STONE CHURCH COMMITTEE c/o Wayne L. Harrison, Treas., P.O. Box 1059, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22801



Bethlehem United Church of Christ

MICHAEL F. DUFFY, PASTOR
CHURCH: (703) 896-3975
RESIDENCE: (703) 896-6100

ROUTE 3, BOX 104-A
BROADWAY, VA 22815

August 23, 1990

Dear Friend:

This year marks the 145th Anniversary of worship at Bethlehem, and we want to invite you to a celebration! Beginning with our worship service on September 30, we have a week of special events planned. At some of them we will remember the past of our church, and at others we will be looking forward to our future.

Calendar of Events

September 30

10:30 a.m. - A "Homecoming" Worship Service, with The Rev. Bob Spaulding, former pastor of Bethlehem, preaching

This Sunday has also been designated "Conference Sunday" by the Central Atlantic Conference, and we are expecting a Conference representative to be with us

Historical exhibits

Exhibits that will tell you something of who we are today

Our Annual Church Picnic - a cook-out on the church grounds

October 3

7:30 - Worship Service in the Old Stone Church, with The Rev. Dr. Bernie Zerkel preaching**

October 7

10:30 - Worship Service, with a focus on where we go from here!

A presentation on the environment - a new Outreach project for Bethlehem

A Fellowship time, with refreshments, after the service to close the week's celebration

If you have any questions, feel free to call the Pastor, at one of the numbers above, or the Moderator, Larry Brown, at 896-7683. We hope that you will be able to be with us at any or all of these events!!

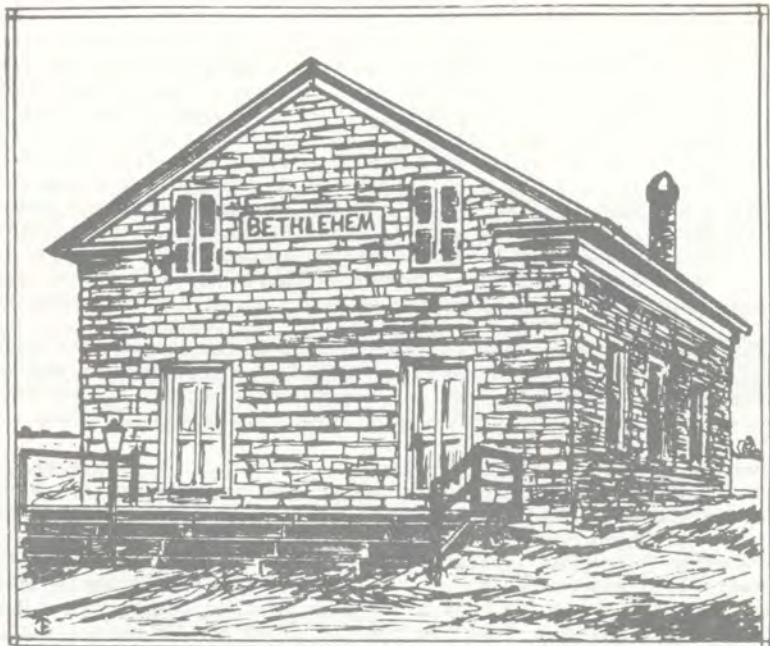
Faithfully,

Michael F. Duffy, Pastor

**Please note that there is limited space for the Wednesday night service in the old church. We will plan to accommodate all who wish to come, but we would like to know how many people will be with us. We would very much appreciate it if you would send us the form below if you will be attending this service. Thanks!

 Yes, I will be attending the worship in the Old Stone Church

Name _____ Phone _____



BETHLEHEM CHURCH - ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Bethlehem Church, also known as "The Old Stone Church", is in the village of Tenth Legion in Rockingham County. It is on the west side of Smith Creek and U.S. Route 11, about twelve miles northeast of the courthouse, Harrisonburg. It can be located on the U.S. Quad Map "Tenth Legion".

It stands on land which Jacob Martz, Senior, of Rockingham, gave in 1844 to four trustees whom he . . . "appointed to superintend the building of a house for Divine Service on a lot of land of the said Jacob Martz as well for and in consideration of his strong desire to promote the principles of Christianity as of one Dollar Current Money . . . to him in hand . . . and a certain parcel of land situated immediately at the Cross Roads and the Valley Turnpike . . . containing one hundred and fifty six poles . . ."1

The trustees named were John Cowan, Jacob N. Cowan, Martin Martz and Jackson Martz. They built the church immediately. The Land Tax Book of 1845 records a building value of \$400, tax exempt, on a tract of 3 rods, 34 poles owned by the Trustees of "Bethel Church". (3 rods, 34 poles is the same measurement of land as 156 poles.)

Local tradition maintains the church was constructed by Jeremiah Clemens. Indeed, he is listed in the 1850 Census as a 29 year old stonemason and resident of Rockingham County. It is believed to be the oldest stone church extant in the county and the second oldest Christian Church. (Antioch Church, south of Green Mount, was organized in 1832, but the "present building was erected in 1880.")²

Local history coupled with scant existing records places the beginning of Bethlehem Christian Church with the Friends meeting at Smith Creek. The earliest records of the Hopewell Friends meeting of Frederick County burned circa 1759. A letter survives which established the existence of the Smith Creek Friends as early as 1738. At that time Robert Scarborough wrote he was "settled on 600 acres of good meadow about a mile from a Quaker meeting-house . . .³ His land has been identified on Smith Creek about four and a half miles southwest of New Market. There are other journals kept by pioneers which also refer to attendance at Friends meeting on Smith Creek. After 1759 there are occasional references to Smith Creek in the Hopewell records. By 1782 the estimated Quaker population in the Valley was more than one thousand. As a result the Hopewell monthly meeting was divided.

The Crooked Run Preparative Meeting was given status of a monthly meeting and Smith Creek, plus others, was added to it. Westward migration soon took its toll. By 1807 Crooked Run monthly meeting was so depleted it was discontinued. The remaining families rejoined Hopewell Friends.

Sebastian Martz, the progenitor of this family in Rockingham, had migrated from Pennsylvania to this Quaker community. Through the years his sons and descendants had married the daughters of the established Quaker families. In March, 1777 he bought property on Smith's Creek " . . . the place whereon Valentine Sevier had formerly lived . . . patented by Sevier 12 January 1746 and conveyed . . . to Sebastian Martz 19 March 1777(DB 21 p. 264)."⁴ It was part of this tract that his son, Jacob Martz deeded to the trustees in 1844 because "the Old Meeting House was crumbling with age."⁵

The Moravian Brethren Missionaries had traveled through the Valley from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. It is recorded they stayed at the Adam Miller farm in 1749 and preached in the Mesanoten(sic) community. "They were a colony of 12 Moravian Brethren . . . on a toilsome journey to Winston-Salem . . . with horses and a wagon. They kept a journal which tells of rough roads and describes places easily recognizable today. They refer to Valentine Sevier's Tavern near Tenth Legion and report pitching their tents at Harrisonburg . . . The Bethlehem Brethren Church stands on or near the site of an earlier Quaker meeting house. It was named for the Moravian Brethren from Bethlehem, Penn. who traveled this way in 1753 . . ."⁶

"There is a tradition that the meeting house stood at Tenth Legion on the spot now occupied by Bethlehem Stone Church, erected in 1844."⁷ "At Tenth Legion the Stone Church on the west side of the pike, dating from 1844 or 1845, is an arresting landmark. As early as 1738 a Quaker meeting house was in use, probably on the same site. Not far away was the wayside inn of Valentine Sevier and the birthplace of his son, John, later famous in Tennessee"⁸

Bethlehem Church was used for a hospital during the Valley Campaign. Inscriptions of Confederate soldiers still remain in the attic, some of which read as follows: "John H. Chrisman stayed all night in this house. All night being confined by an arbitrary power for opinion sake. March 24 (??) 1862 . . . J. S. Maupin C. S. A. 82 Va. Regiment . . . 1864 Ewell Division. ."⁹

The Church was in the line of battle during the Civil War and suffered shell fire which damaged the roof and shattered windows and doors. The congregation held services across the road. Twice Conference was held there. In 1881 the New Bethlehem Christian Congregation was founded out of the Old Smith Creek Congregation. The new trustees, which included two of the original trustees of 1844, signed a covenant with the Valley of Virginia Christian Conference. The church was restored and the Conference was held there in 1882. Bethlehem Church became a leading congregation in this Conference. Membership increased rapidly. In 1952 a new church was built which stands today adjacent to the Bethlehem Stone Church.

Religious denominations in this country developed through many changes in individual organization as well as mergers and unions. Expediency in the face of adversity and dangers in the wilderness dictated the association and agreement of some. Others were naturally attracted by like beliefs. Some were the result of a search for an expression of freedom and liberty.

A number of unions had been effected between the Congregationalists and other denominational groups, mostly with the Evangelical Protestant Churches composed of Germans and Swiss. From this grew the Christian Church, ". . . a distinctly American denomination . . ."10

The first half of the twentieth century brought a move toward ecumenicity. Informal meetings were held, procedure and interpretations were adopted, a constitution was prepared, synods were held. At long length, at the Third General Synod in Philadelphia, 1961, the United Church of Christ was established

Today the Bethlehem Church is known as The Bethlehem United Church of Chris

1. Rockingham Deed Book 17 21 Sep 1844 p. 381 (Burnt Record)
2. Wayland History of Rockingham County. p. 246
3. Wayland History of Shenandoah County. p. 433
4. Harrison p. 146
5. Conquest p. 1
6. Hess p. 35-36
7. Wayland 15 Chapters of Shenandoah Valley p. 94
8. Ibid p. 351
9. Caldwell (?) p. 4
10. Kostyu p. 4

Compiled by Vicenta Scarlett

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United States Census 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850.

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Nan H. Sellers
Route 3 Box 72
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Additional Information

on

Bethlehem Church

The building as you see it is modified from the original in several important ways. The raised chancel area with divisions for church school classes was a later addition, probably 20th century, (before 1939). The stained glass windows were installed only about 40-50 years ago, in the last decade of the building's regular use for worship. The ceiling is, of course, lowered from it's original height, in conformity with the post-Civil War roof replacement. Above the entrance doors one can see the windows which once opened to the balcony for slaves. The new roof would not accomodate a balcony, and of course, after the war it was unneeded. The front steps were replaced recently. Other repairs to the outside of the building and interior will be done when the congregation can afford the work. The only early furnishings still in the congregation's possession are a pulpit, (in the newer building) and chandeliers (in storage and unavailable for today's tour). Unfortunately, the news were sold and lost, and there were few other furnishings to begin with.

Until the Spring of 1981 the Old Stone Church was unused for nearly 30 years. At that time it was emptied of junk and cleaned for a Homecoming service on Pentecost Sunday. That service has now become an annual affair, with special music and dinner on the grounds.

In 1988 Bethlehem United Church of Christ will celebrate 250 years of Christian worship and service on this site.

Thank you for your interest,

Michael O. Simmons, Pastor
Nan H. Sellers, Church Historian

P.S. Please take a copy of the history of Bethlehem Church, the oldest stone church in Rockingham County and a Virginia Historic Landmark.

Marriages of Shenandoah County

page 128 L. B. Lightfoot to Sarah E. Harshberger,
on 3 Nov 1862, by J. P. Cline. Page 37, line 45.
The groom was 21, single, a teacher, born
in and residing in Georgia, and the son/
of Andy & Penelope Lightfoot. The ~~daughter~~
Bride was 22, single, born in and residing in
Shen. Co. Va., and the daughter of Samuel & Mary
Harshberger. Remarks: Certificate of father.

NAASON B. DOVE to JULIA F. LIGHTFOOT, on 22 Nov 1883, by J. A. Snyder. Page 6, line 132. Married in Shen. Co. Va. The groom was 27, single, a farmer, born in and residing in Shen. Co. Va., and the son/of James W. and Leannah Dove. The bride was 23, single, born in and residing in Shen Co. Va., and the dau/of Lewis B. and Sarah E. Lightfoot. Remarks: Affidavit of G. G. Kagey.

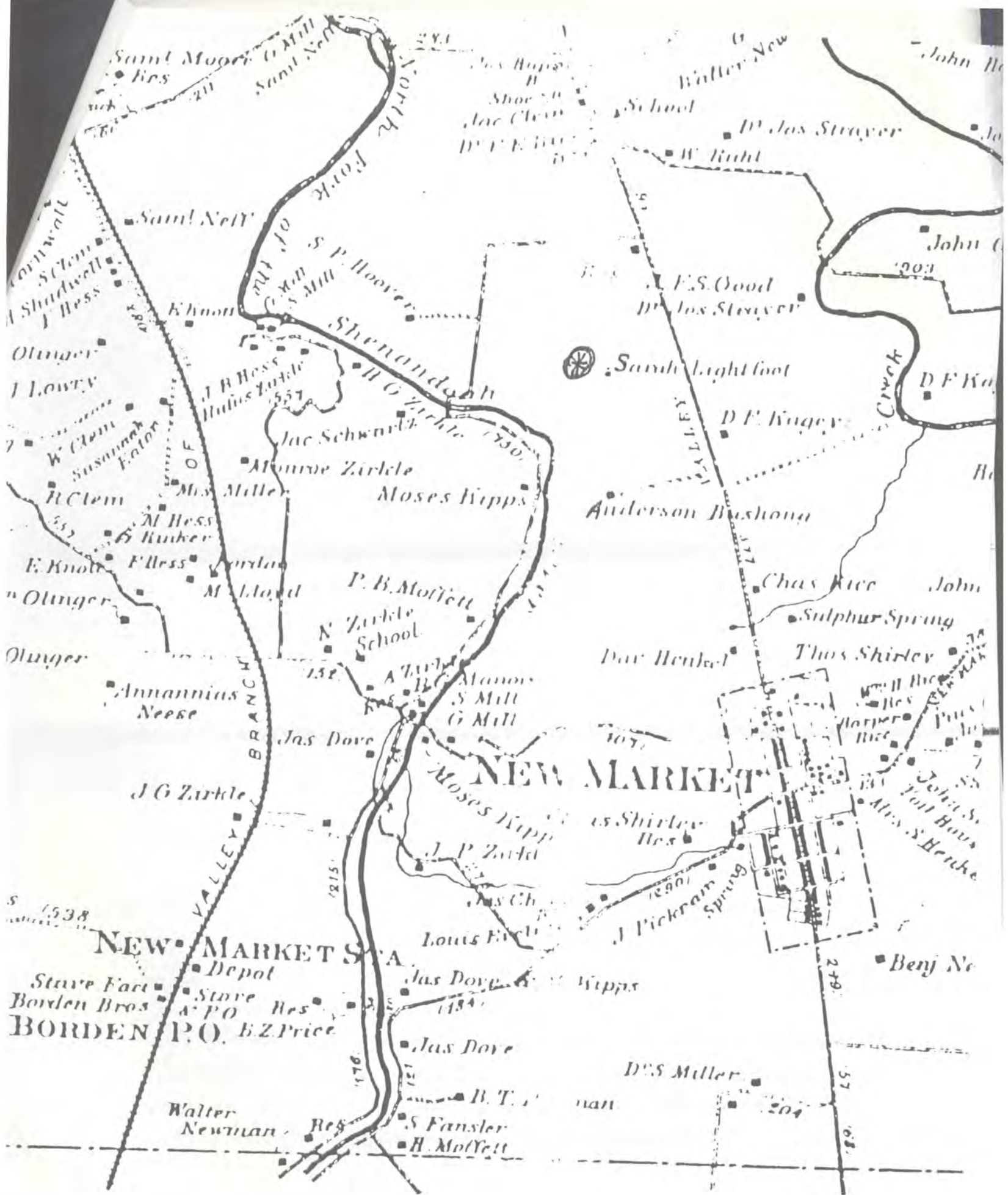
JACOB H. BEAVER to LAURA V. LIGHTFOOT, on 25 Dec 1884, by J. A. Snyder. Page 10, line 125. Married in Shen. Co. Va. The groom was 20, single, a farmer, born in and residing in Shen. Co. Va., and the son/of Selina Beaver. The bride was 20, single, born in and residing in Shen. Co. Va. and the dau/of Lewis B. and Sarah E. Lightfoot. Remarks: Certificate of her mother. Affidavit of George G. Kagey. The grooms fathers name is not recorded. (Jacob H. Beaver 12 Nov 1864-12 Jul 1937, and his wife Laura V. Beaver 3 Aug 1864-23 May 1943. Both buried in the Zirkle family cemetery, on road 617 slightly Northwest of New Market, Shen. Co. Va., and in close proximity to the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, on the Northwest side.) Refer to errata on the back pages.

