

Aden Church Has Covfyr mrsury

PWC - CHURCHES
(Old Asbury Methodist)

By Bennie Scarton Jr.
Located just outside the community of Aden is a church that in spite of being one of the oldest around has never been in the limelight — at least, that is the opinion of a former member. The trim little church, which would make an ideal

subject for a colorful picture postcard, is the Asbury Methodist Church, which in recent years has been delegated to serving only as a voting place for residents of the area. Its popularity was its downfall, as through the years the membership of the church grew until the little, white

framed structure was no longer able to handle the crowd.

This, plus the fact that the Brethren and Methodist churches united, led to its closing as a church.

When the two congregations voted to combine, it was decided to move the Calvary EUB Church a mile up the road to a location across the highway (Route 611) from the old Asbury church.

The former EUB church was moved to its present location on November, 1968, and combined services have been held there ever since. That church was originally dedicated in 1833.

When it was moved to its present site, it was renamed Asbury United Methodist Church. The present pastor is the Rev. LeRoy Jones, and church membership is over 100.

Some members of the old church, however, want to make sure that the building doesn't meet the fate of so many other old structures in the county—that is, rot away or be torn down.

One of these is Mrs. Sarah Kerlin Wolf of Kensington, Md., whose grandparents, Newton and Annie Allen Sayers, donated the five acres for the site of the church and cemetery adjacent to the structure.

Mrs. Wolf said the church was erected by her grandfather and several fellow Civil War veterans who donated materials as well as their time. The benches and pulpit were handmade of walnut. Some of these benches were moved to the new church.

The church through the years was constantly filled to capacity with people sometimes having to stand outside the door or windows to hear the services. Mrs. Wolf recalls, "The church, along with Hatcher's Memorial Church, which was built in 1847 and was then known as St. James Episcopal Church, are believed to be the only two churches standing in that section of the county which date back to the 1800's."

Two of the Sayers children are still living in Manassas. They are Mrs. Minnie Sayers Haughton and Mrs. Rebecca Sayers Herbert, who reside at 301 North Main Street.

Mrs. Wolf recently wrote to The Journal Messenger requesting that the paper take a picture of the old church, since it had never been "officially photographed."

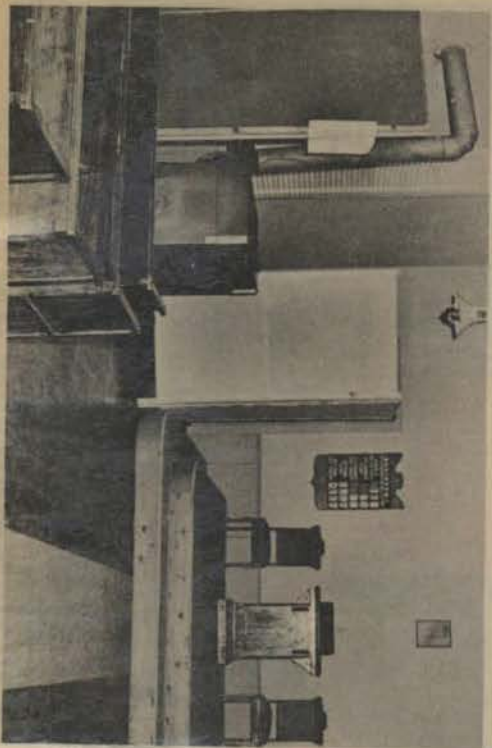
So with the assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John Earhart, who help take care of the two churches and who have keys to the buildings, we moved to Aden and got a picture of the old structure—and to make everyone happy, we also took one of the new structure for posterity.

Both of the churches, we might add, should make their members proud, as both were extremely well kept. We don't think you have a thing to worry about over there in Kensington, Mrs. Wolf.

