



HISTORY  
OF  
BETHEL UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

## BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

HISTORIANS.

MRS. EVA CARNER

MRS. LILLIAN PENNINGTON

AFTER JAMES TOWN AND A FEW MOONS, CAPT. JOHN SMITH SET OUT TO EXPLORE THE NORTH LANDS AND SET FOOT UPON THE TERRITORY KNOWN AS PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY (AT A LATER DATE)..

RICHARD TURNEY WAS ISSUED THE FIRST LAND PATENT IN OLD PRINCE WILLIAM IN 1651.

OLD PRINCE WILLIAM FOLKS HAD TROUBLE WITH THE IROQUOIS INDIANS AND THE IROQUOIS HAD THEIR ENEMIES, THE RAPPAHANNOCK INDIANS. IN 1679, THINGS SETTLED FAIRLY WELL, AND BY 1680, GARRISONS AND FORTS WERE NO LONGER NECESSARY AND IN THEIR PLACE MOUNTED TROOPS WERE SET UP.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY WAS FORMED BETWEEN 1730-1731... THE COUNTY INCLUDED FAIRFAX, FAUQUIER, LOUDON, ARLINGTON...THESE ARE NOW INDIVIDUAL COUNTIES.

THE SEAT OF PRINCE WILLIAM WAS ESTABLISHED AT WHAT WAS THEN THE CENTER OF THE SETTLED PORTION OF THE COUNTY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF COCOQUAN CREEK NEAR THE PRESENT LOCATION OF WOODBRIDGE.

IN 1732 PETER HEDGEMAN AND DENNIS MCCARTHY WENT TO WILLIAMSBURG AS THE FIRST BURGESSES FROM PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY. DENNIS WAS THE SON OF DANIEL MCCARTHY WHO HAD BEEN SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES 1715--1718.

prosperity and population increased and in 1732, TWO PARISH WAS A PART OF HAMILTON PARRISH, NORTH OF COCOQUAN AND THAT PART OF HANOVER PARISH LYING IN PRINCE WILLIAM WAS ADDED TO HAMILTON.

IN 1742, TWO PARISH WAS ORGANIZED INTO FAIRFAX COUNTY AND PERMANENTLY CUT OFF FROM PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY.

IN 1749, DUMFRIES THE FIRST OF THE SEVEN TOWNS WAS ESTABLISHED AND CAME INTO BEING BEFORE 1831. SCOTTISH MERCHANTS MADE DUMFRIES PROSPEROUS. THERE IS STILL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DUMFRIES VIRGINIA AND DUMFRIES, SCOTLAND.

BETWEEN 1754 and 1764 THIS AREA WITNESSED ITS SHARE OF THE FRENCH-INDIAN WAR.

IN 1755, GENERAL BRADDOCK PASSED THROUGH PRINCE WILLIAM WITH THE VIRGINIA REGIMENTS AND CROSSED THE COCOQUAN BY MASONS FERRY..THE GENERAL WAS KILLED AND GEORGE WASHINGTON TOOK COMMAND. WHEN THE BRITISH WERE DEFEATED, THE AMERICANS HAD RECEIVED THE MILITARY PRATICE THAT LATER ENABLED THEM TO FACE THE REVOLUTION.

THE COUNTY SEAT WAS MOVED IN 1762, FROM CEDAR RUN TO DUMFRIES IN ORDER TO BETTER ACCOMADATE THE CITIZENS AND IN 1759, FAUQUIER COUNTY WAS CUT OFF FROM PRINCE WILLIAM.

THE FIRST COMPANY OF MINUTEMEN WAS RAISED IN THE COUNTY ON NOVEMBER 11, 1774. THE COUNTY ALSO GAVE THE CONFEDERAL ARMY GENERAL HENRY LEE AND HIS GENUIS WAS INHERITED BY HIS SON ROBERT E. LEE.

AT THE END OF THE WAR, PRINCE WILLIAM TOOK ITS PART IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW ORDER AND MANY CHANGES TOOK PLACE.

IN 1787, SILT HAD BEGUN TO FILL QUANTICO CREEK, MAKING SHIPPING ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE AND DUMFRIES LOST ITS IMPORTANCE AS A PORT.

IN 1796, BUCKLAND WAS LAID OUT AS AN INLAND TOWN.

IN 1799, HAYMARKET WAS FORMED IN THE UPPER PART OF THE COUNTY.

