

History of Paris Presbyterian Church (ECO)

**A Member of ECO: A Covenant Order
of Evangelical Presbyterians**

First known as Three Springs Church

First Church Log Building-1790

Second Church Stone Building-1840

Third Church Brick Building-1857

Annex added-1940

Remodeled-1954

Annex added-1963

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

HISTORY of PARIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (ECO)

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CONTENTS

Section 1: Historical memories of Paris Presbyterian Church (ECO)

Introduction to the History of the Church by Dr. Rev. Tina Hosler

Dedication and Acknowledgements by Peggy Strain

*Looking back to the beginning – 225 years ago – excerpts from
the book “The Presbyterian Valley”*

Memories shared by Gerry Revay on ECO Sunday, June 2, 2013

“I remember when....” Memories shared by church members

Section 2: Celebrating 150 years – 1790 to 1940

Pages from Sesqui-Centennial News

Articles from Burgettstown Enterprise – August 1, 1940

October 10, 1940 and October 31, 1940

Manse completed at Paris Church – 1948

Paris Church remodeled in 1954

Re-Built Paris Church is Re-Dedicated – Nov. 1954

Cornerstone Ceremony held at Paris Church – Sunday October 31, 1954

Section 3: Celebrating 175 years – 1790 to 1965

Pages from Program for 175th Anniversary Service and Dedication Service

August 22nd to 29th, 1965

The Church Directory

History of church “Milestone of Faith”

Section 4: Celebrating 200 years – 1790 to 1990

A Short History of the Paris Presbyterian Church 200 Years and Beyond

(as it was written and published in the 1990 Directory)

Article from Weirton Daily Times Saturday, November 17, 1990

Article from Pennsylvania Focus November 12, 2005

Section 5: Celebrating 225 years – 1790 to 2015

Letter dated January 29, 2013 from Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler, Pastor

Re vote on dismissal to ECO

Letter dated January 30, 2013 from Washington Presbytery regarding dismissal

*Welcome to ECO newsletter acknowledging that on June 1, 2013 we are
officially an ECO congregation*

Photos taken on ECO Sunday June 2, 2013

Letter in the Bell Tower for one year anniversary as an ECO congregation

Gathering Place Coffee Shop opened January 2013

Expansion and Additional Outreach – The Cotter Property

Paris Presbyterian Church (ECO) today – 2015

Summary by Rev. Dr. Christina (Tina) Hosler

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excerpts from the book “The Presbyterian Valley”***

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ECO Sunday, June 2, 2013***

***“I remember when.....” Memories
shared by church members***

Introduction to the History of the Church
by Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is such a blessing to be a part of the history of this amazing church, especially to have the privilege of being the first female pastor called to serve at Paris Presbyterian Church.

As you read through 225 years of history, I pray you will recognize the work of the Holy Spirit as you read about how God has used the struggles, trials, blessings and revivals of generations of people to make this church what it is today. Without the blood, sweat, tears and prayers of previous generations, the church would not be the place of renewal, support, love and transformation that it is today.

A special thank you to Elder Peggy Strain for the countless hours of information-gathering and work on this amazing history book. May all who read it have a true sense of the way God has worked in the life of this church and its people.

The History of the Paris Presbyterian Church ECO

Dedication

This history is dedicated to the past, present, and future members of
Paris Presbyterian Church ECO
who through their lives and faith
are the true authors of all that lies within
and all that is still to come

Acknowledgements

The Paris Presbyterian Church has been in existence as a church for 225 years. Compiling the history of the church over such a long time is a large and tedious undertaking, so I am very grateful for the blessing of many people who saved historical information or wrote their memories which helped me to be able to derive the bulk of the material for this booklet.

I would especially like to thank Gerry Revay, who saves everything, and Shirley Jenkins, who remembers everything. To retell to you today the history of the church would not have been possible without long time members being willing to share their memories and for this I will always be grateful. Many of us do not have the long term memories associated with Paris Church so we cherish the sharing of memories that others have.

I need to also thank Debbie Vraninin, President of the Ft. Vance Historical Society, who gave me photos and copies of newspaper articles. It was amazing to me the amount of information that can be found in the History Room in the Burgettstown Community Library.

On a more personal note, this has been a project dear to my heart and one that I volunteered to do through the leading of the Holy Spirit. This booklet begins with Section 1- Sharing of memories; Section 2 - Celebrating 150 years; Section 3, – Celebrating 175 years; Section 4 – Celebrating 200 years; and Section 5 – Celebrating 225 years. It was heartwarming to read how the Lord has blessed Paris Church for the past 225 years. I hope all of you will enjoy reading this history as much as I did in compiling the information into this booklet.

Finally, though, and most importantly, I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who was faithful to me that I could use one of my gifts for His glory in His church. I will be forever grateful.