JOHN CURTIS YATES to MINNIE L. LIGHTFOOT, on 12 Apr 1892, by J. A. Snyder. Page 35, line 39. Married in Shen. Co. Va. The groom was 26, single, a farmer, born in and residing in Rockingham Co. Va., and the son/of Samuel J. and Rebecca Yates. The bride was 21, single, born in and residing in Shen. Co. Va., and the dau/of Lewis and Sarah Lightfoot. Remarks: Certificate by E. L. Zirkle. (John C. Yates 20 Sep 1865-12 Jul 1930, and his
JOHN CURTIS YATES to MINNIE L. LIGHTFOOT, CONTD: wife Minnie L. Yates 8 Jul 1870-21 May 1939. Both are buried in the Reformation church cemetery New Market, Shen. Co. Va.)

Deed Book 18 Page 59 and 60

May 28th 1874

That for and in consideration of the sum of Three hundred and Thirty Dollars (\$330⁰⁰) by the said Sarah Lightfoot to the said Samuel Good, this day, cash in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the Samuel Good and Sarah Good do grant unto the said Sarah Lightfoot, to have and to hold to her and her heirs forever all of a certain tract or parcel of land in Shenandoah County about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of New Market, bounded as follows: Beginning at a point in what has been known as the old stage road and in Dr. J. B. Strayer's line and corner to Bushung at a stake and extending thence with Strayer's line and said old road N 30 E 28 poles to a stake thence leaving said old road N 62 W 24 $\frac{7}{10}$ poles to a stake; thence S 30 W 28 poles to a stake, a corner in Bushung's line; thence with Bushung's line S 62 E 24 $\frac{7}{10}$ poles to the beginning, containing four acres one rood and 9 perches as ascertained by survey made by S. P. Sharley, it be part of the 10 acre lot purchased by said Samuel Good at special Commissioner's sale in Neff vs. Hershberger's Adm. vs in Circuit Court of Shenandoah County ~ together with all right ways and appurtenance thereto belonging or in any way thereto pertaining.





Bethlehem United Church of Christ

MICHAEL F. DUFFY, PASTOR
CHURCH: (703) 896-3975
RESIDENCE: (703) 896-6100

ROUTE 3, BOX 104-A
BROADWAY, VA 22815

April 30, 1995

Friends & Family,

You are cordially invited to attend a Homecoming Celebration on June 4th, 1995. It will be 150 years of the " Old Stone Church" of continuing worship at Bethlehem U.C.C. in Tenth Legion. We have a Special Day planned. We would like for you and any others you know to come and enjoy this special day with us. The program will be as follows:

- 9:00 A.M. Open invitation with coffee & doughnuts
- 9:30 - 10:30 History of the Church & Service with Communion
- 10:30 - 11:00 Gospel Music by Mike Shank, Old Gospel Songs of you choice, Special Music by others
- 11:30 - 12:00 Visit in the Old Stone Church and view displays of the past.
- 12:00 - Covered Dish Dinner - Meat & Drinks provided by the Women's Fellowship.

Please mark your calender and come enjoy a day with good fellowship and good food. Members will provide the meal. There will be a Wishing Well for the ones who would like to donate \$1.50 for the up keep of the Old Stone Church. We will be looking forward to seeing you on June 4th-Sunday - starting at 9:00 A.M.

Homecoming Chairperson

Mary Ellen Harrison

Contact if questions at

703-896-8042 or Rt. 3 Box 25 Broadway, Va. 22815

A CHRISTMAS TIME BIBLE QUIZ

1. Christmas Time is a musical time. What is the traditional name of Mary's song? Where in the Bible is it found? Mary's song is very much like one in the Old Testament? Whose song is it? Where is it found?
2. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as the prophet foretold. Which prophet? Where is it written?
3. In what region or state was Bethlehem? In what region or state was Nazareth? Why did Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem?
4. How were Jesus of Nazareth and John the Baptist related? Explain as completely as you can.
5. Who was John the Baptist's father? What did he do? Who spoke to him for God? And what happened as a result? Why?
6. Which Gospels tell of Jesus's birth? Which do not? Which gives Jesus's genealogy? Where specifically?
7. In which Gospel does an angel of God speak to Joseph about Jesus's birth? What does he say? How?
8. Where would one find the story of "wise men from the East"? Briefly outline the story of those men.
9. Where was Jesus taken after his birth? Why? Where is that story found?
10. Two old and faithful people of Israel bore public witness that Jesus was the long-awaited Christ. Who were they? Where did they make their witness? On what important occasion in Jesus's early life? And where is their story found?

This quiz was prepared for J. S. Sellers by Michael O. Simmons, Christmas 1984, Mayland, Virginia.

1. A The Magnificat C. Hannah
B. Luke D. I Sam Ch. II

2. ~~Mica~~ 5th Ch.
2. ~~Mica~~ 5th Ch.

3 A Judea - B Galatians C. to be enrolled to pay taxes

4. A Cousins
B. Through mothers

5. A. Zach. C. struck dumb.
B priest D. Didn't believe the angel

6. Matthew & Luke

7 A. Matthew Luke
Dream

8 Matthew

9 Egypt - B Keep him safe - C. Angel appeared to Joseph
C. Matthew.

10. Simeon & Anna
Temple
Circumcised
Luke

November 28, 1976

The Christmas Tree

Jeremiah 10:1-5, 33:14-18
John 3:16-21

As I was reading in my study the other day, in preparation for this message, I came across a poem that the English call "The Beggar's Rhyme." This is the way it goes:

Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat,
Please to put a penny in the old man's hat;
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do,
If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God Bless you.

The poem speaks to us today, for this is the first Sunday in the Christian season of Advent. Advent is another way of saying, "Christmas is coming." Just as the Beggar's Rhyme has a theme of giving and caring so too does the Advent season.

This is the time of the year when we look towards Christmas day. If we are young we have visions of Santa Claus, presents, and sugarplums dancing in our heads. Those of us a little older think of our families, of reunions, of a sense of peace and togetherness that is found in parties, Christmas dinner, and common worship. It is a season of giving, for young and old alike.

The Christmas season is associated with many symbols and traditions some of which are religious and others of which are not. Over the next few weeks I will be devoting my sermon topics to some of these symbols of Christmas.

This past Tuesday part of the Today show was devoted to what has become an annual event in New York City; the raising, decorating, and lighting of the giant Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center.

The evergreen tree has long been one of the symbols of Christmas. There are several different stories about the origins of the Christmas tree. People in the Scandanavian countries once worshipped trees. When they were converted to Christianity they incorporated their sacred trees as part of Christian festivals.

The custom of decorating homes with evergreen branches dates back to the Romans who use to exchange them asa sign of good luck in the beginning of January. The English look over the custom and used it at Christmas.

The origin of what is now our modern tree decorating tradition probably comes from the Germans who were the first to put up and decorate whole trees at Christmas time. The development of decorating the tree here in America draws upon German, English, Italian, French, and Scandanavian backgrounds.

The Christmas tree is an integral part of almost every family's celebration of Jesus birth. It offers beauty, light and the symbol of presents given and received.

It is interesting to notetherefore that this symbol of Christmas has no biblical basis and in fact based on the tenth chapter of Jeremiah it might very well violate biblical edicts. Our passage from Jeremiah warns the Children of God not to be like other nations. Other nations made a practice of cutting down trees, as we do today, adorning them with silver and gold, does that remind you of tinsel, fastening it so that it will steadily stand in one place, what we call setting up the tree.

On Christmas morn it is to the tree that young and old alike go, for this is where the gifts are stacked and await opening. The tree has come to represent the material gifts that we give and receive on Christmas day.

It is because of this natural association of the tree with the gifts that we must be careful. Our scripture from Jeremiah is a thorough condemnation of the practice of idol worship in which case the adorned tree is the idol.

Unless we are very cautious about our approach to and our understanding of the real symbolism of the Christmas tree, it might also become for us an idol. An idol representing widespread giftgiving and yet having little if any meaning.

On that first Christmas day there was no tree, no shiny ornaments, no candy canes, and no colored lights. There was a star, a manger, a mother, some shepherds, and a baby. That baby was and is the Son of the Living God.

When we think of the Christmas tree it immediately brings to mind an image of presents and gift-giving. It also reminds us of the wise men who brought gifts for the Christ-child. If our thoughts go no further we border on idolatry for Christmas is then nothing more than a time of giving and receiving material largesse.

But, if we go one step further and remember the words of John 3:16, we shall arrive at the true meaning of the Christmas tree. John records: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son,---" The true gift of Christmas is the gift of Jesus Christ to the world.

As we buy our Christmas trees and put them up this year let it become for us a symbol with a deeper meaning. Let the lights remind us of the light of the world, the star-the star of Bethlehem, the evergreen branches - the everlasting life that one finds in the true gift of Christmas which is Christ our Lord.

There's more, much more to Christmas
Than candle-light and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship,
That brightens all the year;
It's thoughtfulness and kindness,
It's hope reborn again,
For peace, for under-standing
And for goodwill towards men.

Amen

Leicesterville Va
January 24, 1974

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Route 3
Broadway, Virginia

Gentlemen:

How many of your children or young people have attended Sunday school and Church in the Stone Church at Tenth Legion? My sisters and brothers and myself did. I am sure, all of the people that have lived in this community for some years have memories of this church, some happy and I am sure some sad.

After hearing that some people wanted to destroy this building I have done some checking. Enclosed is a copy of an agreement, that is very hard to read, but is very clear in the original book at the Court House in Spotsylvania. Also a copy of the original deed.

I have also talked to an interested attorney and he said, "That a Court order has to be gotten before a church can be destroyed. Also the majority of the members would have to want the church destroyed."

My sisters and brothers have married and moved away. But we all still come home and with the church gone it would feel a little less like home.

Our Great-grandfather, Jackson Mack, gave the land for this church.

I am signing the names of my sisters and

sisters, because I know they would not want
this church tore down. and it is impossible
for some of them to be here.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs) Rosalie Martz Love

(Mrs) Loretta Martz Marshall
Gardonsville, Virginia
R.D.

Mr. David Martz
Broadway, Virginia
R.D.

Mr. Carlos Martz
Bro, West Virginia
R.D.

(Mrs) Sarah Ruth (Martz) Lantz
Lynchville, Virginia
R.D.

Received June 24, 1989. T.H.S.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEAKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

We do not know when the church was first organized, but it was reorganized March 29, 1880 by Elder W.A. Dofflemyer with 24 members and 4 deacons. The church worshipped in the school house west of the village of Leaksville. This was torn down in 1908, moved to Luray, and converted into a stable by Martin Strickler, father-in-law of G.W. Rothgeb, a charter member. The church had a steady growth until the year 1889 when an acre of ground was purchased at the cost of \$50 and at the meeting, when it was decided to buy the land, the amount of \$33 was raised.

At a meeting on 1/4/90 a building committee was elected and a committee appointed to solicit funds for a new church building, which was to be a frame building. S.D. Rothgeb (G.W.'s father) was awarded the contract for \$225. Money was scarce at that time; however, G.W. Rothgeb subscribed 5 months of his entire teaching salary (\$20 per month) to the building fund. He said his "hens laid more eggs, cow gave more milk, and hogs got fatter than in any other year, and no doctor was needed that year." The soliciting committee was active and a new church building was completed and dedicated in March 1891. Rev. J.P. Barrett delivered the dedicatory sermon, and a large crowd of people assembled, not all being able to get into the church.

A church meeting was held on May 9, 1891, and it was found that the church was \$200 in debt (included expenses in furnishing the church.) A motion to borrow the money and give a lien on the property was turned down and a proposition to raise the money by subscription was decided on. No one was willing to undertake the work but G.W. Rothgeb. Martin Strickler agreed to furnish him a horse to ride while doing this collecting. After several years and later attempts to solicit funds primarily by a committee of 5 church ladies, S.D. Rothgeb in November, 1898 finally received the remaining \$30 he was owed.

During the period 1900-1930 the church grew in membership, but there was a constant struggle to raise funds to pay the pastor, meet the conference apportionment, and to pay the usual bills associated with maintaining a church building. The spiritual welfare of the church was considered by the Deacons and members to be progressing satisfactorily although on a few occasions there were individual members reported for disorderly conduct, intoxication, and profanity. In most cases the members confessed their guilt and asked forgiveness whereupon they were restored to good standing as church members. One incident involved reports of certain members engaged in the making and selling of wine. These members were contacted by a church committee and were temporarily dropped from the church rolls until they repented and agreed to make and sell no more wine. One other case involved a member accused of stealing snowbreaks (used on the church roof.) He was found guilty by a one vote majority and was suspended from communion until further action on his part. Six members who felt he was not guilty requested that their names be dropped from the church rolls.

In 1930 the Annual Homecoming and Memorial Service was begun by Rev. A.W. Andes, the purpose being to pay tribute to deceased loved ones and to renew acquaintances with members and friends of former years. This service (an all-day service until the mid 70's) has been continued each year except 1945. The reason for cancelation that year was not noted in church records. In 1943 Homecoming was held only a half day when there was gas and fuel rationing during W.W. II. In 1947 the service was changed from the first Sunday to the second Sunday in June because of high school graduation the first week of June.

The church building was altered and/or remodelled several times since its original construction in 1891. The following dates indicate additions or changes:

1928 - Added 2 Sunday School rooms and Choir loft (2 additional rooms not completed until 1935).

1929 - Electric lights installed in church.

1938 - Installed steam heating system.

1943 - Stained glass windows were installed.

1952 - Full basement was added for church and social gatherings.

1956 - Church tower erected and chimes donated as memorial to G.W. Rothgeb.

1957 - Church organ donated as a memorial to Ashby & Annie Foltz.

1960 - Major renovation--back storage room added, restrooms installed in basement, church floors sanded, entire church painted, new pews, new carpet, new center aisle and new doors at entrance to sanctuary.

1964 - Storm windows added to Sunday School rooms.

1976 - Front doors remodelled and porch roof installed.

1979 - Carpet installed in sanctuary.

1986 - Basement carpet installed.

1987 - Ceiling fans installed in sanctuary.

1988 - Storm windows added to protect stained glass windows.

1989 - Two Sunday School rooms remodelled as parlor and classroom, and basement restrooms remodelled.

In addition to the church building, the original cemetery was purchased in 1891 (1/4 of present size). Over the next 81 years additional adjoining land was purchased from R.O. Rothgeb, Page Co. School Board, N.F. Painter, and the Hubert Dinges Estate in order to expand the cemetery to its present size. A maintenance shed for tools was constructed in 1959.

The first church parsonage mentioned was the building owned by Odie and Gertrude Jewell which was purchased in 1939 by G.W. Rothgeb for \$600 and donated to the church. Improvements were made by the church, and the parsonage was first occupied by Rev. R.E. Newton and family in 1940. In 1955 the church purchased the Gilbert Gander property which was used as a parsonage until 1981 when it was purchased by Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Sutton. The church does not presently own a parsonage.

Church and Sunday School attendance records were kept beginning in 1940 when Rev. Newton became pastor. For over 16 years average attendance at church was 66 and at Sunday School 57. Church membership reached almost 200 (active and inactive) in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Membership remained fairly constant until 1970-80. During the period 1960-80 many of the younger members completed schooling and/or moved out of the community. Also as many of the older members passed away, the church suffered a steady decline in membership. In addition, in 1986 the church rolls were purged of all inactive members. The present membership is 67. Our church building and related facilities continue to be well-maintained and are dedicated to the glory of God. In 1989 as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary, it is hoped that the "spiritual renewal and awakening" so often mentioned in past church minutes can be forthcoming.

Deceased members such as G.W. Rothgeb and R.O. Rothgeb deserve special posthumous credit for maintaining complete and accurate church records during the early years of our church's existence.

IS NOT GOOD
THAT SHE SHALL
SHOULD
BE HELD

WILL MAKE
HIM AN
HELP MESS
FOR

THIS

CERTIFIES
THAT

David L. Acker and Martha M. B. Sellers

Were solemnly united by me in the

Holy Rites of Matrimony

at Bethlehem Church

on the 4th day of April
in the year of our Lord One Thousand ^{nine} Hundred
and Six conformably to the Ordinance
of God, and the Laws of the State.

In Presence of
Signed

By Rev. E. L. Wessinger

Came
from the
Mary
Bowman
Bible
New Series
Aug 22, 1988

Bible
published
1873
copyright

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob S. Sellers
invite you to be present
at the marriage of their daughter,
Martha M. B.
to
Mr. David C. Acker,
on
Wednesday, April fourth,
nineteen hundred and six,
at twelve o'clock.
Bethlehem Stone Church,
Virginia.

THE OLD STONE CHURCH COMMITTEE

December 12, 1976

Dear Member,

Nearing the end of the bicentennial year it seems appropriate to make a short report to the congregation on our accomplishments and plans for the near future.

The purpose of the Old Stone Church Committee was and is to preserve a piece of our heritage and restore a Valley landmark which testifies to the longevity of our congregation. Although the present building was constructed in the mid 1800's, it is believed that a religious meeting house stood on or near this site as early as the mid 1700's.