IN 1804, COCOQUAN WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AS A TOWN.

IN 1822, BRENTSVILLE WAS FORMED.

THE STATUE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY WAS PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1785.

MANY CHANGES TOOK PLACE IN ESTABLISHING CHURCHES. AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION, MEMBERSHIP IN ESTABLISHED CHURCHES HAS GREATLY DECLINED. THEN UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BAPTISTS, REINFORCED BY THE PRESBYTERIANS WHO HAD ACQUIRED A STRONG FOOTHOLD IN VIRGINIA, THE CONVERSION OF 1776 PROCEEDED SO SEPERATE CHURCH AND STATE.

IN 1785, THOSE WHO REMAINED ATTACHED TO THE OLD FORMS OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCHES, SET UP A NEW ORGANIZATION CALLED THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH. ONLY ONE BAPTIST CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED IN THE COUNTY BEFORE 1800. UNTIL THE TURN OF THE 18th CENTURY NO PRESBYTERIAN OR METHODIST CHURCH WAS IN THE BOUNDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD WHO WITH JOHN WESLEY FOUNDED METHODISM, VISITED VIRGINIA IN 1739. THERE WAS NONE OF THIS FAITH IN THE COLONY UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF ROBERT WILLIAMS IN 1772.

BY 1777, THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT HAD 330 METHODIST BUT IT DID NOT HAVE ANY CONGREGATION IN PRINCE WILLIAM TWP.

DURING THE CHRISTMAS OF 1784, BISHOP ASBURY PAID A VISIT TO PRINCE WILLIAM. FROM FAIRFAX HE MADE HIS WAY BACK IN BITTER COLD WEATHER TO LEESBURG TO OPEN THE CONFERENCE.

BY 1800, METHODIST SOCIETIES HAD BEEN ORGANIZED IN THE COUNTY AND IN 1801, THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH WAS ERECTED IN DUMFRIES. FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ONE DOLLAR.

IN 1823, CHARLES EWELL SOLD THE CHURCH DIRECTORS A LOT ON MARKET STREET FOR THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL SOCIETY TO BUILD A CHURCH AND FOR NO OTHER PURPOSE, WHATSOEVER.

IN THE WAR OF 1812, the waterways in the area were constantly in danger OF SHELL FIRE. FROM BRITISH SHIPS AND THE MEN ORGANIZED THEMSELVES INTO VIGILANTES. POLITICAL HISTORY WAS MADE AND THE DISTRICT GREN. PRINCE WILLIAM HAD SEVEN ELECTION DISTRICTS AFTER THE CONVENTION OF 1850-1851, WHICH PROVIDED THAT THE JUSTICES BE CHOSEN BY POPULAR VOTE.

THE MANASSAS GAP RAILROAD, THE ORANGE AND ALEXANDER RAILROAD WAS OPENED THROUGH THE COUNTY BRINGING ABOUT THE BETTER EXCHANGE OF MERCHANDISE AND ALSO PAVING THE WAY FOR PRINCE WILLIAM TO BECOME A BLOODY BATTLEFIELD IN THE 1860's.....

THE RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS WERE GROWING...THE METHODIST HAD THE GUDLEY CHURCH AND ANOTHER AT DUMFRIES. THE EWELL CHAPEL NAMED AFTER COL. EWELL, WHICH IS NOW KNOWN AS GRACE CHURCH BUILT IN 1847.....BUCKLAND CHURCH BUILT IN 1856....BETHEL BUILT IN 1850, BUCKLAND AND GRACE CHURCHES WERE SHARED BY OTHER DEMONINATIONS.

BETHEL WAS BUILT IN 1850, ON LAND DONATED BY BURN AND HIS WIFE ERSKY..THE GLASCOCKS EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT HERE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PREACH AND EXPOUND THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS SAID THAT THE CHURCH WAS ERECTED BY THE HANDS OF DEVOTED MEMBERS.

IT IS RECORDED THAT THE DEED FOR THE CHURCH PROPERTY WAS MADE MARCH 12, 1856 AND ADMITTED TO RECORD SEPTEMBER 3, 1863 IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM CLERKS OFFICE. IN BOOK 34, Page 251 THE CHURCH DEED IS FROM GLASCOCK TO M. E. CHURCH DATED SEPT. 3, 1863. CUSTODIANS OF THE DEED AND OTHER PAPER HAVE BEEN D. C. GLASCOCK AND MRS. EVA GARNER.