Peggy Strain
September 2015

*Looking back to the beginning – 225 years ago
excerpts from a book “The Presbyterian Valley”
Copyrighted in 1958 by the Presbyterian Historical Society
of the Upper Ohio Valley – William Wilson McKinney, Editor*

Three Springs Presbyterian Church

As the traveler drives along Route 22 through Weirton Heights, his attention is attracted by a historical marker. As he reads that bronze tribute to a historic past, he notes that it marks the spot where stood another of the pioneer Presbyterian churches in the West Virginia Panhandle. Here James Campbell in 1790, with the assistance of a group of neighbors, built a large church on his own farm. In the records of the Redstone Presbytery, it is called Three Springs Church. It is now relocated and rebuilt in the heart of industrial Weirton and renamed the Cove Presbyterian Church. As soon as their church was built, this group of Presbyterian neighbors petitioned Redstone Presbytery to send them a visiting preacher. Presbytery responded by sending Reverend John Brice to lead them in worship on the third Sabbath of November. In July of the following year, Reverend Brice returned for another Sabbath Day’s services. Later in November of that same year, Reverend James Hughes, another neighboring Presbyterian minister, spent an entire day in spiritual leadership through worship and instruction. West Virginia Presbyterians in those pioneer days of small beginnings had to be grateful for meager spiritual favors with the blessing of a sermon only at infrequent intervals. As additional men were licensed to preach by the Presbytery, preaching became more frequent but never more than four times a year. Preachers were scarce. They had to divide their time in order to preach among numerous congregations who were seeking the comfort and warnings of the Gospel.

Better days were soon to dawn. Growth in the number of ministers made advisable the division of Redstone into two presbyteries in 1793. The Panhandle churches were placed in the new Presbytery of Ohio. Preaching at the Three Springs was still very sporadic for several years. But on October 17, 1798, a consecrated churchman of thirty-nine years of age presented himself to the Presbytery of Ohio as a candidate for the ministry. He was none other than Elisha Macurdy.

After completing the necessary course of education, Macurdy accepted a call to Three Springs and Cross Roads (now Florence, Pennsylvania). Soon the influence of this tremendous personality was felt throughout the entire church in Western Pennsylvania and the Panhandle area of West Virginia. His name is linked particularly with the great Revival of 1802 which first began to be manifested in Macurdy’s congregation at Three Springs where a small group of devout women met for prolonged prayer. Soon it spread far and wide, influencing the social and religious outlook of the entire Upper Ohio Valley. In the wake of this historic revival came the “Sunday School, the Prayer Meeting, the Missionary Movement, the crusade against strong drink and the crusade against slavery. Macurdy continued in his dual field of service until 1824 when he resigned from the Three Springs Church to devote his full time to the church at Florence.

*Memories shared by Gerry Revay
on ECO Sunday, June 2, 2013*

Tina asked me to talk about my memories of Paris Presbyterian Church. There is a book in the Library called "*The Presbyterian Valley*". It says Elisha Macurdy preached at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, later known as Florence Presbyterian and a sister church at Three Springs Drive. Later Three Springs separated and became Cove Presbyterian and Paris Presbyterian. This Church was built in 1857 – there is a picture of the original church in the Library area. Oil lamps were used for lighting and two pot-bellied stoves furnished the heat. In 1923, the pulpit was purchased from another church in Pittsburgh and brought to Hanlin Station by train. Then it was brought to Paris by horse and buggy. During the remodeling project in 1954, it was refinished by George Heilman. The original church area was from the double doors to the double doors that lead to the sanctuary. There was a vestibule, with two doors that led into the sanctuary. There was a wide row of pews in the center, two aisles and two smaller rows of pews on each side. Air conditioning was hand held fans from Lee & Martin and Steele & Wolfe Funeral Homes.

There was a small remodeling project in the early 40's, but a major project was done in 1954. The area beneath the sanctuary was excavated and is now the Fellowship Hall. New pews were put in, new stained glass windows, and the outside walls were covered by brick. The original outside walls are still inside the brick exterior.

When our family came here in 1960, we entered the doors next to the Secretary's office, turned right and went down a set of steps to the classrooms downstairs. Later the steps were moved and an office was built for Joe Hunter. Bea Lou Jones was Secretary and had a desk around the corner. Roy Hurd built the bookshelves for the Library. One of the pictures I've seen, like the one that says Attendance & Offering, it said \$1100 on the top line, second line said Offering Last Sunday, the third line said \$928 and the bottom line said Attendance 103. A picture in the Library was taken on Rally Day, 1943 and over 150 people are in the picture. Another picture in the Library was taken of Rally Day in 1943, and over 150 people are in the picture.

Frank Hanlin also toured the church with me and his memories are similar to Roy's. Frank was born in 1921 and was a lifelong member. His memories include the Ice Cream Festivals during strawberry season. He talked about the day the bell fell down in 1999. He also remembered when electricity was put in and people said "How will we ever pay the Electric bill ---it was \$4.00 a month. Some custodians he remembered were Elias Freshwater, Andy Fulton, Peggy Hanlin, Jo Neeley, and Mildred Elliott after 1954. Later custodians included me (Gerry Revay), Bonnie Cain, Delores Henwood, Rose Yeater, Mary Welshans, Terry Wagner and Shirley Jenkins.

The first Church Directory that I have was published in 1974. There was another one in 1983, 1990, 1995 and 2006 and 2012.

A new addition was started May 12, 1963, with 3 adult classrooms, two restrooms and an assembly room upstairs. A furnace room, a nursery, and 5 or 6 classrooms were put in downstairs.