Initially the Committee took pledges and donations to determine the feasibility of restoration. With a promising total pledge of nearly \$1300.00 and a go ahead from the church body, the Committee proceeded to make repairs on a building that had gone without maintenance for twenty some years. In a short time we had received over \$1800.00 in contributions.

Since then the Committee has painted the roof, pointed up the stone work and begun work on the porch, all at a cost of \$1468.78. With this initial work the Old Stone Church has been stabilized and further deterioration has been prevented.

However much is yet to be done. The Church Council has asked for some indication of our future plans. In a Council meeting last month the Committee asked leave to raise an additional \$1200.00 needed for finishing the exterior. We will be reporting to the Council in February and hope to have a major portion of this pledged at that time.

The Committee is also preparing a "Resource List". If you would like to help paint, clean up, fix up or even hold a ladder, we would like to know. A donation of your skills or time is likewise needed.

If you would like to make a pledge, contribution, or volunteer time, it will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help.

Respectfully submitted by
Old Stone Church Committee
Wayne L. Harrison, Treasurer
105 North Willow Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia

-22801



News-Record Photo by Allen Litten

Rumble Seat

Franklin Kline of Edom went the extra yard to keep the company of his grandson, Andrew Ayala, 9 months. He found this rumble seat safer than holding the child in his lap — instead, Andrew's in the lap of luxury.

Greg Ayala's son 1990 Aug 7th

Heroes

Continued from Page 17

tated his story and drew pictures to go with it. He has a wonderful personality that attracts the other children. His determination and desire provide a tremendous positive influence to the other students." His profile will air at 8:32 a. m. Tuesday.

■ Stephen Shanholtz, third-grader at Plains Elementary School, Timberville, who was born with a bilateral cleft of the lip and palate. The announcement said: "Despite (his) frustrations, he is a very outgoing student who openly participates in class discussions and projects. He is willing to take on any task in school or the Boy Scouts or church activities." His profile will air at 8:32 a. m. Thursday.

■ Joseph T. Mahon, Beverly Manor Elementary School, Staunton, who has Marfan Syndrome, a rare disorder of the connective tissue. The announcement said: "He is one of less than 30 children in the U. S. with symptoms this severe. He has had a life of pain (and operations) but remains a bright and vibrant 5-year-old. Once people come into contact with him, he steals their heart." His profile is to air at 5:55 p.m. Tuesday.

Elkton Man Injured In Three-Car Collision

A three-car automobile accident in Harrisonburg Friday left one man injured, city police said.

Thomas V. Whitfield, 63, of Elkton, was taken to Rockingham Memorial Hospital where he was treated for a head cut and released, an RMH spokeswoman said.

Obituaries

Pauline M. P. Powell

Pauline Margaret Phillips Powell, 81, of 369 National Ave., Staunton, died Feb. 13, 1992, at Waynesboro Community Hospital, following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Powell was born Oct. 21, 1910, in Broadway and was a daughter of C.F. and Annie M. Spitzer Phillips.

She retired from the Augusta Co-Operative Farm Bureau, Inc. in 1985, where she had been employed for a number of years. Mrs. Powell was a member of Olivet Presbyterian Church and the American Association of Retired Persons Chapter No. 1650.

Her husband, Garnett Russell Powell, died Sept. 23, 1962.

Survivors include a stepson, Charlie Powell of Silver Spring, Md.; a sister, Catherine P. Swartz of New Market; a half-sister, Alva Harrison of Broadway; and two step-grandchildren.

The Rev. Joseph C. Brandon and Dr. Michael Fitzgerald will conduct the funeral at 2:30 p.m. Monday at the Henry Funeral Home in Staunton. Burial will be in Thornrose Cemetery.

Friends may call at the funeral home or the Powell home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Olivet Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund, 1019 Richmond Ave., Staunton, Va. 24401.

Claude W. Comer

Claude Wilson Comer, 84, of Stanley died Feb. 14, 1992, at MontVue Nursing Home in Luray.

Mr. Comer was born Dec. 18, 1907, in Shenandoah and was the son of the late Franklin P. Comer and Fannie J. Baugher Comer.

He was a member of Stanley Baptist Church.

On June 10, 1932, he married Evelyn Virginia Jenkins, who survives.

Also surviving are three sons, James Douglas Comer of Stanley, Jerry Lynn Comer of Alexandria and Anthony L. Comer of Front Royal; one daughter, Patsy Josephine Cullers of Newport News; one brother, John E. Comer of Pittsburg, Pa.; and eight sisters, Beulah C. Huffman and Brownie C. Cave, both of Stanley, Alma Shuler of Elkton, Mary Kummel of La Crosse, Wisc., Grace Shackelford of Hampton, Margaret Kubiec of Pittsburg, Nellie Robinson of Luray and Peggy Sepcic of McKeesport, Pa.

The funeral will be conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday at Bradley Funeral Home in Luray. Burial will be in Graves Chapel.

The family will receive friends 7-8 p.m. today at the funeral home or at the Comer home at anytime.

Knight, Journalism Professor, Dies

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Robert P. Knight, a journalism professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia and champion of minority journalists, died Sunday. He was 56.

More Obituaries,
Page 24

IN PRESIDENT'S DAY CLEARANCE SALE

*Pilgrims
on the way of
Christ*



*Bethlehem
United Church of Christ
TENTH LEGION, VIRGINIA*

Pilgrims Who Worship God . . .

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Pilgrims who reach out to others . . .

To share the Gospel of Christ and to do the work of Christ among "the least of our brothers and sisters". Through ministries like Vacation Bible School, Rockingham Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy, and Pleasant View Homes for the handicapped. . . .



. . . and through the ministries of the United Church of Christ throughout the United States and the World."

*Pilgrims who
value their heritage . . .*

Beginning as a Quaker meeting in the early 1700s, we have celebrated our rich heritage even as we seek to create a richer one for our children.



Builder Tom Good and 1952 pastor Rev. Galt reminisce around the cornerstone they laid together.



*Pilgrims who
learn and grow together . . .*

Sharing our biblical and historical heritage with new generations of faithful pilgrims, we also renew the faith and ministry of all generations in fellowship and study, work and play.



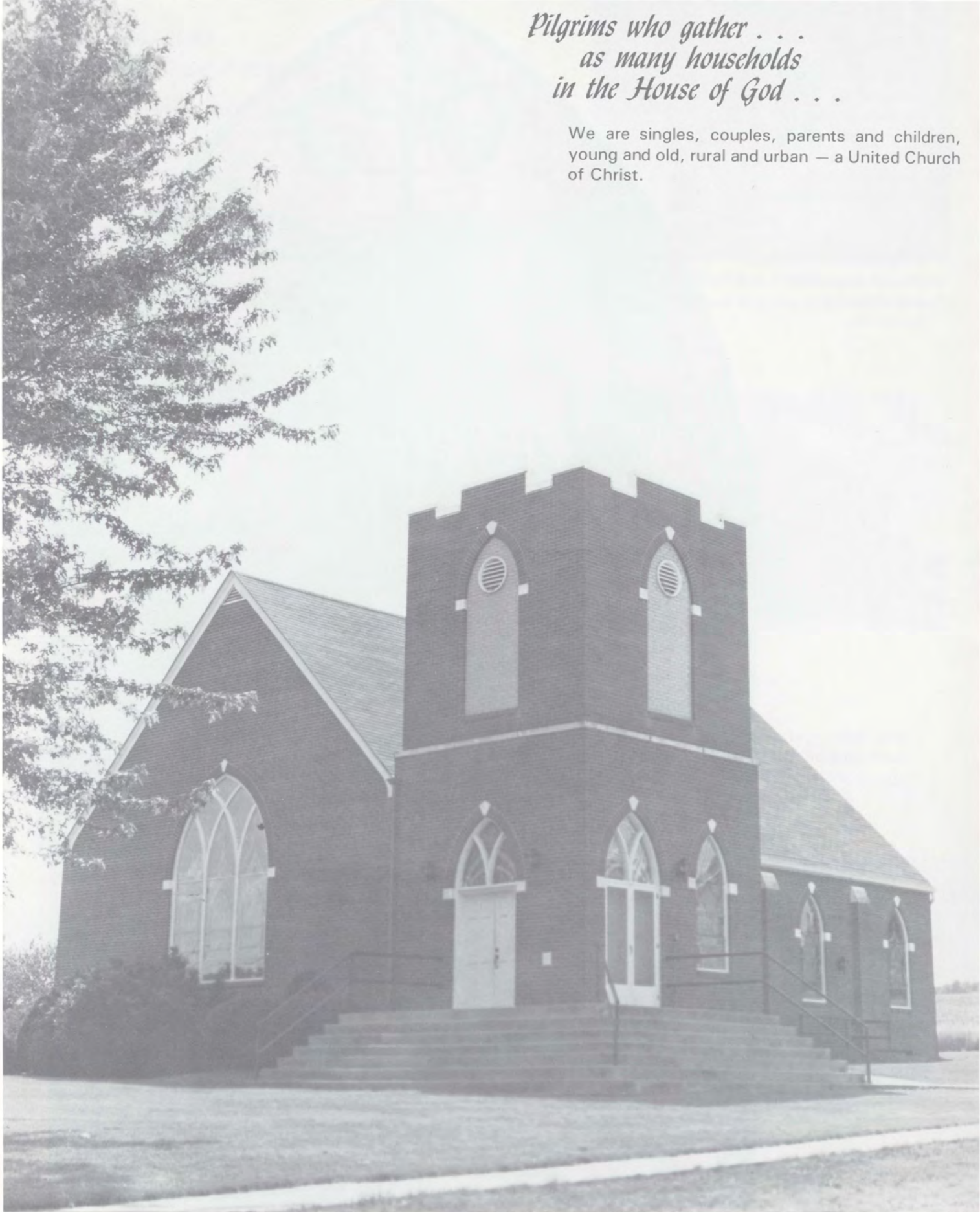
*People who accept
Leadership
Responsibility . . .*

As council members,
committee members,
officers & chairpersons,
deacons and trustees,
musicians, acolytes,
worship planners and
leaders, and teachers
at Bethlehem Church,
almost everyone
has shared in
leadership.



*Pilgrims who gather . . .
as many households
in the House of God . . .*

We are singles, couples, parents and children,
young and old, rural and urban — a United Church
of Christ.





AYALA, Salvador & Susie
Damon, Aaron, Greg



BAILEY, Sandra
Joshua



BAZZLE, Alice
Holly



BOWMAN, Norma
Charles, Keith



BROWN, Harmon & Mildred



BROWN, Larry & Connie
Steven



BUHL, Ruby



FOLTZ, Clark & Midge



FUNKHOUSER, Fred & Nancy



GOOD, Thomas & Willie



GOOD, T. W. Jr. & Judith
Laura, Jonathan



HARRISON, F. H. & Vivian



HARRISON, Patsy
Douglas, Sharon



*HARRISON, Robert & Mary Ellen
Barbara, Gina



HARRISON, Wayne



HAWSE, Dwight & Julia
Shannon



HOLSINGER, Bill & Cassie
James



HUFFMAN, J. Lyle & Vickie
Jennifer



HULVEY, Judy
Amy



*JAMISON, Dale & Linda
Jonathan



JAMISON, Wayne & Clarene



JAMISON, William & Pauline
Cindy, Wesley



KAGEY, Virginia



KENNEDY, Peggy



KENNEDY, Yolanda



LAYMAN, Carl & Leona



LAYMAN, Mitchell & Bertha Lee



LITTEN, Allen & Susan
Anita



LITTEN, Zane
Manuel, Brian, Sarah



LOHR, Carleene



LOHR, Everett J. & Louise



LOHR, Gary & Ellen
Faye Ellen, Matthew



LOHR, John & Jean
Stephanie, Krista



LOHR, Kenneth & Karen
Kendall, Kara, Katanya



LUTZ, Martin & Mildred
Michael, Mary Anne, John



MAY, Gerald & Yolanda



MILSTED, Harry & Reulette



MORRIS, Gary & Linda
Lisa, Scottie



*MYERS, Jesse



QUESENBERRY, Henry & Wanda
Jody, Jared



RHODES, James & Faye
Lisa, Kelley, Jill



RHODES, Robert & Barbara
John



RICHMAN, Earl & Jeannette



SELLERS, Dennis & Peggy
David



SELLERS, Driver & Rosalie



SELLERS, Jeryl & Fay
Lisa, Dana, Tina



SELLERS, J. S. & Nan



SIMMONS, Michael & Varina
Amanda



WEAVER, R. C. Jr. & Karen
Brian, Kerry



WHITE, Bob & Shirley



WHITE, Carolyn



WHITE, Charles & Dorothy



WHITE, Ralph & Marjorie



WRIGHT, Shepard & Ann



*SHOPE, Clarence, Pauline



*ZAREMBA, Polly, Ronald,
Brandon

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≈ 5 months

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CONTRACT



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Sue Stumbaugh
854 Laurel Drive
Stephens City, VA 22655
703-869-6009

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DATE

Serving Churches of all faiths since 1963



We hope to accomplish three things with this folder

1 Acquaint you with United Church Directories and show how we can provide a custom designed, pictorial church directory or special purpose dedicational or promotional book designed to meet the special needs and goals of your church at absolutely *no cost to either the church or her families.*

2 Outline the need for such a program and show how the program can work for your church.

3 Briefly describe the basic plans and options and how United works to execute a meaningful program for your church.

It is our hope that, after reviewing this material, you will provide us the opportunity to share with you, in detail, the many ways a promotional book and church directory can benefit your church, her members and the community she serves.

About United

We are the world's largest producer of promotional book and church directories. Since 1963 we have worked with over 80,000 churches and printed over twelve million church directories. We own *and* operate our own photographic laboratories, print shops and creative layout departments.

Directory programs vary greatly. Generally, the difference is represented by what you *don't get!* Compare programs. Compare quality. Compare people, and your choice will be UNITED.

Our Philosophy

We respect the Church as the body instituted by God to accomplish His Will.

We pledge to produce the best promotional book and church directory of any company in the world.

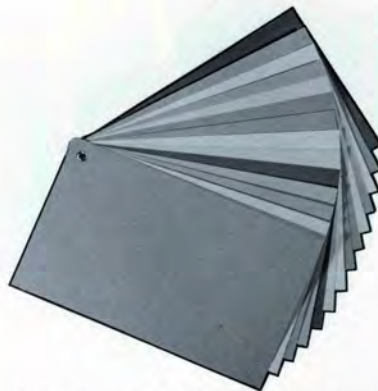
We believe our consultants should approach every church anticipating a superior program. United expects and demands superior performance from its people in whatever they do.

Features that make United's Program Different

Shown here are just a few of many options available from United. Again, compare programs, compare quality, compare features, and your choice will be United.



All United programs start with a written proposal.



Select from 14 different color stocks for your customized book cover.



You may prefer one of United's pre-designed full-color covers.



Complete design and layout service for your activity pages.



United directories include a lead-in or break page preceding the family section.

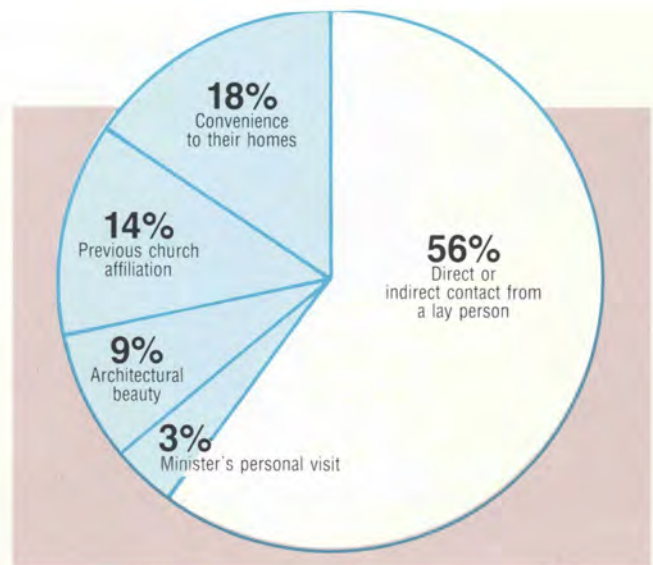
A book with a purpose

We want you to have a living, working tool that will help accomplish the goals of your church. We believe a church book should be more than just a directory of members. That's why we work with you to establish objectives and goals, then plan the activity photographs *before* the photographer arrives. Most other companies eliminate this most important step.

Surveys asking "Why did you select your church?" indicate that personal contact by lay persons is the single, most important factor.

A well-planned promotional book and directory can be an invaluable tool in helping members introduce their church to friends and newcomers.

In addition to outreach, United books can be designed and used to serve as a "get acquainted" tool, to promote or recognize a specific department or activity of the church, as a recruiting tool, as a prayer list, as a means of preserving church memories, to re-activate members, or other specific objectives you might have in mind.



How does United provide directories at no cost?