IN 1863, PRINCE WILLIAM WAS THREATENED WITH SEPARATION FROM VIRGINIA SO A VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE COUNTY REMAINED AS PART OF VIRGINIA

IN 1863 ON AUGUAT 26th, ALEXANDER WAS PROCLAIMED THE CAPITAL OF VIRGINIA..

DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, BETHEL WAS USED AS A HOSPITAL AND ONE OF THE GLASCOCK HOUSES (BEHIND BETHEL) NAMED GLASCOCK, SERVED AS A FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS. THE REMAINS OF THE HOUSE FOUNDATION COULD STILL BE SEEN IN 1968. TODAY THERE MAY BE A BRICK OR FEM LEFT FROM A CHIMNEY.

IN THE GLASCOCK BURYING GROUNDS ARE GLASCOCKS AND A JOHN L. LAKE. THE GRAVES ARE ON PROPERTY OWNED BY MRS. DAISY RUSSELL AND SOME ON LAND OWNED BY THE GARBERS OF ELM FARM..

THE RUSSELL STORE WAS A LAND MARK AND A COUNTRY STORE FOR MANY YEARS..IT IS NOW RENTED TO SULLIN FURNITURE COMPANY.

AFTER THE WAR, THE PEOPLE SLOWLY REBUILT THE COUNTY, THAT HAD LAID TO WASTE, BETHEL CHURCH AS ALMOST COMPLETELY REBUILT AND ONCE MORE THE CHURCH WAS WORKED ON BY THE LABORS OF THE CONGREGATION AND THE MONEY WAS RAISED BY DONATIONS AND CHURCH SUPPERS OVER THE YEARS.

MR. GEORGE HEDGES ONE OF OUR ELDEST MEMBERS CAN REMEMBER HELPING REBUILD AND A MR. GUNTHER BEACH HELPED HIM WORK ON THE ROOF. THE ORIGINAL HUB SILLS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE CHURCH WERE MADE BY MR. HEDGES GREAT GRANDFATHER. IN LATER YEARS, A SHINGLE ROOF WAS PUT ON; A MR. SNAP ALSO HELPED AND THE BALCONY THAT HAD BEEN PUT IN THE CHURCH FOR NEGROES WAS REMOVED.

SLAVERY WAS PROHIBITED BY A CLAUSE INSERTED IN THE ORDINANCE OF A 1787 FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY. U.S. SENATOR WILLIAM GRAYSON DISTINGUISHED SOLDIER AND A MEMBER OF CONTINENTAL CONGRESS INSISTED THAT THIS CLAUSE BE INSERTED.

BETHEL REMAINED A ONE ROOM BUILDING WITH A WOOD STOVE ON EACH SIDE OF THE CHURCH. MR. HEDGES WAS ONE OF THE PERSONS WHO PROVIDED WOOD. MR. AND MRS. HEDGES WOULD GO TO CHURCH EARLY SUNDAY MORNING AND BUILD FIRES TO GET THE CHURCH WARM. CHURCH SERVICES, SUPPERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL AND OTHER AFFAIRS INCLUDING POLITICAL RALLIES WERE HELD IN THIS ONE ROOM BUILDING. THERE WAS ALSO A CHURCH SEKTOR AT ONE TIME.

CORNEL RHINES BROUGHT ELECTRICITY TO THIS AREA AND ADDED TO PROGRESS.

WHILE REV. ED. WRIGHT WAS PASTOR, ROOMS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL WERE STARTED BY ADDING ONTO THE SANCTUARY. THE WORK WAS FINISHED YEARS LATER BY REV. CLYDE DEWS AND OTHER WILLING WORKERS. MONEY FROM CHURCH SUPPERS AND DONATIONS.

THE WHITE ALTAR AND WHITE BENCHES SERVED BETHEL FOR A LONG TIME, THEY KEPT CLEAN AND SHINY BRIGHT.

WHILE REV. CHAP MERCER WAS PASTOR, THE WHITE ALTAR AND BENCHES WERE CHANGED TO THE ALTAR AND BENS THAT NOW SERVE BETHEL. THE REPLACEMENTS WERE PURCHASED FROM CLARIDON CHURCH ANLINGTON VA 1962.

THE MEMORIAL PLATES ON THE PRESENT Pews WERE PAID FOR BY INDIVIDUALS IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES.