In 1999 the Pavilion was built in memory of Barry Barto.

The reason we stayed strong as a church thru all of the change because we stood on the Word of God.

***“I remember when*”**

This year marks the 225th Anniversary of Paris Presbyterian Church which we will celebrate on Sunday, June 14, 2015. Following are a few memories shared by members, some signed their page of memories while others did not sign.

I remember when Carl “Barney” Hanlin would greet and talk to everyone who came in to worship.

When many men would come together to work on projects – putting a new roof on the sanctuary, seal coating the parking lot and Roy Hurd telling about how he would chew on tar as a fill in for chewing gum.

Men who worked on projects in the church: Roy Hurd, Barney Hanlin, Ray Tournay; Joe Murchland, Clyde Elliott, Don Ward, Gene Tedrow, Vern Stewart, Bob Jenkins and others. (Memories shared by Kelly Ward)

I remember when we had chicken suppers; we did not wear slacks; we wore gloves and hats to church; we had 70 kids in Sunday School; we had youth groups with 25 kids; when we had mother daughter teas; when we had Easter and Christmas Cantatas; when only men took up collection and served on session; when my Mom was custodian and we would find vagrants sleeping in church pews; we didn't lock doors then; when we had pot belly stoves; on Easter and Christmas we had chairs down the aisles; we had six or eight men in back row of chairs; when we had one service; when the annex was put on the church; when I could sit under tree in front yard and watch traffic; when Church bell came down on Sunday morning; when parking lot was dirt; when we had stain glass windows, many ministers and family, when we had live nativity and Joannie was the baby; when every room in downstairs had a Sunday School class in it; when loyal workers had 35 to 40 women in their class; when we went into basement down the steps by garage; I remember Ladies Aids and them making quilts and other sewing items; I remember when the ramp went in. (Memories shared by Shirley Jenkins)

I remember when the youth groups did the Living Nativity and Easter Sunrise Pageants. I remember when we had youth groups.

I remember when the minister from the prison came to preach and did a children's sermon about not judging a book by its cover; things are not always as

they seem. Before he began, he passed a beer can around (full of juice) for each of us to have a drink. The adult faces were awesome.

***I remember when** we would have Mother and Daughter Banquets for Mother's Day.*

***I remember** Mrs. Bainbridge's passion and faith in Sunday School.*

***I remember when** the church celebrated the 200th anniversary. We dressed in period costumes, had a day long party. Former Pastor's visited and Rev. Dr. Frank Trotta was pastor at that time.*

***I remember when** we used to transform the altar, through paper mache into the garden and the tomb for the Easter services.*

***I remember when** two family members got married here.*

***I remember when** we had stained glass cross. We had preacher who preached wife's funeral and husband was the corpse. He never looked in the casket before funeral. We had wood plank floors in sanctuary and they had to be oiled. I remember when bell came out of tower; 10 cent suppers; everything 10 cents. I remember when men of church took my van and went to help Johnstown after flood. I remember when only men took up collection and always wore suits. I remember when women never wore pants to church. I remember when there was no ramps, no back doors. I remember planting the maple tree in yard, every shovel of dirt was in memory of someone in church that passed. I remember basket ball hoop on garage, games all the time, no fights, no bad language. I remember hockey games on Saturdays in parking lot, in full gear led by Brian Jones. I remember tree houses in back of parking lot, preacher's kids. I remember a one arm preacher. I remember when preachers visited the sick and took communion to all the shut ins.*

***I remember when** I was a young child and every Sunday we went to our class. We had opening services with Eilene Cameron in the Social Room downstairs. We sang songs and the ones I remember are: (1) I have "Joy" down in my heart; (2) "This Little Light of Mine;" (3) "Zacheus Was a Wee Little Man;" and (4) Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego – great songs. I really enjoyed singing every Sunday morning – and loved attending Sunday School. (Memories shared by Norma Copenhaver)*

***I remember when** I would go to Ladies Aid with my Grandmother Peggy Hanlin because I knew there would always be something good to eat. I also remember when Rev. Haines came and taught the kids "Do Lord," and there were those in the congregation who thought it was too fast for the children to be singing in church. I always remember my dad, Barney Hanlin coming home from work, and then going up to the church to help with some project. The men worked hard, but they always had a good time. I also remember the women cooking, laughing, and talking. I couldn't wait until I was old enough to help. (Memories shared by Barbara LaPosta)*

***I remember when** before remodeling – vestibule across the front of church (front being at the road) – long pews in middle with short pews on each side with pot belly stoves in middle of each set of short pews – choir and instruments where choir is now with short brown curtain to floor – kitchen where library is now, across back side of room – door leading to dirt floor basement, where supplies are kept in the church office now – church closet was where steps were. (Memories shared by Bea Jones)*

***I remember** all the many wonderful pastors that passed thru our doors and all the people they helped in the ministry.*

***I remember when** Rev. Hunter was the teacher of my Sunday School class when I came to Paris in 1962. When he left our church, Bea Jones "volunteered" to be our teacher until we could find a permanent teacher. She is still our teacher. God bless you and thank you, Bea. (Memories shared by Sue Lyons)*