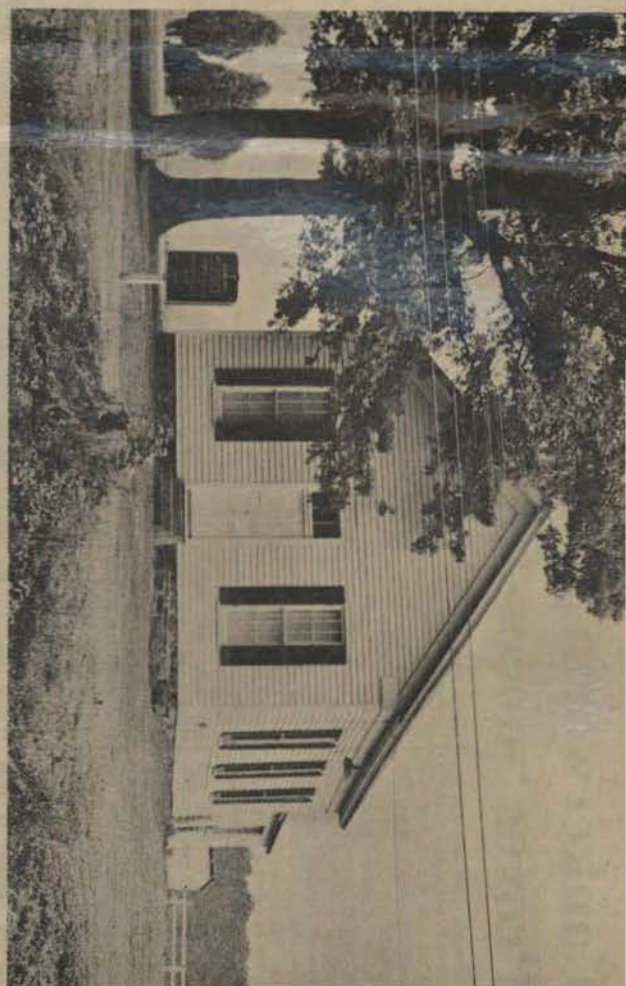
The fate of both churches seems to be in good hands.



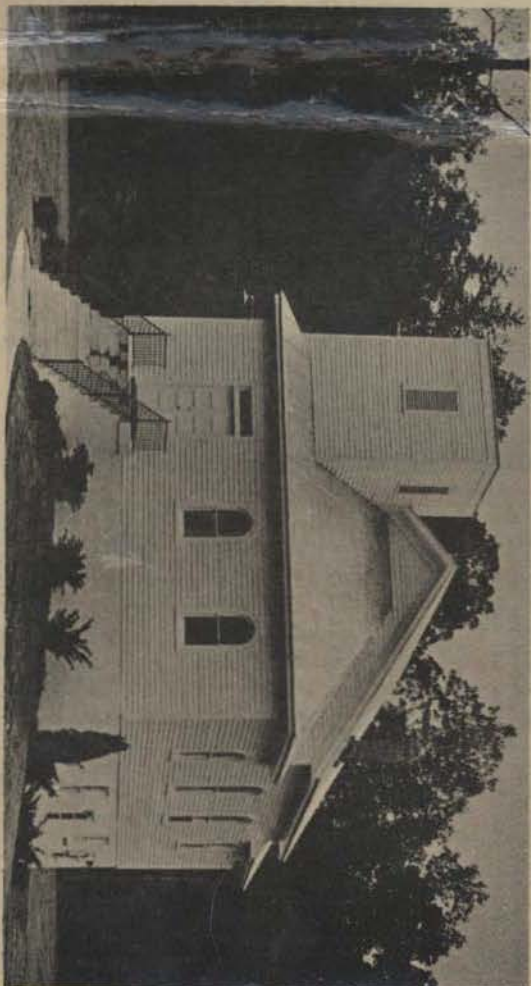
One of the Handmade Benches



Interior of Old Asbury Church (Note Various Benches)



The Old Asbury Methodist Church Erected in 1893



This Church, Moved About One Mile, Now Houses the Congregation