THE OFFERING PLATES OO WHICH SERVED SO MANY YEARS WERE REPLACED BY LARGER ONES AS A GIFT TO THE CHURCH FROM THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL THROUGH A CHRISTMAS OFFERING IN 1966.

THE NEW METHODIST HYMNALS WERE BROUGHT BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF BETHEL AT A COST OF \$3.00 each.

BACK IN 1968, DURING A CONVERSATION WITH MR AND MRS. HEDGES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED.

" MR. HEDGES CAN REMEMBER DURR GLASCOCK GOING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE VISITING AND READING THE BIBLE TO PEOPLE. HE COULD ALSO REMEMBER THAT A GERLIN PREACHER HELD SERVICES FOR HIS GRANDFATHERS FUNERAL IN 1923 AND PREACHER (LIVER PREACHER) AT HIS MOTHERS FUNERAL IN 1913."

BETHEL WAS WITH THE OCCOQUAN DISTRICT ABOUT 1920. THE CIRCUIT INCLUDED OCCOQUAI, WOODBRIDGE AND BETHEL. LATER BETHEL WAS PUT ON DUMFRIES AND FORREST HILL CIRCUIT. LATER S LEM AT TIDEWATER WAS ADDED. REV. A.H. SHUMATE WAS PREACHER AT THIS TIME. ANOTHER CHAPEL WAS FORREST HILLWILL WAS TAKEN OFF AND ADDED TO THE CAMP AREA CIRCUIT.

REV. SHUMATE WAS MINISTER AT BETHEL WHEN THE HEDGES JOINED THE CHURCH. MR. RHINES CAN REMEMBER GOING TO BETHEL SINCE HE WAS TEN (10) YEARS OLD.

WHEN THE WOOD STOVES WERE REPLACED BY OIL STOVES, ONE OF THE WOOD STOVES WAS GIVEN TO DAVID AND IONA GLASCOCK AND THE OTHER TO THE HEDGES AS KEEPSAKES AND THE HEDGES STILL HAVE THEI STOVE.

SOME OF THE PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED BETHEL ARE:

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| A.H. SHUMATE             | DONALD STANTON..1955..1957 |
| MR. WELCHER              | CLYDE DEWS.....1957..1962  |
| MR. REINHARDT            | CHAPMAN MERCER..1962..1964 |
| MR. HOKUM                | LARRY TINGLE....1964..1967 |
| MR. WOOD.....1950        | JACOB R. MILLER.1967..1971 |
| ED. WRIGHT....1951..1954 | FREDRICK PARISH.1974..     |

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WERE STARTED IN 1932..33. WHILE REV. SHUMATE WAS AT BETHEL. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT BEFORE THIS TIME, THERE WERE NO CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES. AMONG THOSE WHO HELPED GET THE CLASSES STARTED WERE MRS. ANNIE DEAN AND MRS. RUTH PEARL.

THE W.S.C.S. WAS ALSO STARTED WHILE REV. SHUMATE WAS HERE. MRS. ELLEN TAYLOR, MOTHER OF WOODY TAYLOR AND STELLA ACKEN HELPED GET THE SOCIETY STARTED AND MRS. TAYLOR BECAME THE FIRST SECRETARY. AMONG THE CHARTER MEMBERS WERE: MRS. TAYLOR, MRS. FAIREANKS, MRS. HEDGES, MRS. ANNIE DEAN, MRS. RUTH PEARL AND MRS. EVA CARNER.

IT IS RECORDED THAT IN 1951 MRS. L. THRIPT PLAYED THE CHURCH ORGAN BEFORE IT BROKE DOWN. ALSO THIS WAS THE YEAR THAT VENTILATION BLINDS WERE PURCHASED AND PLACED ON THE CHURCH WINDOWS.

THE CHURCH FLAGS WERE LAST REPLACED IN 1965, AS A GIFT TO THE CHURCH FROM THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS AND REV. AND MRS. LARRY O. TINGLE.

OTHER CHANGES FOLLOWED. THE COMMUNION SET WAS ENLARGED. THE BREAD PLATE DONATED BY HARRY PENNINGTON IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER AND THE LINEN CLOTH GIVEN BY MRS. FLORENCE MERCER WIFE OF A FORMER PASTOR.....HEATING IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER REPAIRS WERE DONE THROUGH DONATIONS, FUND RAISING PROJECTS AND COOPERATION FROM CONGREGATION. THE PIANO WHICH NOW SERVES BETHEL WAS PURCHASED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE M.Y.F. GROUP WHO WERE ACTIVE AT THAT TIME, AND IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY IN 1952.