Section 2: Celebrating 150 years – 1790 to 1940

PAGES from SESQUI-CENTENNIAL NEWS

ARTICLES from BURGETTSTOWN ENTERPRISE

August 1, 1940

October 10, 1940

October 31, 1940

Manse Completed at Paris Church – 1948

Paris Church Remodeled in 1954

Re-Built Paris Church is Re-Dedicated – Nov. 1954

Cornerstone Ceremony Held at Paris Church

Sesqui-Centennial News

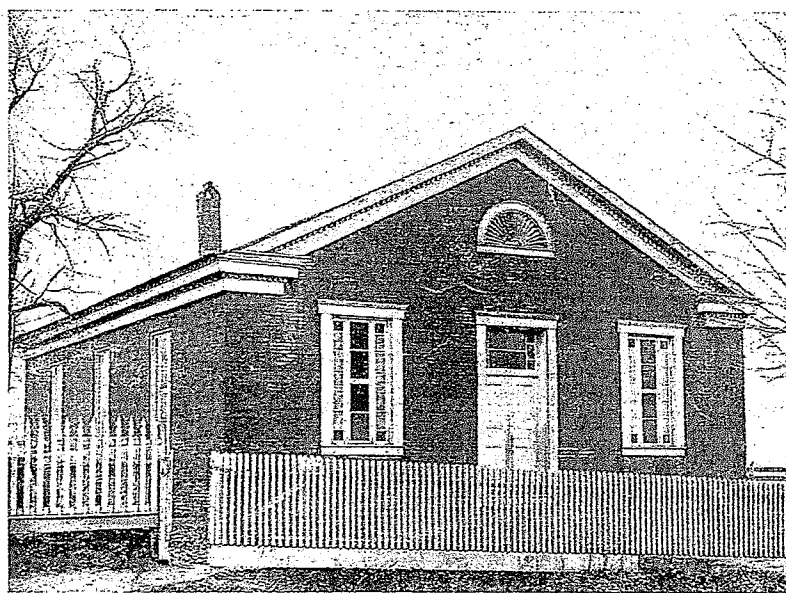
PARIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1790

October 20-27

1940

PARIS, PENNA.



THE OLD "THREE SPRINGS" CHURCH

A WONDERFUL WEEK

Condensed Program

SUNDAY, October 20—8:00 p. m.—Young People and Worship Night, Rev. S. G. Neal.

WEDNESDAY, October 23—Neighborhood Night. Greetings from various pastors. Address, R. M. Gibson.

THURSDAY, October 24—Home-Coming Day. Services, 10:30 a. m., 2:30 and 8:00 p. m. Addresses and letters of greeting. Address, 8:00 p. m., Rev. P. W. Macaulay.

FRIDAY, October 25—Historical Night. Pictures; address, Rev. E. B. Welsh.

SUNDAY, October 27—Dedication of new building. Services, 11:00 a. m., 2:30 and 7:30 p. m.

Visiting Choirs and Orchestras Will Assist in the Praise Services

Sesqui-Centennial News

Parish Presbyterian Church

1790

PARIS, PA.

1940

Published by Paris Church in order that the historical facts of the "Three Springs" Church may be preserved and that Christ may be honored and His cause advanced.

15 cents per copy.

OLD THREE SPRINGS

After an existence of 150 years as Three Springs Presbyterian Church, the name was changed, at a meeting held by the congregation in April, to the Paris Church. Presbytery approved the change. Considerable sentiment clusters around the old name "Three Springs" on account of the great revival which gave birth to the Church, and the splendid history of 150 years.

At this meeting, when the change of name was voted, it was decided to fittingly celebrate the 150th anniversary in October; and to make a birthday gift to the dear old Church of a new building.

A building committee and finance committee were named, and the work was begun.

Building Committee

Those composing the building committee were: A. C. Fulton, Ernest Freshwater, Fenton Gordon, Oscar Lyons, Iva Herrington, Mrs. R. L. Biddle, Coral Pugh, H. A. Lyons.

Finance Committee

Theodore Harrington, Alice Murchland, Mrs. W. P. Ferguson, Bertha Long, Jessie Ralston, Mrs. F. Gordon, Carrie Stephenson, Anna McKnight, Carrie Hanlin, Mrs. R. Sarchet.

The goal placed for the committee was the raising of \$100 each.

List of Committee for Sesqui

Program and Arrangements—Rev. R. L. Biddle, Oscar Lyons, Mrs. Esther Lyons, Jessie Ralston, Mrs. Bernice Gordon.

Music—Clyde Herrington, Clarence Long, Junior Stephenson, Myrtle Harrington, Ernest Myers.

Invitation—Mrs. W. P. Ferguson, Annie McKnight, Iva Herrington, Josephine Neely, Mrs. Ernest Freshwater.

Decorations—Alice Murchland, Mrs. R. L. Biddle, Mrs. A. C. Fulton, Merie Ferguson, Bertha Hanlin.

Finance—A. C. Fulton, Carrie Hanlin, Dale Lyons, Theodore Harrington, Wm. Call, Fenton Gordon.

Parking and Transportation—H. A. Lyons, Kenneth Call, Wm. Peters, James Herrington, Carl Hanlin.