After selecting proofs for the directory, many members elect to purchase portraits for themselves, family or friends. These are offered at prices far below that which you would expect for such fine quality. It is from the sale of these portraits that it is possible for us to produce and print directories at no cost to you.



Choose any of four family page formats.



You can elect to have your directory roster bound into the book or printed separately and inserted in a back cover pocket.



United offers 20 to 50% directory overrun.



Free outreach brochures designed exclusively for your church.



United provides individual membership profile sheets or cards at no charge upon request.

Q&A

questions and answers about the program

Q Will this program interfere with other church functions or activities?

A *No. It is designed to interlace itself into the daily life of the church. In fact, many times it is possible to incorporate other projects, such as membership surveys, talent searches, etc. into this program. Please feel free to ask our consultant about any special project you have in mind.*

Q How long will it take to photograph our congregation?

A *Since one photographer can photograph approximately forty families per day, we can complete the entire photography phase in a very few days, even in the largest churches.*

Q Must people purchase portraits in order to appear in or receive a church book?

A *No. United Church Directories will furnish your church with a church book for every family who is photographed, selects a pose for the book, and authorizes publication.*

Q How long does it take to receive our books?

A *Approximately 90 days after the last proof showing and complete material for institutional and roster sections is received in our office, you will receive your church books.*

Q What work does the church contribute to this program?

A *Coordinators are appointed with whom our representative will work in conducting a training program for calling, publicity and book layout.*

Q What about the photographs for the institutional section?

A *We will photograph, at no cost, institutional groups needed for your layout during the time our photographer is at your church.*

Q How many families must we have photographed in order to participate in this program?

A *A minimum of 35 families.*

Q May people who are not members be invited?

A *Yes. You may increase participation and membership this way.*



UNITED CHURCH DIRECTORIES

P.O. Box 507 • Millsboro Road • Galion, Ohio 44833

(419) 468-4739



PROPOSAL

UNITED CHURCH DIRECTORIES

P.O. BOX 507 • MILLSBORO ROAD • GALION, OHIO 44833

419 468-4739



United Church Directories proposes to provide for your church a custom-designed promotional book and church directory. Your church book will be designed to meet the special needs and goals of your church at absolutely no cost to either the church or her families.

Your Custom-Designed Church Book Program will provide:

- An attractive, durable hard paper cover with a photograph of your choice, the name and location of your church.
- Activity (institutional) pages to communicate your special needs and goals. Each church receives a minimum of three activity pages. A page is one side.

Allocation:

35 - 100 families photographed =	3 pages
101 - 133 families photographed =	4 pages
134 - 166 families photographed =	5 pages
167 - 200 families photographed =	6 pages
201 - 233 families photographed =	7 pages
234 - 266 families photographed =	8 pages
267 - 300 families photographed =	9 pages
301 - 333 families photographed =	10 pages
One page for each thirty-three families photographed thereafter.	

- One lead-in or break page preceding the family section.
- A choice of four family page formats. The family section will be alphabetically arranged with names of each family member to aid in recognition.
- A complete up-to-date roster of all church members, including name, address and telephone.
- A minimum of 35 families must be photographed. (An AMP Program is available for fewer than 35 families photographed.)
- Each family sitting for a portrait and selecting a pose and authorizing a publication release will receive a free church book.
- The church will receive a 20-50% overprint, depending on the program chosen.
- Proofs will be viewed 3 - 5 weeks after photography.
- Books may be printed in either black and white or sepia.

**50%
overrun**

(24 pictures
per page)



John & Verna Darby



Lloyd & Frankie Davis
Glen, Jimmy, John David



Pat Dean
Brenda & Janet Williams



Phil & Patsy Donaho
Chris, Travis



Robert & Winifred Donaldson



Larry & Debbie Dooley
Kelsi



Don & Catherine Dorsett
Keith, Matthew



Way & Donna Dorsey
Joni, John, Jeff



James & Margaret Duckett



Dean & Joy Dyer
Greg



Ronnie & Sigrid Edwards
Jon, Cathy



Betty Ellis
Alfreda Brandow

**20%
overrun**

(12 pictures
per page)



ANDERSON
Edith



BAKER
Robert & Elva



BAKER
Scott & Rita
Christina
Dawn
Jennifer

ANDERSON
Howard & Mildred



BARGERSTOCK
Alvin & Arlene

Our full-service program is fine-tuned to help your church reach its goals!

What are your goals?

- church growth
- youth
- missions
- music
- history
- getting acquainted
- reactivating members
- publicizing doctrine
- introducing facilities
- Christian stewardship
- education
- senior citizens
- worship
-

UNITED RANKED #1 IN NATION

United Church of Christ Ranks 18 Firms Making Directories

Religious News Service

NEW YORK—The United Church of Christ's office of communication has issued "A Report on Pictorial Church Directories," including a ranking of 18 companies according to comments by UCC congregations.

The report was prompted, says its editor, the Rev. David Tilyer, because it is "clear that getting bilked by a directory vendor is a common occurrence."

United Church Directories, Galion, Ohio, and Waco, Tex., not connected with the denomination, received highest marks from churches and conferences surveyed.

Promote a photo directory of the church members. Even in a small church this is helpful, and in a larger church such a book is almost a necessity. The cost to the church is usually quite nominal, and the church members have an opportunity to acquire professional family portraits with no obligation to buy.

A word of caution on this activity. Check carefully any references offered by a prospective company. If you are still in doubt, contact your conference office. Do not make any financial commitment prior to the checking.

COORDINATE THE PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM

Some Resources

United Church Directories, P. O. Box 507, Millsboro Road, Galion, Ohio 44833.

There are many companies that provide this service. However, the Office of Communication Education of United Methodist Communications has worked with this company in several workshops and local churches and feels this company can be recommended.

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Resource System for the Local Church
Administrative Board
1977-1980

FROM THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



UNITED CHURCH DIRECTORIES

P.O. Box 507 • 7916 Millsboro Road • Galion, Ohio 44833

(419) 468-4739



A History of Bethlehem United Church of Christ

(Compiled for the June 4, 1995 Homecoming from accounts written during the last 50 years.)

By 1738 a log meetinghouse had been built on or near what is today the site of the Old Stone Church. At least until the early 1800's, this meetinghouse was used regularly for worship by some of the many Quaker families in the Valley. By 1807, however, many of these Quakers had migrated westward, and the Smith Creek Friends ceased meeting on this site.

By 1844, the meetinghouse was crumbling and Jacob Martz, the owner of the land on which it stood, deeded it to several trustees. He appointed John Cowan, Jacob N. Cowan, Martin Martz, and Jackson Martz "to superintend the building of a house for Divine Service on a lot of land of the said Jacob Martz as well for and in consideration of his strong desire to promote the principles of Christianity as of one Dollar Current Money . . ." (Rockingham Deed Book 17; 21 Sept. 1844, p. 381).

The Old Stone Church was built in 1845 by a Rockingham County stonemason named Jeremiah Clemens, who was about 24 at the time, and who later migrated to Missouri.

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On June 18, 1881, with only two of the original trustees surviving, J. B. Smith, Michael Lohr and Michael J. Martz were appointed to join John Cowan and Jackson Martz as trustees. These five, representing the New Bethlehem Christian Congregation, entered an agreement with the Virginia Valley Christian Conference to restore the Old Stone Church. 21 members joined in the project, and it appears that membership almost tripled within the next five years.

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Additional Information
On
The Old Stone Bethlehem Church

The building as you see it is modified from the original in several important ways. The raised chancel area with divisions for church school classes was a later addition, probably 20th Century (before 1939.) The stained glass windows were installed about 40-50 years ago, in the last decade of the building's regular use for worship (probably 1940's.) The ceiling is, of course, lowered from its original height, in conformity with the post-Civil War roof replacement.

Above the entrance doors one can see the windows which once opened to the balcony for slaves. The new roof would not accommodate a balcony, and of course, after the Civil War it was unneeded. The front steps were replaced recently. Other repairs to the outside of the building and interior will be done as the congregation can afford the work.

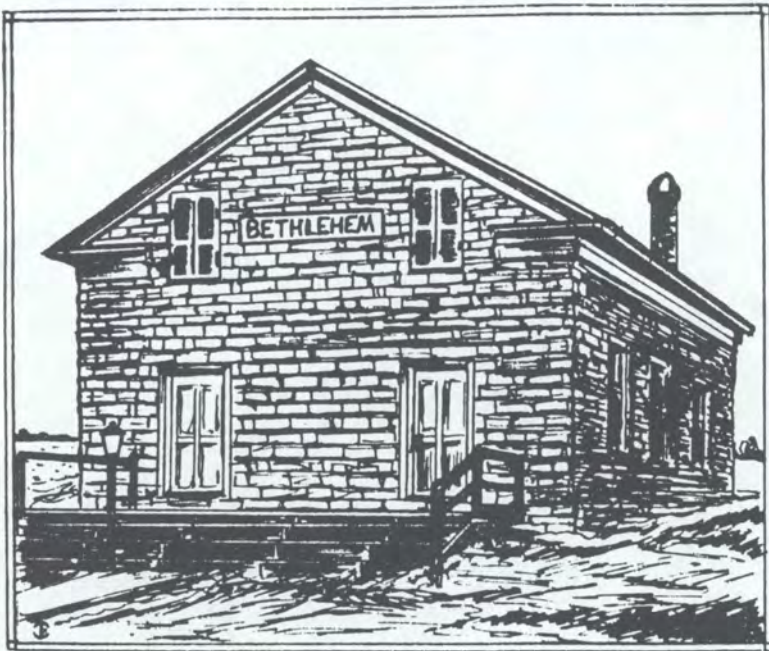
The only early furnishings still in the congregation's possession are a pulpit, (in the newer building) and chandeliers (in storage and unavailable for today's tour.) Unfortunately, the pews were sold and lost, and there were few other furnishings to begin with.

Until the spring of 1981, the Old Stone Church was unused for nearly 30 years. At that time, it was emptied of junk and cleaned for a Homecoming Service on Pentecost Sunday. That service became an annual affair, with special music and dinner on the grounds.

In 1988, Bethlehem United Church of Christ celebrated its 250th year of continuous Christian worship and service on this site.

Composed by
The Rev. Michael O. Simmons, Pastor, 1977-85
Mrs. Nan H. Sellers, Church Historian

Updated by
The Rev. Marilyn Heishman, Pastor, 2001-



BETHLEHEM STONE CHURCH - ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

On the west side of the old Valley Turnpike (U.S. Route 11) about 10 miles north of the city of Harrisonburg, stands the Bethlehem Stone Church. It is located at the Cross Roads in the village of Tenth Legion, Rockingham County.

The Old Stone Church, as it is often referred to, stands on land which Jacob Martz, Sr. gave in 1844 to four trustees for the building of a house of Divine Service. These trustees were John Cowan, Martin Martz, Jacob N. Cowan and Jackson Martz. By 1845 a church had been constructed of native limestone. It is believed that the stonework was the work of Jeremiah Clemens, a stonemason of Rockingham County. It is the oldest existing stone church in Rockingham County.

As early as 1738 a Quaker meeting house is known to have existed on or near this same site. Journals kept by pioneers refer to attendance at Friends meeting on Smith Creek. It is estimated that by 1782 there were more than 1000 Quakers in the Valley.

Sebastian Martz migrated from Pennsylvania to this Quaker community. His sons married daughters of established Quaker families and in 1777 he bought the Valentine Sevier property on Smith's Creek. It was part of this tract that his son, Jacob Martz deeded in 1844 for the new church.

In 1753 a group of 12 Moravian Brethren Missionaries traveled through the Valley from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. They kept a journal in which they refer to Valentine Sevier's Tavern near Tenth Legion and camping near Harrisonburg. The Bethlehem Church was named for these Moravian Brethren from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Bethlehem Church was used for a hospital during the Civil War. Inscriptions of Confederate soldiers can still be seen in the attic. The church was in the line of battle during the war and suffered shell fire which damaged the roof and shattered windows and doors. Services were moved across the road. In 1881 the church was restored and growth of its congregation continued. In 1952 a new church was built which stands today adjacent to the Bethlehem Stone Church.

In 1976 concerned church and community members raised funds to make repairs on a building that had gone without maintenance for some 20 years. The stone work was pointed up, the porch was rebuilt, and painting and cleaning were done. With this initial work the Stone Church was stabilized and further deterioration prevented.

Contributions toward the maintenance and upkeep of this historic landmark may be made to the OLD STONE CHURCH COMMITTEE c/o Wayne L. Harrison, Treas., P.O. Box 1059, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22801



BETHLEHEM

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



HISTORY

Christians have worshiped on the site of Bethlehem Church since 1738 when a sturdy log meeting house was built beside an Indian trail. Some of the early families in the area were Quakers; and their descendants and the later Marche (Martz) family became the founders of the present congregation. Jacob Martz, Sr. organized the building of the "Old Stone Church" to replace the crumbling original one in 1845. After the destruction of the War Between the States, it sat damaged and vacant for sixteen years until a new relationship with the Valley of Virginia Christian Conference made possible its renovation in 1881. The reorganized Bethlehem Christian Congregation thus began a new era of church leadership in the Valley which has continued to the present. In 1929 the Christian Churches became a part of the Congregational Christian Churches (of Pilgrim heritage) and in 1957 they joined the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ of today.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the world into being, creates man in his own image, and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory, and power be unto him. Amen.

MISSION

Our bylaws state: "The purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward all people; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace." We seek to fulfill this purpose in many ways.

At Bethlehem we have Sunday morning Worship with a special time for children; Church School and summer Bible School; special prayer, study, and discussion groups for all ages; many fun fellowship opportunities; music programs and choir; and pastoral visitation and counseling. There is also a growing library and a versatile building and grounds available for many uses by the community.

Beyond Bethlehem, through the homeland and world-wide missions of the United Church of Christ; the work of the Central Atlantic Conference and Shenandoah Associations of the UCC. Through the Women's Fellowship we minister to troubled children in the UCC Hoffman Home at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania' and at the Rivendale Home here in the Valley; to the jail of Rockingham County, along with others of Church Women United; and to many senior citizens in several nursing homes, along with members of our church choir.

Through several adult leaders and the use of our facilities we help to sponsor our community 4-H program for children and youth.

Some of our own senior members support the Mountain Valley-Tenth Legion Senior Center, a self supporting program at the Ruritan Hall.

We support Weekday Religious Education, a program to provide this special kind of learning opportunity near the public schools.

And finally, we give two days a month of our pastor's time for chaplaincy work at Rockingham Memorial Hospital.

Tenth Legion, Virginia

On U.S. Route 11 between New Market and Mauzy.

Route 3, Broadway, Virginia 22815

703-896-7285/1432

From Northern Va. Daily

Churches Lay Groundwork For Proposed Association

The National Merger in 1957 of the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed denominations into the United Church of Christ will become a reality on the local level with the dissolution of old Conferences and Synods and the organization of new Associations.

The churches in the Valley Area held a preliminary organizational meeting recently at St. Paul's United Church of Christ at Woodstock. The purpose of the meeting was to lay the groundwork for the proposed new association, to be known as the "Shenandoah Valley Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ."

The geographical area of the Shenandoah Valley Association will extend from Morgan and Hampshire Counties in West Virginia to Greene County, Virginia, and will include 38 churches. Thirty-one of these churches were represented at the meeting on Sunday afternoon. The total of delegates, ministers, and visitors attending was 102.

Rev. Mark W. Andes, pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ in Winchester, presided. The agenda for the day included those actions necessary to the organization of the new association. Actions voted upon by the assembled delegates included the election of temporary officers, the election of the Nominations and By-Laws Committees, the agreement on the name of the new association, and several Resolutions pertaining to the transfer of the former E&R and CC churches into the Shenandoah Valley Association.

The elections were conducted by Rev. Fred W. Groff, Winchester, and Rev. Bland Leebrick, New Market. The temporary officers elected were: President, Rev. Mark W. Andes, Winchester, vice president, Rev. Edouard H. Taylor, Harrisonburg, and secretary, Mrs. Robert M. Grim, Winchester.

Those elected to the Nominations Committee were: Rev. Silas E. Madren, Elkton, Chairman; Robert Newman, Winchester, Roland Arey, Bridgewater, Dr. Richard Tisinger, Mt. Jackson, Mrs. Guy Benchoff, Woodstock.

By-Laws Committee: Rev.

George Butz, Mt. Jackson, Chairman; R. B. Alexander, Mt. Crawford, Mrs. Ralph Sheetz, Woodstock, Mrs. T. W. Good, Broadway, Mrs. C. A. Pugh, Winchester.

The organization meeting of the new Association is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Dec. 6, at Bethlehem Church, Tenth Legion.

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By 1844, the meetinghouse was crumbling and Jacob Martz, the owner of the land on which it stood, deeded it to several trustees. He appointed John Cowan, Jacob N. Cowan, Martin Martz and Jackson Martz "to superintend the building of a house for Divine Service on a lot of land of the said Jacob Martz as well for and in consideration of his strong desire to promote the principles of Christianity as of One Dollar Current Money..." (Rockingham Deed Book 12; 21 September, 1844; page 381).