ALSO THE CARPETING WAS PURCHASED IN 1952. THE CROSS AND CANDLE HOLDERS WERE ALSO PURCHASED BY THE M.Y.F. ACTIVE AT AN UNRECORDED TIME, DATE. THE GREEN CURTAINS THAT HAVE SERVED BETHEL IN OUR SANCTUARY, WERE PURCHASED BY MRS. ANNIE DEAN IN 1962.

SOMETHINGS REMEMBERED BY MRS. VIRGINIA SULLIVAN. ANOTHER ACTIVE MEMBER, GOES BACK TO BETHEL IN 1912...THE CHURCH STOOD, BUT IT HAD NO ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD, SO THAT PEOPLE PASSING BY COULD NOT TELL IF IT WAS A CHURCH OR JUST A BUILDING, SO MANY YEARS LATER MRS. SULLIVAN DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT AND IN 1943, SHE HAD A BULLETIN BOARD MADE WITH THE NAME OF THE CHURCH ON IT AND TIME OF WORSHIP. THIS BOARD WAS LAST SEEN A FEW YEARS AGO ..... THE BULLETIN WAS NAILLED TO THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH AND REMAINED THERE UNTIL REPLACED BY THE LARGER BULLETIN THAT SOMEONE SPOKE OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH NEAR THE BELL, WHICH ALL CHURCH EVENTS WERE POSTED AND TIMES OF VARIOUS MEETINGS AND DATES.

CUBSCOUTS AND BOY SCOUT TROOP NUMBER 1363 WAS STARTED BY A MARINE LT. FRANK LAMBERT OF ELM FARM TRAILER CT., SPONSORED BY MR. AND MRS. GARDER. AS THE PACK AND TROOP GREW, MORE SPACE WAS NEEDED AND THE QUESTION OF MEETING AT BETHEL WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE OFFICIAL BOARD BY HARRY PENNINGTON. THE VOTE WAS PASSED TO LET THE SCOUTS MEET AT BETHEL AND A SET OF RULES WERE SET UP FOR ALL GROUPS TO OBSERVE. THE RULES WERE POSTED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE CHURCH. AT A LATER VOTE, BETHEL AGREED TO SPONSOR THE PACK AND TROOP.

IN 1968, BETHEL AGAIN REACHED OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY WHEN THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MURIEL HUMPHREY SCHOOL FOR RETARDED CHILDREN ASKED IF THEY MIGHT USE THE FACILITIES OF BETHEL DUE TO THE SHORTAGE AND LACK OF SPACE AT THE SCHOOL. THE BOARD AND TRUSTEES DISCUSSED THE MATTER AND VOTED THAT THE SCHOOL COULD USE THE FACILITIES AND SHARE THE UTILITIES WITH US.

IN 1968, THROUGH THE MERGING OF THE METHODIST AND UNITED BREWERY CHURCHES, IT BROUGHT TOGETHER TWO STRONG CHURCHES IN HERITAGE AND MEMBERSHIP AND THEREFORE WE ADDED THE NAME OF UNITED AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

THE FLOWER FUND THAT WE HAD UNTIL 1974 WAS STARTED BY REV. MILLER. FRESH FLOWERS WERE ON THE ALTAR EACH SUNDAY IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES AND OTHER OCCASIONS. MANY TIMES THE FLOWERS WERE TAKEN TO THE SICK OR MUST TO CHEER UP PEOPLE. THE W.S.C.S. SPONSORED THE FUND AND MADE SURE THE FLOWERS WERE THERE EACH SUNDAY. MRS. ANNIE CLINDIST WAS THE FIRST CHAIRLADY AND THEN MRS. O. BEHN.

IN 1968, THE CHRISTMAS TREE SALES UNDER LEADERSHIP OF RALPH CLINDIST GREN AND THE MEN'S GROUP HAD A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AND USED THE MONEY FOR THEIR MANY PROJECTS..CHURCH REPAIRS, AND THE SIGNS THAT THEY PUT UP TO SHOW THE WAY TO BETHEL FROM VARIOUS ROADS.