Committee on Printing and Registration—Betty Neely, Helen Hanlin, Virginia Call, Ruth Long, Ruth Harris.

Ushers—Roy Hurd, Frank Hanlin, Austin Long, Kathleen Herrington, Anna Belle Ferguson.

Committee on Antique Display—Ada Fulton, Roma Hurd, Mrs. Rex Sarchet, Mary Selman, Elizabeth McDonald.

Committee on Lunch—Bertie Goodwin, Clara Hanlin, Carrie Stephenson, Coral Pugh, Iris Hurd.

History—Bertha Long, Jennie Herrington, Ross Aten, H. W. Hanlin, Mame Lockart.

With such a fine list of committees, the work of arranging for the celebration and dedication has gone forward smoothly. "For the people had a mind to work."

Consecration of Site and Breaking Ground

On Sunday afternoon, August 4, a large congregation assembled for the program of consecrating the site, and breaking ground for the new addition to the Church. Dr. Biddle presided over the program, which consisted of special music, the choir being assisted by the Union High School Band, and addresses delivered by Dr. E. Gardner, Rev. D. S. Vance, Rev. K. Logan Barnes, Mr. Russell of the Pomona Grange and Prof. Campbell of Hollidays Cove. All then marched to the site for the ceremony, which consisted of a Litany, prepared by the pastor, prayer, singing of "Blest Be the Tie", and "Work for the Night is Coming", closing by the benediction by Rev. D. S. Vance.

* * *

ROLL of HONOR

The first contribution to the building fund was made by the Aid Society and consisted of \$500.00. The second was \$100.00 by Miss McKnight's Sunday school class, "The Loyal Workers". It was decided to print an "Honor Roll", to consist of names of all who contributed a penny to the building fund. We are not giving the amounts, just the names. This list is growing constantly. We print the names as of October 13. This list will be repeated in our next publication after dedication, probably November 30. We will see how many new names are added. There are at present 290 on the Honor Roll.

Jos. Bennett, Wm. C. Beall, Anna Beall, Rev. P. W. Macaulay, C. S. Cottrell, A. C. Fulton, Frank Stephenson, J. W. Saxton, Frank Zickefoose, Wm. E. Brammer, Leslie Caldwell, H. A. Lyons, Kenneth Call, Mrs. R. L. Biddle, Jennie Herrington, Wayne Neeley, Billy Peters, Rev. J. C. French, Rev. E. B. Welsh, Clyde Herrington, Iva Herrington, "A \$5 Friend", Susanna Biddle, Coral Pugh, Mrs. A. C. Fulton, Mrs. Clara Hanlin.

Esther Lyons, Flora Freshwater, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Peters, R. M. Fulton, Sarah E. Fulton, James Gardner, Fred Gardner, George Thomas, J. D. Neely, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Sarchet, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Lashorn, Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Len

Neely, Mr. and Mrs. Fred R. Smith, Clyde Neely, Mrs. C. W. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Call, R. M. Scott, Mrs. Dudley Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Calvert, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hanlin, Cyrus Hanlin, Carrie Hanlin, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hanlin, Sam. Hanlin, Harold C. Neely, Samuel Freshwater, Mrs. Bertha Long.

Annie McKnight, Mr. Cedar, Walt Pugh, Fenton Gordon, Oscar Lyons, Kenneth Call, Tom Conkle, D. Sharp, Elmer Swearingen, Frank Gardner, Wilber Neely, Bobby Call, Mary Neely, Roy Hurd, Weirton Steel Co., Frank White, Ernest Freshwater, Wm. Horstman, Frank Hanlin, Mr. McPeak, W. H. Fulton, Paul Barkhurst, Everet Gardner, W. P. Ferguson, Mrs. Chas. Greer, Rosina Truax, Lois Truax, Charlotte Mae Stewart, Mildred Lyons, Ruth Greer, Laura Greer, Loretta Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Dunkle, Marie Lyons, Donna Jean Melvin, Harold Melvin, Nellie Shreve, Jo Ann Simmons, Wanda Simmons, Billy Yoho.

Irene Kraeer, Sharon Yoho, Coral Yoho, Ella Mae Simmons, Frank Pappas, L. C. Stewart, Theodore Harrington, Myrtle Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, C. E. Society, Josephine Neely, Mr. Purdy, Mr. Moyer, Mr. Arnold, Mae Cleland, Helping Hand Class.