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On June 18, 1881, with only two of the original trustees surviving, J. B. Smith, Michael Lohr and Michael J. Martz were appointed to join John Cowan and Jackson Martz as trustees. These five, representing the New Bethlehem Christian Congregation, entered an Agreement with the Virginia Valley Christian Conference to restore the Old Stone Church. Twenty one (21) members joined in the project, and it appears that membership almost tripled within the next five years.

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National events have local impact, and on June 27, 1923 in Seattle, Washington, the Christian Church merged with the Congregational Churches to form the Congregational Christian Churches; the Tenth Legion congregation was to become the Bethlehem Congregational Christian Church. In 1932 and 1933 the General Synod of the Reformed Church and the Evangelical Synod of North America voted to unite; on June 26, 1934 the Evangelical and Reformed Church was born in Cleveland, Ohio. On June 25, 1957 also in Cleveland, the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches united to become the United Church of Christ. Three weeks from today is the 38th anniversary of that union, a union which soon resulted in the birth of Bethlehem United Church of Christ.

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INFORMATION ON SALE OF PARSONAGE

August 24, 1977

Sale - November 20, 1974:

\$ 21,250.00	Cash
<u>10,000.00</u>	Deed of Trust

\$ 31,250.00 Total Sale

\$21,250.00 cash deposited on November 21, 1974 with the First National Bank of Broadway on a four (4) year certificate of deposit bearing interest at 7-1/4%, due November 21, 1978.

Deed of Trust for \$10,000.00 with interest at the rate of 8% per annum on the unpaid balance until paid; the principal and interest being amortized and payable in sixty (60) monthly installments, the first of which are each in the amount of \$121.33 and are payable on the 20th day of each month, beginning December 20, 1974, to October 20, 1979, both inclusive, and the final payment in the amount of \$6,104.86 due and payable on the 20th day of November, 1979.

STATEMENT

July 20, 1977

4 Year Certificate of Deposit	\$ 25,615.00	mature 11/21/78
1 Year Certificate of Deposit	1,079.31	matures 8/77
Passbook	<u>3,150.46</u>	
Cash in Bank	\$ 29,844.77	
Deed of Trust Receivable	\$ 1,941.28	16 pymts/\$121.33
Deed of Trust Receivable	<u>6,104.86</u>	final pymt. 11/20/79
TOTAL	\$ 37,890.91	

Prepared by F. H. Harrison, Jr., Trustee

Marie

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7 ans

1883 - D.T. Deans
1884-1887 - not listed

1888 - J.W. Barrett
1889-1891 - not listed

1892-1894 - E.T. Isley

1895-1898 - R.H. Peel *Picture*

1899-1903 - L.L. Lassiter *(Wayland Rock Co) Picture*

1904-1906 - H.C. Moore

1907-1910 - W.T. Walters *Picture*

1911-1916 - R.L. Williamson

1917-1928 - A.W. Andes *(Wayland Rock Co) Picture*

1929-1930 - Joe French

1931-1938 - M.L. Weekley

1939-1941 - Roy D. Coulter *picture*

1942-1947 - Guy H. Veazey *picture*

1948-1951 - Clyde O. Koon *picture*

1952-1956 - Ralph M. Galt

1957-1959 - Charles McFarland *Summers*
1456-57-58 - J. F. Hesse

1960 - vacant *Charles McFarland picture*

1961-1965 - Bland A. Leebrick *picture*

1966 - vacant

1967-1968 - H.R. Phelts

1969 - vacant

1970-1972 - R.M. Spaulding

1973 - not listed

1974-1976 - J.B. Spence *Picture*

1977-1981 - M.O. Simmons *Apr 1985 Pict*

1985 - *Michael A. ... Interim Minister picture*

1987 - *Fulltime - leaves*

Aug. 20 - 1995

1995 *Matthew Jackson Interim Minister Aug 1996-1998*

1996 *Interim Minister 1996*

Marilyn Newsham

1998 - *Wm. Zopp - 1999*

1844 - *Sevier*
1868 - *Elder B. W. Woods*
1872 - *C. J. Rolston*
1882 - *D. P. Dean*
1886 - 88 - *J. W. Barrett*
1889 - *P. H. F. Leming* } *Interim-*
1790 - *J. A. Scott* } *Minister*
1791 - *B. A. Barney* }

A proposal to Cover Bethlehem UCC Windows
For Insulation and Protection

Background: During one two month period last Winter, 1981-82, we paid heating oil bills of about \$ 1,800. There were also electricity bills in excess of \$ 100 per month. Despite this, the building was not always comfortably warm enough at a thermostat setting of 66°. Even with supplementary electric heating, some of our Church School rooms were too cold to use on several Sundays.

Our furnace is now 30 years old and originally designed to heat only main building. Insulation of that building's ceiling and the installation of ceiling fans has helped in Summer cooling, but the Winter value of these improvements is untested and may be limited by continued cold air infiltration through leaky windows and doors. With these things in mind, the Trustees, at the Council's request, has studied options for further improving the Winterization of our building.

Study Results: Evaluations, recommendations, and cost estimates were solicited from three contractors: 1) a Emergency fuel oil supplier, 2) a Mt. Jackson burner service expert, and 3) a Harrisonburg heating/cooling contractor. Each suggested different ways of upgrading our heating system, ranging in cost from several hundreds of dollars to several thousands to replace the entire system. However, all advised that unless cold air infiltration was limited, any heating system improvements would be of limited value. The Trustees and Council agreed to follow this advice as a matter of first priority, making no changes in the heating system at this time.

The Proposal: The Council proposes that the Congregation vote in a Called Meeting, November 7, 1982, to authorize the following:

1. acceptance of the bid of Romaine Mirror & Glass Co. of Waynesboro, Virginia, to cover with GE Lexan the following stained glass windows:
 - a. 12 smaller arched, with vents @ \$ 191.00 each = \$ 2,292.00
 - b. 5 rectangular, with vents @ \$ 240.00 each = \$ 1,200.00
 - c. 1 large front arched & 2 transoms @ \$ 2,352.00

for a Total Cost of \$ 5,844.00.

2. solicitation of at least two bids and acceptance of the lowest bid to cover four(4) colored glass windows on the rear of the main building with an appropriate type of storm windows, properly placed and caulked.

3. solicitation of gifts from members and friends of the Church to be applied to the cost of the proposed capital improvements.

4. use of as much as is needed of the principle and interest of a Certificate of Deposit totalling approximately \$ 5,000.00, maturing in November 1982, to pay the cost of these capital improvements not covered by designated gifts. (Any unused or later re-imbursed part of the C.D. will be reinvested.)

Rationale: These capital improvements were in principle recommended independently by three "expert" consultants. The cost is nearly \$ 4,000 less than a competitor's bid given in 1980. Neither these costs nor heating costs are likely to become less. They will probably increase. Furthermore, our windows were valued at \$ 60,000 in 1980 and are maximally insured for \$ 25,000(as of May 1981). Vandalism recently cost \$ 800 to repair part of one window. These improvements will be good stewardship of our property and of our future financial resources.



BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TENTH LEGION, VIRGINIA

RT. 3, BOX 104 A / BROADWAY, VIRGINIA 22815 / CHURCH (703) 896-~~7888~~3975

May 1, 1984

Members and Friends of Bethlehem Church,
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

We wish to invite you to be a part of Bethlehem Church's Homecoming, to be held on Pentecost Sunday, June 10, 1984. Pentecost has long been celebrated as the birthday of the Church, and for several years we have gathered in The Old Stone Church for that occasion. This year we are making a special effort to include those of you who have been away from Bethlehem for a time. We will begin the Homecoming with an open house at 9:45 A.M., with refreshments and historical displays in The Old Stone Church, a registered Historic Landmark of The Commonwealth of Virginia. Morning Worship will follow at 10:30 A.M. in the "new" sanctuary next door. The Reverend Mr. Ralph Galt, Pastor at the time of the 1952 building, will be the preacher, and he and his wife Louise, former missionaries of the United Church Board for World Ministries, will be our honored guests for the day. A picnic dinner on the grounds will follow worship at about noon. We hope that you will join us. There will be plenty food and drink for those who come from distance, so you need only bring yourselves and your guests. In case of inclement weather, we will remain indoors.

Our worship will be highlighted by the preaching of our former Pastor, the gospel singing of our fine choir, and the baptism and reception of several persons into church membership. Of course, your presence would be an added highlight for old friends and family.

On that same weeked our Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ will be in Annual Meeting at Bridgewater College. At the Sunday worship time we will be joining them and the whole UCC family in supporting a Pentecost Peace Offering, initiated for 1984 and 1985 by our 14th General Synod. Peacemaking is one of our national UCC priorities and one of our Bethlehem Church goals for 1984-86. There will be special offering envelopes for those who want to add their support.

We hope that you will make plans to be with us for Homecoming at Pentecost. Come help us to celebrate the birth of Christ's Church and the 246 years of Christian service in this place. Come help us welcome Ralph and Louise Galt who have served here and on the far side of the world for Christ. We will all have much to share and celebrate that day!

God's Peace be yours,

Michael O. Simmons, Pastor

RALPH & LOUISE GALT
MAPLE DRIVE
PLEASANT HILL, TN 38578

May 31, 1984

Rev. Michael Simmons

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your phone call and for your letter which came yesterday.

I have written autobiography. Sorry, it became too long. Please kindly omit any parts and condense it. Photo enclosed.

I have decided to go to Washington by bus on June 5 or 6, and then rent a car in Washington so that Louise can have our car here. I am tentatively planning to arrive at Tenth Legion between 4 and 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon June 8, but will try to telephone to you before then. Please don't change your plans for me.

I look forward to being with you and the congregations. May God bless and lead you!!

Fraternally,

Ralph

P.S. I see by copy of letter that I wrote you on March 10 that I gave title of sermon as "God has a plan for His People" from Jere. 1: 4-10, and I Tim. 4: 7-12.

RALPH & LOUISE GALT
MAPLE DRIVE
PLEASANT HILL, TN 36578

March 10, 1984

Dear Rev. Simmons,

I was happy to receive your letter of March 5; and I am glad to accept your gracious invitation to preach at Bethlehem Church Homecoming this spring on June 10. It will be wonderful to see again the few old friends who are still around. It is marvelous that Bethlehem has developed into a good-sized strong church with you as its full-time pastor. My tentative sermon title and scripture are: God has a Plan for His People, Jeremiah 1: 4-10, and I Timothy 4: 7-12.

I helped to build the "new" Church building at Bethlehem with my own hands when I was pastor there 30 years ago. Then I was serving 5 churches in the "Shenrock Parish". They were Bethlehem, Woods Chapel, Wisslers Chapel, Concord, and Palmyra. Woods and Wisslers have become Valley Central; and perhaps Palmyra is closed. However if it would be easy for you to arrange it, I would like to preach at either Valley Central or Concord on Sunday night of June 10. Anyway please let these two congregations know that we will be at Bethlehem Church. We will probably arrive at Tenth Region or near there on Saturday, June 9, but have not yet decided on the time of day. Well let you know.

May God bless you and Bethlehem Church!

In Christian fellowship,

Ralph Galt

MONUMENT TO VETERANS AT HILLYARD PARK Broadway, VA



TAPS

It all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gun fire, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern. Suddenly, he caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for the son at the funeral. That request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform. This wish was granted. This music was the haunting melody we know as "Taps" that is used at all military funerals.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS 2000

February 27, 2000

1/ SHARING OUR STORIES:

Our experience comes from at least three different places: the Bible, the worshiping congregation, and the stories of Jesus' followers. When the good news (from the Greek *evangelion*), of the story is told, lives may be transformed and God's love may be known.

When we look to the Bible, we discover the story of our relationship with God. God is our God, we are God's people. The Bible is our primary source and tells us what kind of people we are.

The worship life of a congregation is another source for the retelling and remembering of our story. A joyful response of God's people to God's redeeming love in Christ. We have sacraments, Christian year, the central figure. A faithful response to God's saving grace.

We also need the Christian story as it has been lived out in history and is being lived today. Stories of children, youth, adults of all ages. Open to the Holy Spirit, being part of a faith community willing to share their faith helps. (Dee) a time when you are aware of God's presence. Serendipity - the good things that happen to us in life for which there are no logical explanations.

One lady from the leadership of the church once wrote: "God is very real to me. I do not understand everything about God, but I do know that God loves the world and all of us who are a part of it. God gives us the choice of whether or not we will accept God's love. If we do, some wonderful things happen. We love God in return and love our neighbor as ourselves. God's Spirit gives us the courage and strength to love others, even when it is not an easy thing to do."

2/ WORSHIP

How we offer praise and thanksgiving, respond to God's grace, linking past and present to the Living God. Think of an average Sunday here at Bethlehem. What happens during that time? What comes to your heart and mind? Problems? Fears? Friends? However you respond, worship is one of the best and most effective ways to renew our faith and form our ideas about what it means to be a Christian. The word *worship* actually comes from the old English word *weorthscipe* - *woerth*, which means "worth" and *scipe*, which means "ship." The combination refers to the way we place worth and value on things and persons. Within the U. C. C., worship takes many forms, but its purpose is to provide us with the opportunity to praise and give thanks to God as his faithful people.

A/ The Church Year:

Reflecting the seasons through use of the Revised Common Lectionary (over three year period we read all the important stories in the Bible).

a/ Advent (blue or purple): preparing for the Birth of Christ, consists of four Sundays in Advent prior to Dec. 25th. Advent Wreaths are used symbolized our anticipation. Blue - hope, purple - royalty and penitence.

B/ Christmas (white - joy, festive purity) marks Christ's coming to us in person. Twelve days long and goes until Epiphany. To celebrate and honor the one who came to be the Light of the World.

C/ Epiphany, which means "to show," God's gift to the world, emphasized by the visit of the Magi. (white - appearance, revealing Jesus as the Christ)

D/ Lent is the season that focus on self-examination, prayer, and fasting in preparation for Holy Week. *Lent* comes from the word "to lengthen," the increasing the daylight hours. It begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days with a service of ashes and communion. Lent concludes with Holy Week, which includes:

+ Palm/Passion Sunday, entrance and Passover meal

- + Maundy Thursday - remembering Jesus' last meal
- + Good Friday - remembering the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

Easter (White) celebrates Christ's victory over death. The Easter season is the most joyful one in the church year.

Pentecost (red - fire, Sundays following Green (growth), marks the beginning of the Christian church, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus.

3/ HISTORY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

(Read history of our church) As members of a church you are part of a wider Christian community called the Christian Church. Acts 11:19-26 tells how the first church in Antioch began. Disciples were first called "Christians." Purpose of the church is to make Christ and the gospel known in the world; provides for fellowship; aware of the needs of all here and out there.

4/ BIBLE

A collection of stories that tell us of God's actions toward people and their experience of God. We tell stories every day - what happened at work, or at home, on vacation, in church. Recounting the things that happen to us and the people around us helps us understand who we are together and where we are going. God's creating, loving, judging, and saving actions shaped the lives of people then and continue to help us today.

A/ Sheet on How The Bible Came To Be: (separate page)

B/ Picture of parts of the Bible: (separate page)

4/ HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

The Christian church was called into being by the life, witness, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's work in human history. The church is a gift from God. "Who do you say that I am?" That question, asked by Jesus of Simon Peter, enabled Peter to say, "You are the Messiah, the Child of the Living God." Jesus' reaction started the church when he answered Peter by saying, "Upon this *rock* I will build my church. Meaning, upon Peter's rock like character. Peter (*petra*), Rock (*petros*). Catholics

look at Peter as the first Pope. (Read some of "The Beginning:" page 45.

6/ HISTORY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A uniting church, universal, organized for ministry and mission. Our motto is "That they all may be one." For Jesus unity was an important idea. John 17 helps us to understand that unity is a result of God's action toward us and does not come from our efforts alone. When we strive for unity the world is made better. Our denomination is the result of a merger in 1957 of two distinct bodies: the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the Congregational Christian Churches. The Evangelical and reformed church was a result of a 1934 merger of the Reformed Church in the U. S. and the Evangelical Synod of North America. The Congregational Christian Churches were formed in 1931, bringing together the General Convention of the South, and the national Council of Congregational Churches. We are currently joined in partnership with the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church). United - working for unity yet celebrating diversity. Brief history of Separatists (Pilgrims) and the Puritans, who merged in 1648 for mutual support contained in the Cambridge Platform.

A/ Emblem of the United Church of Christ (separate page 67).



Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Tenth Legion, Virginia

Children's Christmas Program
December 18, 1983

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator	Kelley Rhodes
Mary	Amanda Simmons
Joseph	Terry Crider
Lisa	Lisa Morris
Angie	Angie Holsinger
Angels	Scott Morris Jonathan Good Damon Zirk Laura Good Jennifer Huffman Kerry Weaver Kara Lohr Katanya Lohr Holly Bazzle Felicia Pratt
Shepherds	Shawn Crider Brian Weaver
Wise Men	Jody Quesenberry Jared Quesenberry Vivian Harrison
Singers	The Church Choir
Accompanist	Barbara Rhodes
Produced & Directed by	Ann Wright
Stage Manager	Peggy Kennedy Shepherd Wright
Presents presented by	Shirley & Bob White

PEACE AND JOY TO EVERYONE

AT CHRISTMAS AND THROUGH THE NEW YEAR!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY--page two

SCENE III. There are shepherds standing in the middle of some low shrubs of an oasis (palm trees, stage left). Shepherds take their place, coming from pew seats in front row. Lights dim on manger and rise on shepherds as 3rd Narrator begins to read. Lights not too bright.

3rd Narrator: Luke 2.8-9

Angel enters from seat on front row of pews.

Angel:Narrator: Luke 2.10-12 (as Narrator reads, Angel should move and motion as if speaking).

3rd Narrator: Luke 2.13

All of the other angels enter and gather around the first or Archangel.

Music suddenly begins, very loudly and brightly--
"Angels We Have Heard on High" UCC 90

Lights on angels and shepherds brighten and house lights come on for singing of the hymn.

3rd Narrator: Luke 2.15-20

House Lights go out after hymn is sung, and as Narrator reads, lights dim on spot where shepherds have been, stage left. Lights come up on manger. Cast of shepherds and angels move to manger and gather round the baby and Mary and Joseph. (Others on steps.)

Music begins softly, "Silent Night" W&S-38, and all cast sings vss. 1 & 2, quietly.

Lights on manger dim slowly as music ends.

SCENE IV. Wisemen gather stage left where shepherds were before. They point to the star and seem to talk excitedly to one another as
Lights go up stage left on Wisemen.

2nd Narrator: Matthew 2.1b-2: "...there were wisemen..."

Music: a recorder begins to play a simple tune and then is joined by a single voice singing "What Star Is This?" UCC-115, vss. 1 & 2.

4th Narrator: Matthew 2.3-4

Herod enters (from his seat in front) to area near but not exactly with the Wisemen, who take no notice of him yet.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY--page three

2nd Narrator: Matthew 2.5-6

A group of other people gather around Herod as he motions to them, obviously questioning them. He then moves over to the Wisemen and "speaks" to them in motions as the Narrator reads his words.

4th Narrator: Matthew 2. 7-8

Lights dim on scene stage left, as Herod returns to his seat and the Wisemen move toward the manger. Lights come up on Manger scene, center stage.

2nd Narrator: Matthew 2.9-12

Wisemen bow before the baby and place gifts at the cradle as Narrator reads. Then, after shaking the hand of Joseph, they leave, returning to their seats.

Music begins strongly as Wisemen leave manger, playing "As With Gladness Men of Old" UCC-118.

House lights come on for singing the hymn and go out afterward. Lights on manger then also dim and go out.

SCENE V. family gathered around the Christmas tree again...

Lights come up on tree and family.

Son: That's a great story! It must be true.

Mother: Yes, it is true. That's why we celebrate, like the shepherds and the angels did...

Daddy: ...and why we exchange gifts, like the Wisemen did.

Daughter: That's what I like best about Christmas--giving gifts that we choose for each other. There are always such good surprises.

Mother and Daddy: We have a surprise for you now. (They go behind the tree for the surprise, and all the other children gather around the tree to share in it.)

Children: Ooohhh...it's beautiful!

Mother and Daddy: Merry Christmas, children. We hope that this brings as much joy to you as it did to all those people on that first Christmas night.

Lights come up in house, and all sing UCC-313, "Joy to the World"

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

AS TOLD IN THE GOSPELS OF SAINTS MATTHEW AND LUKE
(TODAY'S ENGLISH VERSION)

PROLOGUE

Scene I. The Birth of John is Announced, Luke 1.5-23

Soloist (singing unaccompanied): "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (UCC-83, vs. 1)

Narrator: During the time when Herod was king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife's name was Elizabeth; she also belonged to a priestly family. They both lived good lives in God's sight and obeyed fully all the Lord's laws and commands. They had no children because Elizabeth could not have any, and she and Zechariah were both very old.

One day Zechariah was doing his work as a priest in the Temple, taking his turn in the daily service. According to the custom followed by the priests, he was chosen by lot to burn incense on the altar. So he went into the Temple of the Lord, while the crowd of people outside prayed during the hour when the incense was burned. An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar where the incense burned. When Zechariah saw him, he was alarmed and felt afraid.

Angel: Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John. How glad and happy you will be, and how many others will be when he is born! He will be a great man in the Lord's sight. He must not drink any wine or strong drink. From his very birth he will be filled the Holy Spirit, and he will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go ahead of the Lord, strong and mighty like the prophet Elijah. He will bring fathers and children together again; he will turn disobedient people back to the way of thinking of the righteous; he will get the Lord's people ready for him.

Zechariah: How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man, and my wife is old also.

Angel: I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news. But you have not believed my message, which will come true at the right time. Because you have not believed, you will be unable to speak; you will be silent until the day my promise to you come true.

Narrator: In the meantime the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he was spending such a long time in the Temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them, and so they knew that he had seen a vision in the Temple. Unable to say a word, he made signs to them with his hands.

When his period of service in the Temple was over, Zechariah went back home. Some time later his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and did not leave the house for five months.

Elizabeth: Now at last the Lord has helped me. He has taken away my public disgrace!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY, page two

PROLOGUE

Scene II. The Birth of Jesus Is Announced, Luke 1.26-38

Soloist(singing unaccompanied): "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"(UCC-83, vs. 2)

Narrator: In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a girl promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. The girl's name was Mary. The angel came to her.

Angel: Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!

Narrator: Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant.

Angel: Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!

Mary: I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?

Angel: The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do.

Mary: I am the Lord's servant; may it happen to me as you have said.

Narrator: And the angel left her.

Scene III. Mary Visits Elizabeth, Luke 1.39-56

Soloist(singing accompanied): "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"(UCC-83, vs. 3)

Narrator: Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice...

Elizabeth: You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY, page three

PROLOGUE

Scence III. continued

Mary(singing): My heart praises the Lord:
my soul is glad because of God my Savior,
for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!
From now on all people will call me happy,
because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me.
His name is holy;
from one generation to another
he shows mercy to those who honor him.
He has stretched out his mighty arm
and scattered the proud with all their plans.
He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors,
and has come to the help of his servant Israel.
He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham
and to all his descendants forever!

Narrator: Mary stayed about three months with Elizabeth and then went back home.

Scene IV. The Birth of John and Zechariah's Prophecy, Luke 1.57-66, 67-80

End of 1st Soloist(singing unaccompanied): "Hallelujah"

Narrator: The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relative heard how wonderfully good the Lord had been to her, and they all rejoiced with her.

When the baby was a week old they were going to name him Zechariah, after his father. But his mother said

Elizabeth: No! His name is to be John.

Friend: But you don't have any relative with that name!

Narrator: Then they made signs to his father, asking him what name he would like the boy to have. Zechariah asked for a writing pad and wrote: "His name is John." How surprised they all were! At that moment Zechariah was able to speak again, and he started praising God. The neighbors were all filled with fear, and the news about these things spread through all the hill country of Judea. Everyone who heard of it thought about it and asked, "What is this child going to be?" For it was plain that the Lord's power was upon him.

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he spoke God's message:

PROLOGUE

Scene IV. continued

Zechariah: (God's message...)

Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!

He has come to the help of his people and has set them free.

He has provided for us as mighty Savior, a descendant of his servant David.

He promised through his holy prophets long ago that he would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us.

He said he would show mercy to our ancestors and remember his sacred covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham he promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve him without fear, so that we might be holy and righteous before him all the days of our life.

You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God, You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare his road for him, to tell his people that they will be saved by having their sins forgiven. Our God is merciful and tender.

He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us and to shine from heaven on all those who live in the dark shadow of death, to guide our steps into the path of peace.

Narrator: The child grew and developed in body and spirit. He lived in the desert until the day when he appeared publicly to the people of Israel.

2nd or 4th Soloist(singing unaccompanied): "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"
(UCC-80, all verses)

CHRISTMAS

Introduction. The Setting, Luke 2.1-3

Narrator: At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own home town.

Scene I. Joseph and the Angel, Matthew 1.18-25

Narrator: This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said...

THE CHRISTMAS STORY, page five

CHRISTMAS

Scene I. continued

Angel: Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus--because he will save his people from the sins.

Narrator: Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel"(which means, "God is with us").

So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. ~~And Joseph named him Jesus.~~

Scene II. The Birth of Jesus, Luke 2.4-7

Choir and Congregation(singing): "O Little Town of Bethlehem"(UCC-99, vss. 1-4)

Narrator: Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register (in the census of Rome) with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger--there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Children's Choir(singing): "Away in a Manger"(W&S-39, vss. 1-3)

Scene III. The Shepherds and the Angels, Luke 2.8-20

Narrator: There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid. Choir(singing): "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"(W&S-30, vss. 1-5)

Angel: Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born--Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Narrator: Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

Angels(Choir speaking): Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!
(Choir singing): "Angels We Have Heard on High"(UCC-90, vss. 1-3)

CHRISTMAS

Scene III. continued

Narrator: When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us."

Choir and Congregation(singing): "The First Nowell"(UCC-100, vss. 1-5)

Scene IV. Visitors from the East, Matthew 2.1b-12

Narrator: Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked...

Wisemen: Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him. Children's Choir (singing with recorder): "What Star Is This"(UCC-115, vss. 1-2)

Narrator: When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them...

Herod: Where will the Messiah be born?

A Priest: In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. For this is what the prophet wrote:

Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;
for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.

Narrator: So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions:

Herod: Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.

Narrator: And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

Choir and Congregation(singing): "As with Gladness Men of Old"(UCC-118, vss. 1-4)

POSTLOGUE

Introduction. Jesus is Named, Luke 2.21

Narrator: A week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

Scene I. Jesus Is Presented in the Temple, Luke 2.22-38

Narrator: The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

As that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

Simeon: Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant die in peace.
With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:
A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel.

Narrator: The child's mother and father were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother,

Simeon: This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart.

Narrator: There was a very old prophetess, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshiped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

Soloist(singing accompanied): "I Wonder as I Wander"(UCC-119, vss. 1-4)

Narrator:

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

POSTLOGUE

Scene II. The Return to Nazareth, Luke 2.39-40

Narrator: When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

Congregation and Choir(Singing): "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

THE END

Bob Rhodes

1984 CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Last year many area churches experienced fun and fellowship in our softball league. People of all levels of ability were included both young and old. Many individuals are anxious to get things in order and get another season started. So on **Thursday, February 23, 1984**, a meeting will be held at the Tenth Legion-Mt. Valley Ruritan Hall at 7:00. All churches which participated last year are invited to attend. All interested individuals should attend to get rules and guidelines set up, and to appoint a new commissioner for the 1984 season. It is very important that all churches interested in participating please have individuals represent them. If you should have any questions please feel free to call me at 434-0087.

Sincerely,

L. Doug Pronst

1983 Acting Commissioner

L. Doug Pronst

Softball

Ronald K. Robey, Managing Director

Rt. 1, Box 203
Keezletown, Virginia 22832

(703) 269 - 4765



April 19, 1983

To: Team Captains, Players, and all Fans of Church Softball League

From: Ron Robey

Please help us to enforce the policies described in the enclosed paper by observing the following:

1. **Parking-** Recognizing parking space is extremely limited, please try to car pool or use your church bus. Parking areas are marked on the enclosed map. Vehicles should be parallel parked along the service road above the playfield, leaving the center of the road open for through traffic. Please stay on the shoulder of the road and do not pull out into the playfield. Space across the stream from behind the backstop is available for parking for vehicles with equipment and for spectators who may be handicapped. Please do not drive or park on the grounds beyond the tractor shed. Additional parking will be available in an unused field off the service road as marked on the map. We recommend walking down the road to the footbridge behind the backstop to reach the ballfield.
2. **Swimming-** The swimming lake is not open for swimming unless special arrangements are made through the camp office. Responsible adult leadership is required for all waterfront activities and must be approved by the Director.
3. **Other Camp Use-** Overlook is available for a variety of programs and experiences. Picnics, outings, retreats, ball practices, and make-up games can all be arranged by advance reservation. There are fees charged for some facilities and services. Details will be provided on request. Facilities for the scheduled games and tournament of the Church Softball League are provided complimentary as a service and a ministry for the fellowship of Christians in our community churches.
4. **Other Groups-** Please remember other groups may be using the camp during the soft ball games. Please refrain from visiting their housing or program areas and be aware of their presence while driving through the camp. Tours of the facility can be arranged on request.

Softball



Ronald K. Robey, Managing Director

Rt. 1, Box 203
Keezletown, Virginia 22832
(703) 269 - 4765

Camp Overlook is dedicated to providing growth experiences in Christian love and stewardship. By choosing to use the Camp facilities and program opportunities, groups and individuals obligate themselves to follow the policies and guidelines outlined below.

Smoking- Realizing the health and fire hazards, we ask that there be NO SMOKING while on the camp grounds or in programs directed by the camp.

Alcoholic Beverages- The use of alcoholic beverages or any other drugs of abuse are prohibited.

Pets- Please leave pets at home.

Stewardship- The camp and all that lives in it are yours to enjoy and care for. Take only a picture; leave only a footprint. Do not cut or remove any living thing without permission of the Director. Hunting is not permitted. Save our fields and grasslands by DRIVING and PARKING ONLY ON the ROADS and lots. Mini-bikes are not allowed. Campfires may be built only in approved sites. Leave the buildings and other areas orderly and cleaner than you found them.

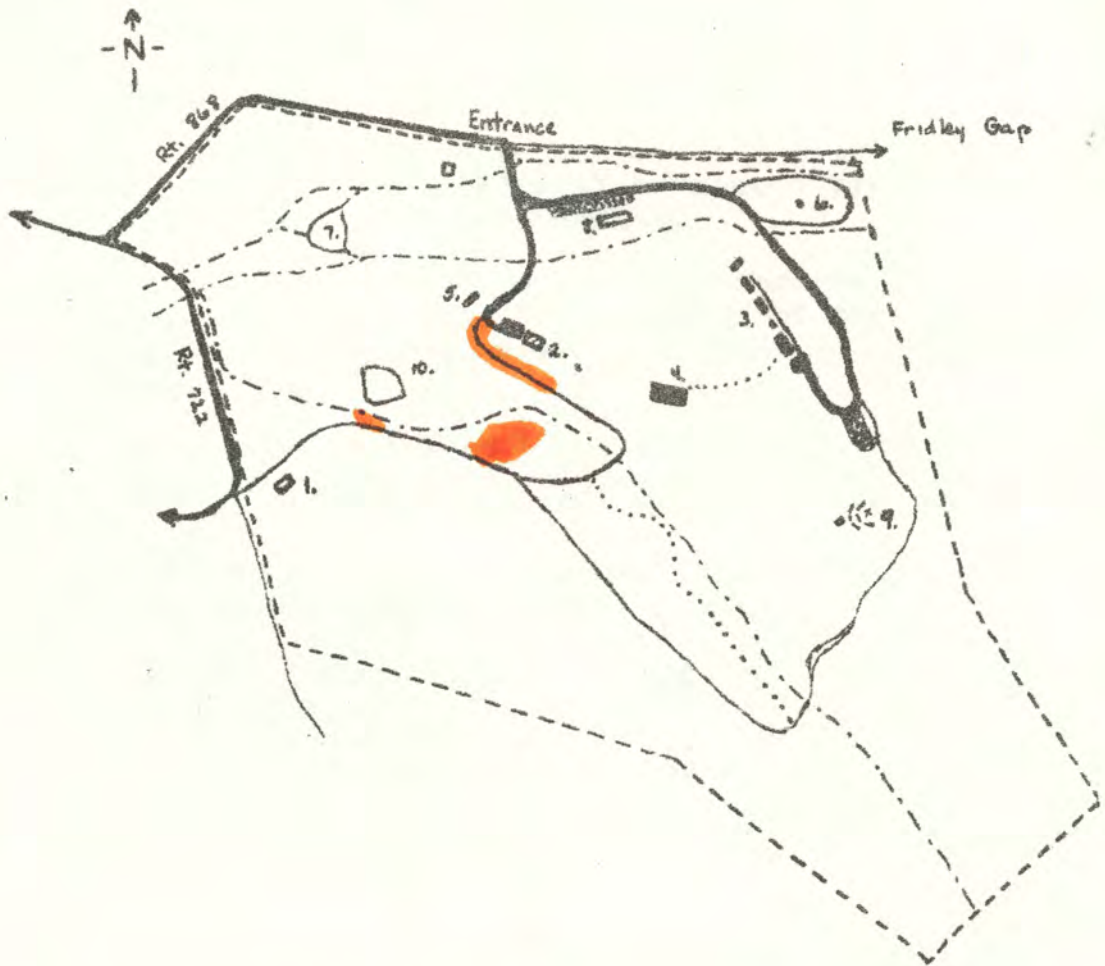
Emergencies- Injuries and accidents must be reported to the Director and insurance forms obtained from him. TELEPHONES are for EMERGENCY USE ONLY. Outgoing calls should be made collect. Any necessary exceptions must be reported to the Director along with the exact cost (including tax) from the operator and date of call.