THIS WAS A BUSY YEAR ALSO FOR THE W.S.C.S. AND THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH HAD HAD A FULL PROGRAM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF NANCY ARRINGTON, DAVID BAKER, EMMET ROBERTSON..

LEADERS WHO FOLLOWED WERE PHIL CLARKE, MR. BEHN, JIM WOLNER. ADULT LEADERS..REV. TINGLE, MR. MRS. PENNINGTON, MRS. MARY ROBERTSON, PAT BAKER, MR.MRS.C. BAKER.

BEING IN CONSTANT SEARCH FOR FACTS TO ADD TO OUR HISTORY, I FOUND THAT ELSIE HALL'S FATHER MR. LEEDEN LIVED ON THE OLD GLASCOCK PLACE AROUND 1943 AND HE ALSO HELPED TO MAKE THE FIRMS IN THE CHURCH STOVES UNTIL HE MOVED TO OCCOQUAN.

GOING BACK...MRS. SULLIVAN CAN REMEMBER THE TROUBLES THE OLD OIL STOVES GAVE AND SHE CAN STILL SEE HERSELF HOLDING THE STOVE DAMPERS TO KEEP THEM FROM BLOWING UP ON A COLD SUNDAY MORNING..THEY WERE WOOD LAMP TYPE STOVES.

OUR CHURCH BELL... WAS OBTAINED BY DUKIE MADDOX BUT LAID OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH FOR A LONG TIME. IN THE SPRING OF 1968, HARRY PENNINGTON DECIDED THAT IT HAD LAY LONG ENOUGH AND WASN'T DOING ANY GOOD THERE. SO HE BUILT A FRAME AND WITH THE HELP OF RALPH CLINDINST AND A GOOD NEIGHBOR WHO VOLUNTEERED HIS HEAVY EQUIPMENT, THE BELL WAS LIFTED UP UNTO THE FRAME AND IT IS RUNG EACH SUNDAY MORNING BEFORE WORSHIP SERVICE, ET WAS RUNG BEFORE SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ONE TIME BUT PERSONS COMPLAINED AND THIS EARLY HOUR RINGING WAS DISCONTINUED.

IN 1970, THE MEN'S CLUB AND WOMEN'S SOCIETY AND M.Y.F. WERE BUSY AS WELL AS CURT MITCHELL AND THE MEN WHO REPAIRED THE ROOF AND PAINTED. MUCH THANKS TO THE MEN WHO WORKED ON LOWERING THE OLD HIGH CEILING IN THE SANCTUARY. THE GOOD DIFFERENCE MEANT A SAVINGS ON THE FUEL BILL, BUT IT MEANT TAKING DOWN THE OLD CHANDILIER THAT ENHANCED THE SANCTUARY FOR SO MANY YEARS.

OUR BEAUTIFUL CROSS WAS MADE FROM CHERRY WOOD DONATED BY REV. MILLER AND OUR THANKS TO DAVID BAKER WHO HAD THE CROSS MADE.

WE THANK PHIL CLARKE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL LIGHTING EFFECT SURROUNDING THE CROSS AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER ELECTRICAL WORK HE DONATED TO BETHEL.

THE LADIES OF THE W.S.C.S. HAD A BUSY YEAR IN 1970..THEY HELD SEVERAL FUND RAISING AFFAIRS AND WERE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE FLOWER FUND, EVEN THOUGH THEY SPONSOR THE FUND, DONATIONS FOR THE FLOWERS FOR THE SPECIAL OCCASSIONS ARE HELPFUL..ANYONE WISHING TO PAY FOR FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR SHOULD SEE THE CHAIRLADY. THE LADIES DONATED THE NICE LARGE SET OF DISHES TO THE CHURCH THAT YEAR AND OTHER ITEMS THAT WERE NEEDED FOR THE KITCHEN AND REST ROOMS.

THE SCOUT PACK AND TROOP WERE ACTIVE IN HELPING TO KEEP THE CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAN AND HELPED WITH PAINTING AND OTHER CHORES. THE LEADERSHIP WENT FROM LT. LAHEBERT TO FRANK PLYMALE AND ON TO DORSEY COUNTS BEFORE DISBANDING AND THE TROOP HAD SEVERAL LEADERS INCLUDING DAVID STONE, HARRY PENNINGTON, RAY MILLER AND FRANK PLYMALE. THE PACK AND TROOP FOLDED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST AND COMMUNICATION.