Fred Stephenson, R. M. Patterson, Florence Johnson, Robert Steen, E. S. Caldwell, Raymond Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Neely, Ernest Myers, John M. Scott, Lee and Wilson, Robert Cassiday, Mary V. Lockart, Frank Crothers, F. M. Barber, G. S. Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Neely, Aten Bros., Pat Freelan, George P. Hanlin, K. O. Gardner, O. C. Ewing, R. P. Gardner, Demer Stout, J. M. Loughhead, John Virtue, W. H. Fulton, Elizabeth Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Lewis, Charles Harlin, A. W. Norris, L. J. Yoho, Mrs. Hutchinson, Leland Ralston, Wilbert McDonald, A. C. Fulton, Evaline Colwell, Linn Bros., Edward Gorbay, Joseph Defolia.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Bohrer, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Truax, Mr. and Mrs. Fenton Gordon, Carl Hanlin, Mr. and Mrs. Simon J. Beagle, J. L. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cool, Mr. and Mrs. William Sarchett, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Brammer, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hanlin, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Aten, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Bainbridge, The Ward Baking Company, The Weir Cove Dairy Co., Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Hurd, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Murchland, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Alva (Ted) Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Williamson and the boys, Floyd Hanlin, Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Selmon, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Virtue, Mr. and Mrs. Ray W. Lytle, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lytle, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Freshwater, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hanlin, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barkhurst, Miss Paula Meyers, Roy Hurd and his folks, Miss Jessie Ralston, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Long, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Long, Mr. and Mrs. Carlin Long, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wells, Mr. Noble Long, Austin Long, Ward Long, Gordon Long.

Carrie Stephenson, Alice Murchland, Roma Hurd, Ada Fulton, Mrs. Roy Gardner, Coca Ferguson, Ida Loughhead, Lizzie McDonald, Jessie Ralston, Edna Lyons, Anna Mary Arnold, Rev. J. C. Teyssier, E. H. Vosburg, M. L. Vosburg, J. D. Vincenti, J. A. Vincenti, Irene Kraeer, Elizabeth Jackson, Rev. C. S. Thomas, Rev. Wm. V. Longbrake, Rev. S. W. Young, Rev. R. E. Carman, Betty Neely, Bertie Goodwin,

Kathlene Herrington, Mary Freshwater, Helen Hanlin, Iris Hurd, Junior Stevenson, Dona Murchland, Ruth Long.

Isn't this a fine list of names? It is not complete though. All of the committees did not get to report. Other names will appear in next issue, with these.

* * *

HIGH SPOTS of HISTORY

The first mention of Three Springs Church in the records of Redstone Presbytery was in 1790, when supplies were sent to preach on the third Sabbath of each month. The first settled pastor was the Rev. Elisha Macurdy, who began work in 1799 in connection with the King's Creek Church, now Florence. After 25 years of faithful service he was released from Three Springs in 1824.

Pastors

Succeeding Dr. McCurdy in 1826, came Rev. Samuel Reed; then Rev. Richard Brown in 1832, followed by Rev. R. M. White in 1837. Rev. J. Work Scott supplied the pulpit while conducting an academy at Steubenville, Ohio, in 1844-45. Rev. Geo. Gordon came in 1846, to be followed by Rev. John Y. Calhoun in 1854, who remained eight years. Then Rev. J. F. Magill was supply for two years, followed by Rev. D. H. Laverty, '63 to '65. Rev. John B. Graham was pastor of Three Springs and the Cove for 12 years, or till 1878, when Rev. Wm. I. Brugh, D.D. was in charge for nine years, when Rev. A. B. Lowes became Stated Supply in 1889, to be succeeded by Rev. Cyrus Allen, who served for more than 40 years or till his death, in 1934. Rev. H. D. Beatty served as stated supply for a year, till the present pastor, Rev. R. L. Biddle, D.D., was installed July 11, 1935.

Three Churches

Three Springs had three churches. The first was built of logs, on the Campbell tract in Brook Co., Va., four miles from the Ohio river. In about 1804 the site was changed to a point two miles southeast from this, where a stone building was erected. In 1846 the territory was divided, part going to Holidays Cove, where there is now the great Cove Presbyterian Church. Soon the stone church was abandoned and a new site chosen in the village of Paris, Pa. This was in 1857, when the present brick building was erected.

Sons Enter the Ministry

Rev. James M. Maxwell, D.D., for many years pastor at Monongahela City, Pa., entered the ministry from this Church; also Rev. Josiah Welch, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Rev. Howard N. Campbell, sons, became notable ministers. They have all passed to their reward.

Ruling Elders

At the time of Dr. McCurdy's settlement as pastor, the Elders were John G. Young, Wm. Lee, John Wylie, John Orr.

Owing to the loss of the Sessional records by fire, a complete list of Elders is lacking. It is believed the following is nearly, if not altogether, complete. In addition to those mentioned, there are Andrew Henderson, Samuel Maxwell, Thomas Orr, Robert Wylie, James Campbell, James Kincaid, Sam-

(Concluded on page 4)

HIGH SPOTS OF HISTORY

(Concluded from Page 2)

nel Archer, Joseph Ralston, James Finley, James Ralston, John Wylie, Joseph Lyons, Jerome L. Hopkins, George W. Campbell, John Cochran, Joseph Ralston, Enoch Hayes, Wm. Buchanan, Wm. McCabe, S. D. Lockhart, David A. Lyons, George A. Lockhart, W. S. Ralston, R. M. Fulton. Coming to our present Elders: Oscar Lyons, Clyde Herrington, Mrs. W. P. Ferguson, Theodore Harrington.

Five years ago, the term of Eldership was changed from the life term to the rotary system.

During the 150 years there have been welcomed into the Church more than 2000 members. The future is bright for little Paris Church, for many good people are moving into our beautiful community.