Leadership- Each group will provide adequate staff for its program. There will be a minimum of one adult male and one adult female with mixed youth groups. The person in charge as indicated on the reservation form will be responsible for seeing that the facilities are cared for. The group will be charged for damage to property.

Supervision- Adult leadership will supervise the group at all times and in all areas. It is important to be sensitive to groups in other facilities and respect their privacy. All waterfront activities must be supervised by a lifeguard and/or responsible adult. *Special arrangements must be made through the camp office to use the lake.*

Through the years, many people have enjoyed this protected corner of God's world. We hope your stay will be enjoyable and bring many blessings as you share in His love and glorious creation.

Camp Overlook



1. Camp Office / Director's Home
2. Swank Memorial Retreat Building
3. The Hill- Dining Hall & Dormitory Cabins
4. Glover Memorial Chapel
5. Trailer- Staff Residence
6. Family Campground
7. Swimming Lake & Beach
8. Picnic Pavillion
9. Campfire Circle
10. Recreation Field

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Parking | |
| Patron Roads | |
| Service Roads | |
| Property Line | |
| Streams | |
| Trails | |

Softball

As the result of two meetings held in April, the following rules will govern the play of the church softball league.

OBJECTIVE To promote fellowship and fun among the participating church teams.

GOVERNING BODY One representative from each team will be a member of the Board of Directors. The Board will decide on major issues affecting the league and will also appoint a commissioner. A meeting of the Board can be called for by the commissioner or any board member.

The commissioner is to preside over the board meetings and to rule on any minor issues that confront the league. Any ruling of the commissioner can be questioned and overruled by the board. The commissioner is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the activity of the league. The board can dismiss a commissioner at any time if two-thirds of all board members vote for dismissal.

TREASURY Currently there is no need for a treasury. However, should the need arise, the board will appoint a treasurer and rule on how income will be generated and handled.

SCHEDULE A schedule will be drawn up for the league. If a scheduled time is inconvenient for a team, the manager of that team may contact the opposing team's manager to arrange to play at a different time during the week.

All games are scheduled to be played at a designated field. However, teams may arrange to play on other fields if they so desire, as long as both teams agree on where to play.

At the end of the season a double elimination tournament will be held for all teams who wish to participate.

RULES When in question, the rules as set forth by the Amateur Softball Association of America will take precedence. Umpires will be designated for each game. If umpires do not show up for any given game, then an umpire from each team should be selected to officiate the game.

Umpires have final say on all equipment being used. Each team should supply a restricted flight ball to be used when they are at bat. Also, metal spikes are not allowed.

Players in the league must be 13 years of age or older by Dec. 31, 1983. Those players out of high school cannot participate in any other organized league.

All players must have attended church two weeks out of the previous four weeks to be eligible for the game they are playing. However, they do not necessarily have to attend the church they play for.

Only those players who so desire need to play in any given game.

Substitution will be made only as the team goes to the field, with the exception being a substitution for the pitcher.

Softball

A team should have ten players on the field. However, a team can play with nine players. If a team cannot field at least nine players, they forfeit the game. However, they should be given some players by the opposing team, and a game should be played.

1985 CHURCH LEAGUE JOURNAL
 R = PURITAN FIELD
 O = CAMP OVERLOOK

	<u>R</u>	<u>O</u>		<u>R</u>	<u>O</u>		<u>R</u>	<u>O</u>
MAY 1			JUNE 5			JULY 3		
2:00	8-12	2-6		4-6	10-12		1-4	7-10
3:30	7-11	1-5	13-12 L	3-5	9-11		2-5	8-11
5:00	9-10	3-4		1-2	7-8		3-6	9-12

MAY 8			JUNE 12			JULY 10		
2:00	6-12	3-9		1-8	4-11		2-10	5-9
3:30	5-11	2-8		3-7	6-10		1-12	4-9
5:00	4-10	1-7		2-9	5-12		3-11	6-8

MAY 15			JUNE 19			JULY 17		
2:00	4-8	1-11		2-11	5-8		2-3	8-9
3:30	6-7	3-10		3-12	6-9		1-6	7-12
5:00	5-9	2-12		1-10	4-7		5-4	10-11

MAY 22			JUNE 26			JULY 24		
2:00	9-12	3-6		7-11	1-5		5-10	2-7
3:30	8-11	2-5		9-10	3-4		4-12	1-9
5:00	7-10	1-4		8-12	2-6		6-11	3-8

MAY 29						
2:00	7-9	1-3	1	MT. ZION BROTHERS	7	FAIRVIEW
3:30	8-10	2-4	2	MAYLAND U.C.C.	8	LINVILLE-Edom
5:00	11-12	5-6	3	MT. VALLEY B	9	MT. VALLEY A
			4	MT. VALLEY C	10	MT. TABOR U.M.C.
			5	BETHLEHEM U.C.C.	11	FELLOWSHIP U.M.C.
			6	MAYLAND BETHEL	12	CONCORD U.C.C.

Lumberville Va
January 24, 1974

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Route 3
Broadway, Virginia

Gentlemen:

How many of you as children or young people have attended Sunday school and Church in the Stone Church at Tenth Legion? My sisters and brothers and myself did. I am sure, all of the people that have lived in this community for some years have memories of this church, some happy and I am sure some sad.

After hearing that some people wanted to destroy this building I have done some checking. Enclosed is a copy of an agreement, that is very hard to read, but is very clear in the original book at the Court House in Harrisonburg. Also a copy of the original deed.

I have also talked to an interested attorney and he said, "That a Court order has to be gotten before a church can be destroyed. Also the majority of the members would have to want the church destroyed.

My sisters and brothers have married and moved away. But we all still come home and with the church gone it would feel a little less like home.

Our Great-grandfather, Jackson Mack, gave the land for this church.

I am signing the names of my brothers and

sisters, because I know they would not want
this church tore down. and it is impossible
for some of them to be here.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs) Rosalie Martz Dove

(Mrs) Loretta Martz Marshall
Gardonsville, Virginia
R.D.

Mr. David Martz
Broadway, Virginia
R.D.

Mr. Carlos Martz
Rio, West Virginia
R.D.

(Mrs) Sarah Ruth (Martz) Lantz
Timbersville Virginia
R.D.

WHAT THEREFORE GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER

THIS IS TO CERTIFY



That Michael Jackson Martz
and Barbara Catherine Harrison

WERE UNITED BY ME IN

SACRED HOLY MATRIMONY

At One mile East of Mauzy at her ^{Home on Smith's Creek} on the Twelfth day of
November, In the year of our Lord 1868

In Presence of by Rev. Thomas Briley of the M.E. Church

Signed _____

THEREFORE SHALL A MAN LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND
SHALL CLEAVE UNTO HIS WIFE AND THEY SHALL BE ONE FLESH.
GEN. II. 24



POST

CARD

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FOR MESSAGE

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Mary
Pickering

Ella
Pickering

Martha
P. Driver

Mrs. Bess Geil Pickering Married to Mr. Crockett

1940's
By Miss Minnie C. Pugh

Broadway, Oct. 7.—Mrs. Bess Geil Pickering, daughter of the late Dr. D. Frank and Mrs. Minnie Helbert Geil formerly of Broadway but a resident of Harrisonburg for some years, and Mr. David Thompson Crockett, of Strasburg, were married at the Lutheran parsonage in New Market on Sunday morning, October 5th, at 9:30 o'clock with the Rev. Lewis Koon performing the double-ring ceremony. Only members of the two immediate families were present to witness the ceremony.

The bride was becomingly dressed in brown with matching accessories, and wore a corsage of yellow rosebuds.

The bridegroom is owner of the Strasburg Mill, being a representative of Merritime Feed Company.

Immediately following the ceremony the wedding party drove to Bluestone Inn, where they were served a delicious breakfast, after which they left for their honeymoon trip South, their destination being New Orleans, La. Upon their return they will reside at his recently remodeled home near Strasburg, Va.

Both have many friends who unite in congratulations and well wishes.

METHODIST CHARGE

Rev. W. S. Tongue, Pastor

Calvary: Worship and Communion 10 a. m.; Sunday School 11 a. m. Manor Memorial: Sunday School 9:45 a. m.; worship 11 a. m.; Methodist Youth Fellowship 6:45 p. m. Broadway: Sunday School 9:45 a. m.; last night of the Broadway Union Revival services 7:30 p. m. held in Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Kenneth V. Shick, of the Front Royal Presbyterian Church, will speak. Pleasant View: Sunday School 10 a. m.

Broadway Revival Services

The Broadway Community Revival will close this Sunday evening with the Rev. Kenneth V. Shick as the speaker. Rev. Mr. McIntosh, the evangelist for the services, will preach for the last time on Friday night, October 10th. Churches cooperating in the union revival are the United Brethren, Brethren, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian. All have a cordial invitation to attend each night this week at 7:30 p. m. except Saturday.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Elder W. T. Weaver, Pastor

Meet in Shenandoah Auditorium
Shenandoah Valley Academy
Services every Sabbath (Saturday) Sabbath School 10:30 a. m.; preaching 12 m. The public is cordially invited.

J. S. Sellers

I want to Thank You for
serving as a pallbearer for
Miss Ella Pickering. May God
Bless You.

Shirley + Jean White

over



Other recipients:
 J.H. Harrison Jr
 Lester John
 Ralph White
 Bremer Sellen
 Everett John

All are 70
 except F.H.

Thank You

Burton M. Pullin

Burton McClintic Pullin, 92, of Staunton and formerly of McDowell died Oct. 26, 1992, at King's Daughters' Hospital in Staunton.

Mr. Pullin was born May 24, 1900, at McDowell and was a son of the late Frank J. and Bertha Wooddell Pullin.

He was a retired farmer and also had worked at Western State Hospital and had been custodian at the Stonewall Elementary School.

Mr. Pullin was a member of the Highland Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Highland Senior Citizens and the Stonewall Ruritan Club before moving to Staunton.

On Oct. 26, 1926, he married Emma Irene Flippo, who died Feb. 19, 1983.

Surviving are two daughters, Lois Merberger of Grottoes and Bertha Ann Pullin of Glendale, Calif.; two sons, Frank T. Pullin of Staunton, with whom he lived, and Larry M. Pullin of Brewster, Ohio; four sisters, Lenore Hook of Waynesboro, Vada Tuning of Churchville and Annabelle Simmons and Mary Pullin, both of Staunton; one brother, Theodore Pullin of Staunton; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Obaugh Funeral Home at McDowell by the Rev. John Garber. Burial will be in the McKendree Cemetery.

The family will receive friends 7:30-9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the McKendree Cemetery, in care of Vertura Hammer, Route 2, McDowell, Va. 24458.

Feb. 14, 1927

Sarah P wife of Sam P
died Dec. 28, 1880

aged 46 yrs 1 mo 27 days

Richard P son of Daniel H.

died March 21, 1862 aged

40 yrs. Emmetta P wife of R

daughter of James & Anna Smith

74 mo 6 days

Mattie wife of Ym P born

Oct. 5, 1814. died Apr 11, 1885

aged 70 yrs 8 mo 6 days

William Pickering born

Oct. 6 1811. died Nov. 20, 1885

Sarah daughter of Ape & Lydia

P. died Feb. 2, 1862 age

22 days Daniel P.

June 29 1848 died Aug 24

1848. age 57 yrs 1 mo 25 days

Daniel son of William & Martha
P. born Oct. 10, 1843 died
May 21, 1864 aged 20 yrs
2nd day

Betty James born Feb 22 1844
died July 9, 1887 aged 43 yrs
4th day

Peter Smith aged 71 yrs 3rd
9 days

Joseph Smith born Jan. 26 1791
died Mar 15 1888 age 97
1st day

202

Howell Pickering
died
April 7 1969
79 yrs old

A Thanksgiving
Wish



May all the good things
That Thanksgiving brings
Be yours in abundance this year - -
May the whole year be blessed
With all that is best
For you and the ones you hold dear!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Hope you are feeling good
as usual. We are going along
about as usual. No snow today
Extend our greeting to Mr. + Mrs.
Elmer Keller. Best wishes,
Nov 1968
Lowell + Mildred Pickering

July 3, 1987
Ella Pickering

BROADWAY — Ella Florence Pickering, 93, of Route 3, Broadway died Friday night at Oak Lea Nursing Home in Harrisonburg.

Miss Pickering had been a cook at the Tenth Legion school.

She was born June 16, 1894, near Tenth Legion and was a daughter of the late Jacob William and Columbia Rosenberger Pickering.

Miss Pickering was a member of the Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Tenth Legion.

Her closest survivors are cousins.

The funeral will be conducted 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Bethlehem United Church of Christ by the Revs. Barbara Rhodes and Michael Duffy. Burial will be in the Lacey Spring Cemetery.

The body is at the Grandle Funeral Home in Broadway.

In Remembrance

ELLA FLORENCE PICKERING

BORN - JUNE 16, 1894

DIED - JULY 3, 1987

— DECEASED FATHER —
JACOB W. PICKERING

— DECEASED MOTHER —
COLUMBIA ROSENBERGER PICKERING

— SURVIVORS —
NUMBER OF COUSINS

— FUNERAL SERVICES —
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1987 - 10:30 A.M.
BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

— INTERMENT —
LACEY SPRING CEMETERY

— CLERGY —
REV. BARBARA RHODES
REV. MICHAEL DUFFY

— PALLBEARERS —

J. S. SELLERS	DRIVER SELLERS
RALPH WHITE	EVERETTE LOHR
LESTER LOHR	F. H. HARRISON, JR.

Services by Grandle Funeral Home, Inc.

1888
Pickering Bible - A. J. Holman & Co. Phila Pa.

Marriages

1. Jacob William Pickering of Penick Legion, Va.
and Columbia C. Rosenberg of Penick Legion, Va.
on Jan 28 1886 by Rev. John P. Zjiler
2. Marsha Lee Pickering was married Feb 10, 1916
to John William Perry Driver
3. Winnie May Pickering was married April
28, 1913 to Harry Albert Foegel
4. William Edward Pickering was married
Dec. 23, 1921 to Bess Geil
5. Lowell Tracey Pickering was married
July 19, 1930 to Mildred A. Hodges.

Picks

1. Jacob William Pickering was born Jun. 25, 1860
2. Columbia Catherine Elizabeth Baskely Pickering was born May 1, 1860
3. Elton Estella Pickering was born Mar. 10, 1887
4. Turner Abraham Pickering was born May, 7, 1888
5. Lowell Tracy Pickering was born March, 26, 1890
6. Marika Lee Pickering was born Oct. 16, 1891
7. Winnie May Pickering was born Jan 6, 1893
8. Ella Florence Pickering was born June 16, 1894
9. William Edward Pickering was born Oct 21, 1895

Deaths

1. Jacob William Pickering died Dec 18, 1932 at 3:30 AM
2. Columbia C. Pickering died Feb 15, 1898 at 11 AM.
3. Elton C. Pickering died Aug. 3, 1827
4. Burner A. Pickering died Feb 27, 1894
5. Winne May Dezel died July 11, 1948
6. Lowell J. Pickering died Apr. 7, 1969. Funeral services were held at Flint, Mich.
7. Marsha Lee Driver died Apr. 8, 1980
8. Ella F. Pickering died July 3, 1987

Taken from paper found in Pickering Bible. 1845. 1987

Entered Feb 14, 1927 in bible

1. Hannah P. wife of Dan P died Dec. 28, 1830
Aged 46 yrs. 1 mo 27 days.
2. Richard P son of Daniel and Hannah died
Mar 21, 1862 Age 40 yrs. Jennette P. wife of
? daughter of James & Anna Smith
74 yrs 6 mo 18 days
3. Marika wife of Wm P. born Oct 5, 1814
died Apr. 11, 1885 age 70 yrs 6 mo 6 days
4. William Pickering born Oct 6, 1811 died
Nov 20, 1855
5. Susie daughter of Abe and Lydia P
died Feb 2, 1862
6. Daniel P born June 29 1786 died Aug
24, 1848 Age 57 yrs 1 mo 25 days.
7. Daniel, son of William and Marika P
born Oct 10, 1843 died May 21, 1864 age
20 years 7 mo. 11 days.