THE YEAR 1970, WAS A ACTIVE YEAR IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND M.Y.F. AS WELL AS THE W.S.C.S. AND MEN'S CLUB. THE M.Y.F..CONTINUED THEIR PROJECTS AND FOUND GREAT JOY BEING AMONG THE SIX THOUSAND YOUTHS WHO PROFESSED THEIR FAITH IN SONG AND PRAY A THE HISTORICAL YOUTH CHRISTIAN RALLY HELD THAT YEAR IN THE SPRING.

ANOTHER FACT TO ADD TO OUR HISTORY IS THAT THE CHURCH BIBLE ON OUR ALTAR WAS GIVEN BY MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE JETT ON DECEMBER 24, 1961.

THE BIBLE RESTED ON VARIOUS HOLDERS UNTIL 1971 WHEN MRS SWERN, MOTHER OF ROBERT HOFFMAN PRESENTED THE CHURCH WITH THE PRESENT ONE.

THE LOVELY PRAYING HANDS WAS A GIFT FROM CARL SIMMONS IN 1972.

1971, WAS REMODELING TIME AT BETHEL, EVERYONE GOT BUSY AND WORKED ON THE GROUNDS, PLANTED FLOWERS AND PAINTED THE CHURCH. INSIDE PAINT JOB, NEW CURTAINS, NEW CARPETING AND A GOOD CLEANING. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PHIL CLARKE SR., THE M.Y.F. RAISED FUNDS AND PURCHASED THE AIRCONDITION, WHICH PHIL INSTALLED. THE KNEELING PADS ON THE ALTAR WERE REPLACED WITH THE PRESENT ONES AS A GIFT FROM MRS. PEGGY (PHIL)CLARKE.

WITH ALL THE WORK DONE IN 1971, WE WERE ABLE TO SIT BACK IN 1972 AND ENJOY OUR HARD EFFORTS.... OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY BEGAN TO NOTICE BETHEL AND WE WERE ALMOST KNOWN AS THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH WITH THE BLACK BELL. SEVERAL OF THE WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS WERE OF PEOPLE THAT DID NOT ATTEND ANY SPECIAL CHURCH BUT ASKED TO HOLD THEIR OCCASSIONS AT BETHEL BECAUSE OF ITS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND IT LOOKED LIKE THE CHURCH BACK HOME.

IN 1973, EACH GROUP WAS ACTIVE AND BETHEL CONTINUED TO GROW IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH ATTENDANCE. BRINGING OUT LARGER GROUPS TO CHURCH SOCIALS AND FUND RAISING PROJECTS..

WITH THE CONGREGATION GROWING AND WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE INCREASING, THE NEED FOR MORE SPACE WAS DISCUSSED AND A COMMITTEE WAS ASKED TO DISCUSS OUR HOPE FURTHER AND GIVE A REPORT OF THEIR FINDINGS AND PROSPECTIVE LAND FOR SALE IN THIS AREA.

THE YEAR FOR 1975, STATED OUT WITH BOTH GOOD AND BAD NEWS. WE WILL RELOCATE NEXT TO BETHEL ON PURCHASED LAND, A PARSONAGE IN DALE CITY, THE KERRYDALE SECTION HAS BEEN OBTAINED WITH ITS PURCHASE IN MIND.

ALL COMMITTEES, ALL CHURCH GROUPS HAVE BEEN HOLDING EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY NEEDED TO GET STARTED. EVERYONE HAS BECOME INVOLVED AND WE ARE OFF TO A GOOD START.

THE MEN'S GROUP HAD THEIR ANNUAL BREAKFAST FOLLOWING SUNRISE SERVICE AND SERVED OVER A HUNDRED (100) PEOPLE.

THE SAI MUST BE ADDED AND THAT IS THAT WE ARE LOSING BROTHER JAKE AND MISS HAZEL AFTER SEVEN (7) YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE.

MANY OF US WERE AT REV. MILLER'S FIRST SERVICE AND INSTEAD OF A LONG SPEECH, HE GREETED US WITH A BIG SMILE AND READ A POEM TO US, AND IF HE MEANT TO REACH OUT THRU IT, IT DID FOR SOME WHO HEARD IT. THE POEM HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE CHURCH HISTORY BY REQUEST. WITH IT, REV. MILLER WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS LOVE OF SON, HIS GRIN AND SMILE EVEN WHEN HE MAY HAVE NOT FELT LIKE IT. HIS LOVE OF FOOD WILL ALSO BE REMEMBERED BUT MOST IMPORTANT THE FACT THAT HE PREACHED THAT WE BELONG TO GOD FIRST AND THEN .....