Elisha Macurdy

No history of Paris Church would be complete without a brief mention at least of the life and labors of the first pastor, Dr. Elisha Macurdy. If you stop some time at Florence Church and walk back into the graveyard, you'll find his grave near the fence to the right. On the flat stone, worn by the storms of 95 winters since his body was laid to rest under it, you can read "In Memory of Rev. Elisha Macurdy - Born October 15, 1765." Ordained and installed June, 1800. Minister of the Gospel 46 years. Died July 22, 1845.

Three Springs, now Paris, and Kings Cr., now Florence, are the only churches over which he was installed. Here he served out his notable ministry. The movement with which the name of Macurdy will forever be associated is what is called the "Great Revival", which swept over the country in the early part of the 19th century. It is said to have started in Macurdy's Three Springs congregation, where devout women met in ardent prayer. Just as the sun was setting each one of this praying band was to engage in silent or audible prayer.

After retiring, he lived in Pittsburgh. Just a little while before his death, he was addressing a company of ministers and elders in the First Church of Pittsburgh, urging them to personal testimony and prayer, attributing the outbreak of the Great Revival in a large degree to this praying band, and the intercessions of a "wrestling Jacob"—one of his elders, Phillip Jackson, with whom he used to pray in the forest thickets.

In our next publication, we will give an interesting chapter of McCurdy's life.

LETTERS

Letters are coming in from friends who had been invited to our Sesqui Centennial occasion. These will be read at our Home Coming service, and some, if not all, will appear in our November issue. Can enclose one or two:

One From Dr. McCartney:
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixth Avenue - Pittsburgh, Pa.

October 15, 1940

The Reverend R. L. Biddle
Florence, Pennsylvania
Dear Friends:

In behalf of the First Church, it is a pleasure to send you our greetings and salutations on the occasion of the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Paris Presbyterian Church.

Your Church is notable because of its association with that great man of God, Elisha Macurdy, who took such a prominent part in America's greatest spiritual movement, the Great Revival of the first decade of the nineteenth century. He was also one of the chief founders of Princeton Theological Seminary. I recall reading of him and his praying elder, Jackson, who went out into the thicket to pray for God's blessing.

May the Holy Spirit use your Church for the Kingdom of God in the years to come, as He has in the years gone by. "Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee."

Faithfully yours,

C. E. Macartney.

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

October 15, 1940

Rev. R. L. Biddle
and the Paris Presbyterian Church
Florence, Pa.

Dear Friend:

It is with deep regret that previous engagements make it utterly impossible to be with you on October 27 for the dedication service. May I extend to you my very sincerest greetings, personal appreciation of yourself and will you extend to the church my regrets and also convey to them my heartiest well wishes for a continued future of usefulness in service.

Cordially yours,

A. B. Keeler, Secretary
Building Aid Funds

ABK:K

The following was clipped from the Burgettstown Enterprise:

Rev. R. L. Biddle, pastor of the Florence and Paris Presbyterian Churches, is in receipt of a letter from Joseph Bennett of West Los Angeles, Calif., which contained a contribution of money for the Paris Building Fund.

Mr. Bennett, who resided in Hanover township many years ago, says in part: "I read your letter over several times, thinking of your wonderful work for the Paris Presbyterian Church and the Paris community. I went to see a life long friend of mine, William C. Beall, who makes his home here and is the son of the late William Beall, Sr., one of the old members of the Paris U. P. Church away back as far as 1860, and in this church little Willie Beall and the little Jew peddler, Joe Bennett, went to this U. P. Church and to their Sunday school together, and Reverend Cooper used to be the minister and our Sunday school teacher. This Willie and I used to be in the same Sunday school class, so we both considered it a great privilege and a pleasure that you gave us the opportunity to send you some money and we thank our God that we are able to contribute to this worthy cause. Therefore, please find enclosed two checks for \$25 each for the building fund of your little church.

"Wishing you abundant success in your noble cause for humanity and wishing you God's richest

(Concluded on page 7)

LETTERS

(Concluded from Page 4)

blessings, we remain your most sincere friends, Joseph Bennett and William C. Beall. Please tell your congregation that I hope they will remember me as the little Jew peddler that used to be in their community 58 years ago and I have not forgotten the wonderful treatment which I received from your congregation, who were real Christians."

A subsequent letter from Mr. Bennett encloses \$5.00 for the "Mile of Pennies" and states that his friend, Mr. Beall, and wife, are starting for Pennsylvania, and will no doubt attend some of the exercises of our "Wonderful Week."

FINANCING

It seemed a large undertaking for our little band, to put an addition, so badly needed, of 52x30 feet to our present building. The architect said it would cost in the neighborhood of \$9000. The lowest bid we received was for \$8987. The building committee changed plans some: left out some things at present, hired a good foreman carpenter, and bought materials to best advantage. We got through for about \$6000, of which we apply to the Board of National Missions for a loan of \$2000. If granted, the amount will be from a fund to be loaned to small churches without interest, on a 10-year mortgage. The Aid Society is willing to assume its payment.

It is wonderful how people donated material and labor. We named a committee of 15 men, none of whom were members of Paris Church, to be known as Honorary Members of the Building Committee. This committee consisted of Frank Stephenson, J. Wallace Saxton, Wm. E. Brammer, Frank Ziekefocse, Wm. Horstman, W. P. Ferguson, Walt Pugh, Roy Gardner, Leslie Caldwell, Clarence Long, C. S. Cattrell, Frank Neely, Rex Sarchet, John Neely, Dennis Sharp.