William Peckering n. Barbara Woodley

Children

1. Abraham Peckering born July 8, 1776 married John
2. Mary Peckering .. Aug 17, 1779 Cowan
3. Elizabeth Peckering .. April 7, 1781 married David Harrison
4. Jacob Peckering .. Jan 26, 1783
5. John Peckering .. Aug 21, 1784
6. Daniel Peckering .. June 29, 1786
7. Grace Peckering .. Aug 19, 1789 married a Hiestow of Ohio
8. William Peckering .. Dec 27, 1791
9. Richard Peckering .. Nov 16, 1793
10. Uriah Peckering .. Aug 15, 1795
11. Susanna Peckering .. Mar, 3, 1796
12. James Peckering .. June 5, 1798
13. Catherine Peckering .. Nov. 9, 1801

William Pickering, Irishman, sold himself to Jacob Woodley to pay his passage across the Atlantic Ocean.

Ran away with Woodley's daughter Barbara Woodley and married her.

They had the following children

Abraham Pickering born July, 8, 1776

Mary ^{founded Pickerington, Ohio 1812} born Aug. 17, 1779

Elizabeth m. David Harrison b. April 7, 1781

Jacob " Jan. 26, 1783

John " Aug. 21, 1784

Daniel " June 29, 1786

Grace m. Heston of Ohio, " Aug. 19, 1789

William " Dec. 27, 1791

Richard " Nov. 14, 1793,

Uriah " Aug. 15, 1795

Susanna " Mar. 3, 1796

Jane " June 5, 1798

Catherine " Nov. 9, 1801

Mary married John Cowan and lived where Mrs. Ras Long lives. Two girls married

Cowan and lived in Penn.

Grace Heston ^{Susan Price's Mother} rode 3 times from Ohio

Taken from paper in Pickering Bible. - Feb 1987

William Pickering, Irishman, sold himself to Woodley to pay his passage across the Atlantic Ocean.

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Grace m. Heston of Ohio, "Aug, 19, 1789

William "Dec, 27, 1791

Richard "Nov 14, 1793.

Uriah "Aug, 15, 1795

Susanna "Mar, 3, 1796

Jane "June 5, 1798

Catherine "Nov, 9, 1801

Mary married John Cowan and lived where Mrs. Ras Long lives. Two girls married Cowans and lived in Penn.

Grace Heston rode 3 times from Ohio to Va. and back on horse back.
Susan Poices Mother

Swill, Martha, w
No more in life s
Yet in heaven w
And with our Sa

at thee.
act theo,
see.

The funeral services were held on Sunday, the 16th, at the church at Lacey Spring, the Rev. J. W. Funk officiating, taking his text part of the 9th verse of the 1st chapter of Joshua, and preaching an interesting and instructive discourse therefrom. There was an immense concourse of sorrowing relatives and friends followed her to her last resting place in the cemetery near the church. May the clouds rest lightly upon her.

HER TEACHER.

After the above was in type we received another excellent communication, from which we make extracts as follows:

After impressive funeral services by Rev. J. W. Funk from Joshua 1st chap., 9th verse, her remains were followed to their final resting place, in Lacey Spring Cemetery, by an unusually large number of sympathizing friends, desirous of paying the last tribute of respect.

It is seldom that we find it necessary to chronicle an event so sad. Miss Pickering has been called away in early youth, when cherished hopes and favorite aspirations, yet unclouded by disappointment, rejoice the heart and intensify the desire to live. By how slender a tie are we bound to earthly scenes. But a short time ago and she rejoiced in the ruddy growth of health.

"The evening cloud, the morning dew,
The withering grass, the fading flower,
Of earthly hopes are emblems true,
The glory of a passing hour."

That Miss Pickering was an exemplary young lady is the testimony of all who knew her. A friend remarked: "Say of her all the good you could of any one and you will not exaggerate." She was popular—a general favorite—and will be truly missed by classmates, friends and relatives; but on none will this bereavement fall so heavily as on the dear ones of the home circle. They mourn, however, not as those without hope. Her last words to grief-stricken friends were, "glory, glory!" The prelude to that happy existence on the Celestial shore to which she was hastening. She has been but transplanted in a more congenial clime.

"There fragrant flowers immortal bloom,
And joys supreme are given;
There in a divine disperse the gloom,
Beyond the confines of the tomb
Appear the dawn of heaven."

The following tribute, presented by Mrs. A. A. Lacey, to the memory of Miss Martha Pickering, a zealous and efficient teacher in Bethlehem Sunday School at Lacey Spring, Va., who died at the tender age of 17 years, was ordered to be spread on the Sunday School record, and published in the *Roanoke Register* and *Sherandoah Valley*, on motion of the Superintendent, at a called meeting of said School:

In memory of our worthy friend who was called from labor to reward since the close of our school last year.

One much loved and esteemed by all who knew her, and a personal friend of the writer. We were brought into intimate relationship with each other during the past Summer as co-workers in the Sabbath-School. She was a zealous and faithful laborer whose loss we lament very much. This summer we will miss her, yes, we'll miss her, and especially her pupils, who, no doubt, will be reminded of her every Sabbath.—

Children, forget her not!
Though now her name
Be but a mournful sound,
Its utterance claim
A stillness round.

Sabbath-School friends, though she is absent from us in body, God grant that she may be present in spirit; that she may whisper to this school to press onward and upward, and obtain the pearl of greatest price.

How short the race our friend has run,
Cut down in all her bloom,
The course but yesterday begun,
Now finished in the tomb.

Thou joyous youth, hence learn how soon
Thy years may end their flight;
Long, long before life's brilliant noon,
May come death's gloomy night.

The bereft family have the Christian sympathy of the school. Though their ties be severed here on earth may they all remember that through the grace of our "Lord Jesus Christ" it may become a united family in Heaven. God grant that it may, is the prayer of the writer.

A. A. Lacey.
Lacey Spring, Va., April, 1884.

Death of a Young Lady.

On last Friday, March 14, 1884, at the residence of her father, Mr. Abraham Pickering, near Tenth Legion, Va., Miss Martha E. Pickering, eldest daughter, died of pneumonia; aged 18 years, 2 months, and 23 days. She was buried at Lacey Spring, on Sunday, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. Funk. We have been informed, that the congregation present was one of the largest ever assembled in that community on a similar occasion. She was regarded as a young lady of good disposition, of amiable qualities of heart, and was very much respected by all.

Died.

Mr. John Beam, who was boarding with his brother, Jacob Beam, Esq., about five miles southwest of this place, was taken sick on Saturday morning. In the afternoon, Dr. A. S. Miller arrived, and by 12 the same night, Mr. B. became much better, under the doctor's treatment.

Sunday morning, he dressed himself and came down to breakfast, but after drinking a cup of coffee, he complained of feeling sick, and retired to his room, where he, quite soon after, died—unexpectedly to all—of neuralgia of the heart; aged 63 years, 5 months, and 8 days. He leaves four brothers, Emmanuel in Nebraska, Abraham, Keezletown, Va., Benjamin, in Missouri, and Jacob, Tenth Legion, Va.; and three sisters, Mrs. Perry Pence, Edinburg, and Mrs. Abraham Pickering, Tenth Legion, Va. His funeral took place on Monday, at "the home burying" ground—Elder Frederick Klina officiating.

We learn, that his mother died of the same disease in 1867.

Mr. Beam was unmarried, and by his great industry, frugality and economy, he accumulated much of "this world's goods." He had many friends, who will be pained to learn of his sudden death.

DIED.

Of pneumonia, March 14, 1861, Martha L. Pickering, in the 19th year of her age. God in his infinite wisdom has seen fit to remove another of our highly esteemed friends. During the past Summer we learned to know her as a friend, an elegant Sabbath school teacher, a noble woman. Martha was a bright and shining light in the school and around the fireside. All who know her loved her. Sweetly she passed away to her home in Heaven, exclaiming, glory! glory! The parting was trying, but her time had come, she must bid farewell to loving school-mates (and they were many) and to all the pleasures of this world for a better one.

Martha, thou wast fair and lovely,
Mother's joy and Father's pride,
But the Savior also loved thee,
And bade thee come and live on high.
Oh! 'twas hard to give thee up,
Hard to say the word farewell,
But in God we put our trust,
For He doeth all things well.

Sad is the home and lonely are the hours,
Since our darling Martha is gone,
But, oh! a happier home than ours
In Heaven is now her own.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her many relatives and friends, and, by the grace of God, will endeavor to meet her where pain and sorrow are felt and feared no more. May the Lord bless and comfort the bereaved children and friends.

Her funeral took place from New Tabor Church, Lacey Spring, Va., March 16, 1861, followed by a large concourse of persons.

MARTHA L. PICKERING died near Tenth Legion, Rockingham County, Va., March 15th, 1861, aged 18 years, 2 months, and 23 days. She neglected until her last illness the preparation so essential for a change of worlds, but at that season earnestly sought the Lord, and gave to her friends the assurance that all was well. She was an amiable and estimable young lady, whose death is lamented by all the family, in which she was a bright light, feel keenly the loss of daughter and sister, but patiently await the reunion on the other shore.

J. W. FUNK.

WOODLEY PRICE died August 14th, 1861, aged 19 years and 6 months. He had just started on his way home with the team at noon, when his brother, who was in the orchard near by, heard him speak to the team to stop, and who immediately went to the place and found him with his neck broken. Wesley was a good and faithful boy, and never spoke unkindly to his mother. This was a heavy stroke upon his parents, and they feel it full weight. He leaves parents, three sisters and four brothers. May the young people of the neighborhood take warning, and prepare for death.

M. A. BOVAY.

BAZZLE—Departed this life, June 16th, 1899, near Union Chapel, Rockingham county, Hanover, Va., aged 55 years, 6 months and 10 days.

She leaves a husband, 7 children, 3 sisters, 2 brothers, and many relatives and friends to mourn the loss of a good woman. Deceased was a consistent member of the U. B. church, and lived up to her faith, and we hope she has entered into her eternal rest, where parting is known no more.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. P. Zigler. His text was Matt. 24:44—"Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." The interment was at Mountain Valley church, and the remains were followed to their final resting place by a large concourse of relatives and friends. May the God of mercy comfort and bless the bereaved husband, the motherless children, and mourning friends.

Peace to her memory.

Death of Mrs. Wilson Bazzle.

After a very brief illness, having been around the day before, Mrs. Wilson Bazzle died at her home near Arkton, Va., Monday night, June 19, 1899; aged about 55 years. She was buried at Mountain Valley church on the following Wednesday. She leaves a husband, a daughter, six sons—one son accidentally drowning at Roanoke six or eight years ago, and a number of relatives. Mrs. B. was a sister of

of August, 1891, after
a young man having
William J. Pickering,
aged 5 months and
an interesting acci-
dent has been cut down
death never comes
Elen was a general
known was too good
hard to give up that
Elen knows best. He
some good cases. She
other mother, was
a better part. It is
bright, and happy
gloom and sadness,
Elen has left
to meet her in that
en, we will miss thee.
our beloved pastor,
an Church, at Lacey
the family burying
owers of loving and
L. SCHOLAR, H. L. P.

From Tenth Legion.

MONDAY, March 5th, 1894.

A horrible accident occurred near here on Sunday evening, February 24. Turner, aged 5 years, 9 months and 20 days, son of William Pickering, came in from the barn cold, and laid down behind a red-hot coal stove, upon which there was a kettle of boiling water, to warm. It is supposed he accidentally kicked a block out from under the stove leg, causing the stove and boiling water to fall upon him. He was painfully burned and scalded on his left side and arm, the scald on his arm being so severe that the flesh came off, and it is probable that the scald over the heart was the direct cause of the child's death. He died Tuesday evening at 5 o'clock, having suffered intensely; but for some eight hours before his death he seemingly suffered little pain. There were a number of persons around the stove at the time of the accident, but their efforts to extricate the child before he was severely injured were of no avail.

His uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Zirkle, of Quicksburg, Va., were present at his death, having gone there on a visit after the accident, which was not known to them until they arrived at the home of Mr. Pickering. His funeral took place from Lacey Spring church; burial in the cemetery there. Peace to the memory of the unfortunate little boy. We sympathize deeply with his parents. We knew the little fellow well. Funeral sermon by Rev. Isely, of the Christian church.

On Sunday morning, Jan. 26, 1896, Mrs. Betsy Holton Moody, mother of the well known evangelist, died at her old home near Northfield, Mass. She came within ten days of completing the ninety-first year of her life. She was sick only about a week. Mr. Moody was very fond of her, and often on reaching the home station would drive by his mother's home to see how she was before going to his own. At her funeral Mr. Moody said: "If I can control my feelings I want to say a word in token of the great love in which we hold the memory of this good woman. I consider it an honor to be the son of such a woman. She was

wiser than Solomon, and her judgment and tact were strong traits in her character. She made our home, poor though it was, the best place on earth to us. Left a widow with nine small children, she set herself to the task of bringing up her family, and, with her strong faith in God, succeeded even better than she hoped. She taught us that poverty was no disgrace. During the first years of her widowhood she wept herself to sleep night after night, and we never knew of it until years later. Her love for her children was such that there was no rivalite." As he closed he turned to the face of the dead and said in a gentle voice: "God bless you, mother; we love you still."

Paper from Pickering family Bible - Nbs 1937

FAMILY RECORD.

Deaths.

Susanah Pickering Died the
2nd day of February 1862.

Martha E. Pickering

Died March 15th 1884

Elizabeth C. Rosenberger died July 9, 1952

Lydia wife of

Abraham Pickering

Died December 10th 1908

Abraham Pickering
died March 20th 1931.

Hannah Pickering Bradford
Died Nov. 21, 1949

John H. Pickering Dec. 18, 1932

John H. Pickering died ^{Feb.} Oct. 10, 1912

Henry Lee Pickering

Died Dec. 9, 1932

Mary Pickering died June 6, 1956

Lydia A. Pickering died Dec 13, 1960

THE
NEW TESTAM

OF

OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JE

WITH

BRIEF NOTES AND INSTRU

CONTAINING

THE REFERENCES AND MARGIN

OF

THE POLYGLOT BI

PUBLISHED BY THE
AMERICAN TRACT SO
NEW YORK: 150 NASSAU-ST
BOSTON: 28 CORNHILL

FRED H. MOREHEAD
NEW MARKET, VIRGINIA

June 14, 1951

Mr. Olin Olinger

R. F. D.
New Market, Virginia

Dear Sir:

Reference is being made to your offer of \$7,500 - \$400.00 for which you gave me a check for yesterday for the purchase of the Christian Church Property East of town.

In accordance with promise, I have turned this over to Mr. Shirley White, R.F.D., Broadway, Virginia, to be submitted to the proper authorities for attention. If they accept your offer, Mr. White will drop you a letter on the subject. If accepted, my lawyer, Mr. George Aldhizer, has been authorized by me to prepare a contract of sale for the real estate with possession and deliverance of deed, 60 days after contract is dated.

As a guess you should know whether they will sell the property in about a week from today, and as stated, you will hear from Mr. Shirley White.

Very truly,

F. H. Morehead

FHM/m

OLIN E. OLINGER

Licensed Taxidermist

NEW MARKET

VIRGINIA

July 20 th 19 51

Mr. Shirley White
Broadway, Va.

Dear Sir:

I received the contract from you today, and I noticed that it was dated June 27 th, when it was written. If you will notice on the check for \$400.00 it states that I shall have Sixty days from date the contract is signed, Not date it was written. I assume then that this will give me until Sept 19 th. As I explained to Mr Moorehead, I have considerable property to dispose of, and my completing of the contract depends upon my disposing of same.

I shall make every effort to meet the deadline, but in the event that I am unable to do so, then of course the \$400.00 remains the property of the Churches.

Sincerely Yours

Olin E. Olinger

IN CONSIDERATION OF ONE DOLLAR CASH IN HAND PAID WE, THE
UNDERSIGNED DO AGREE TO SELL TO THE BETHLEHEM CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (U.C.C.) LOCATED AT TENTH LEGION, ONE (1)
ACRE OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, THE LINE TO RUN WITH THE OLD
SCHOOL HOUSE LOT ADJACENT TO AND JUST WEST OF THE CHURCH AT
A PURCHASE PRICE OF \$1000.00 PLUS COURT COSTS.

THE LAND TO BE DEEDED TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH.

WITNESSED OUR SIGNATURES AND SEALS THIS 15th OF JUNE 1961.

SIGNED:

1.-----
2.-----
3.-----
4.-----
5.-----
6.-----

STATE OF VIRGINIA,

COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, to-wit:

I, B. F. White, a notary public in and for the state and
county aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, whose commission
expires October 14, 1961, do certify that Rosalie^{M.} Dove,
Loretta Martz, David Martz, Carlos Martz, Sara Ruth Martz Lantz,
whose names are signed to the foregoing paper bearing date
June 15, 1961, have personally appeared before me in my said
county and acknowledged the same.

Given under my hand this 15th day of June, 1961.

Notary Public