QUOTE" THE ABOVE POEM WAS GIVEN TO ME BY REV. STAN MCCREARY OF ANDREW CHAPEL, BROOKE, VA. HOW TRUE THIS POEM IS SO MANY TIMES. MAY WE AS GOD'S CHILDREN ..SERVANTS BE HIS LIGHT HERE ON EARTH. MAY OUR DEEDS AND ACTIONS BE SUCH THAT THE FATHER IS PROUD TO CALL US HIS CHILDREN. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL"

JAKE MILLER

TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS

TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS, STANDING IN LINE  
ONE DIDN'T LIKE THE PREACHER, AND THERE WERE NINE.  
NINE LITTLE CHRISTIANS STAYED UP VERY LATE,  
ONE SLEPT ON SUNDAY MORNING AND THEN THERE WERE EIGHT  
EIGHT LITTLE CHRISTIANS ON THE ROAD TO HEAVEN  
ONE TOOK THE LOWER ROAD, THEN THERE WERE SEVEN  
SEVEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS GOT IN AN AWFUL FIX  
ONE DIDN'T LIKE THE MUSIC, AND THEN THERE WERE SIX  
SIX LITTLE CHRISTIANS SEEMED VERY MUCH ALIVE  
ONE LOST INTEREST AND THEN THERE WERE FIVE  
FIVE LITTLE CHRISTIANS, WISHING THERE WERE MORE  
BUT THEY QUARRELED WITH EACH OTHER, THEN THERE WERE FOUR  
FOUR LITTLE CHRISTIANS, CHEERFUL AS CAN BE  
BUT ONE LOST HIS TEMPER AND THEN THERE WERE THREE  
THREE LITTLE CHRISTIANS KNEW NOT WHAT TO DO  
ONE JOINED THE CROWD, THEN THERE WERE TWO  
TWO LITTLE CHRISTIANS, OUR RHYME IS ALMOST DONE,  
DIFFERED WITH EACH OTHER, THEN THERE WAS ONE  
ONE LONELY CHRISTIAN, WEARY, WORN AND TIRED  
GAVE UP THE FIGHT HIMSELF AND THE CHURCH EXPIRED..

FOLLOWING REV. MILLER, WE WERE BLESSED WITH REV. FRED PARISH AND HIS ACTIVE FAMILY.

THE RENEWED SPIRIT THAT HAS FILLED THE AIR WOULD NEED MORE THAN ONE WORD TO DISCRIBE SO LET US JUST USE THE WORD "WONDERFUL". THERE HAS BE REORGANIZATION, GROUTH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AND OUR MORNING SERVICE ATTENDENCE HAS OUR SANCTUARY OVER IN THE ISLES ON CHAIRS.

THE BUILDING FUND IS GROWING, WE PURCHASED ADDITIONAL CHAIRS FROM COKEBURY UNITED METHODIST, OUR ORGAN, BOTH WERE OBTAINED THRU DONATIONS.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, SOME OF THE MEN GAVE UP THEIR SATURDAYS TO SELL VEGTABLES BROUGHT TO THEM TO BE SOLD FOR THE CHURCH .

THANKS TO JOHN MILLER SR., AND TO THOSE WHO HELPED GET A WORKING SOUND SYSTEM HOOKED UP AND INTO THE NURSREY ROOM, SO THAT THOSE IN THE ROOM CAN HEAR WHAT IS HAEPENING IN THE SANCTUARY AS WELL AS THE SERMON AND SINGING. THE MICROPHONE GIVES ALL A BETTER CHANCE TO HEAR THE PASTOR OVER THE AIRCONDITION AND OTHER NOISE.

THE CHURCH LAND IS OURS AND A SIGN HAS BEEN FUT UP ON THE PROPERTY FOR ALL TO SEE WHERE OUR FUTURE HOME WILL BE.

ALTHOUGH THE WISIES OF THE GLASCOCKS ARE OVER ONE HUNDRED (100) YEARS.,THEIRE WORDS ARE WORDS THAT WE CAN TAKE WITH US INTO OUR CHURCH PLANNING AND FUTURE, "THAT THE WORD OF GCD CAN BE EXPOUNDED HERE" AMEN....