THE MILE OF PENNIES

A class of girls of the Sunday school was named to conduct a "Mile of Pennies." Fifteen girls were named. Papers placed in their hands to get 40 names each of people who were willing to give a penny a day for 150 days—to be paid monthly. Sixteen pennies make a foot, 5280 feet make a mile, 16 times 5280 make \$844.80. A large chart is on the wall, showing the weekly advance toward the goal. Red envelopes are placed in the hands of friends each month, marked "Mile of Pennies".

The following are names of girls: Betty Neely, Helen Hanlin, Virginia Call, Ruth Long, Mary Freshwater, Iris Hurd, Ruth Harris, Kathleen Herrington, Anna Bell Ferguson, Dona Murchland, Eilene Horstman, Mary Louise Smith, Avis Williams, Helen Mae Koethe, Rosina Truex.

It is ourselves that we cannot forgive, when we refuse forgiveness to friends. Some strand of our own misdoings is involved in every quarrel.—Stevenson.

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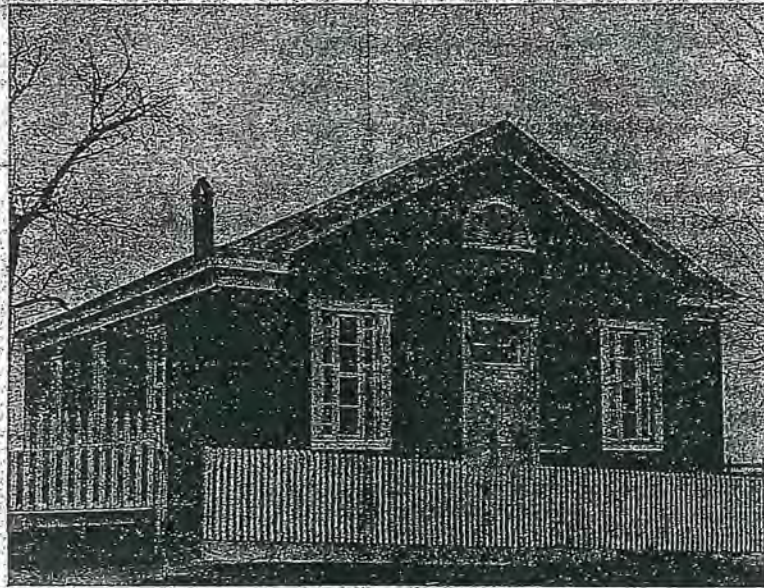
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PARIS PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION WILL BUILD ADDITION TO CHURCH GROUND-BREAKING TO BE HELD SUN.



The congregation of the Paris Presbyterian church will hold proper ceremonies on Sunday afternoon at two o'clock when ground will be broken for an addition to the church edifice. Calvert Lyons, president of the Board of Trustees of the congregation, which has been continuously in existence since 1790, more than 150 years, will break ground for a T-shaped wood and composition structure, which will be 52 by 30 feet, and will be used for Sunday school purposes and as a recreational and social center for church activities.

Rev. R. L. Biddle, who has been pastor to the church for the past five years reports that the growing congregation now boasts a membership of 60 families with a Sunday school enrollment of 150 young people. When Rev. Biddle assumed charge of the pastorate following the death of Dr. Cyrus Allen about five years ago, the church membership was but 20 families. Previous to his death, Dr. Allen had faithfully served the congregation as pastor for more than forty five years.

The Paris Presbyterian church was originally organized in 1790 as the Three Springs Presbyterian church, and just this past year became known as the Paris Presbyterian church. The

present brick church was built in 1857.

Rev. Biddle will preside at the ceremonies and will be assisted by the various organizations of the church. Addresses will be made by Rev. H. O. Gardner of McDonald, Rev. D. S. Vance of Cross Creek and Rev. Logan Barnes of Hollidays Cove. Appropriate music will be furnished by the Union high school band, led by O. Glenn Aiken.

Plans for the addition have been drawn up by Architect J. F. Busse of Pittsburgh, who estimates the cost at about \$5000. Andrew Fulton has been named chairman of the building committee and the men of the church have pledged themselves to give material assistance in labor in the building. The Ladies Aid Society through their president, Mrs. Jessie Ralston have pledged the sum of \$500 toward the building cost. Rev. Biddle has been elected treasurer of the building fund.

The congregation is receiving valuable aid from the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian church, which will loan the congregation \$1.00 for every \$2.00 invested, without interest charges for a period of 10 years.

150TH ANNIVERSARY

Paris Presbyterian Church will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its organization late this month with a week long program that will conclude with the dedication of a large new addition to the church building.

The sesqui-centennial celebration will open Sunday, October 20, and will include a homecoming service to be held Thursday, October 24.

The dedication of the enlarged church is to be held Sunday, October 27.

Plans for the dedication were made this week when a delegation of ministers representing Washington Presbytery met with the Rev. R. L. Biddle, pastor of the church. Representing the Presbytery were, Rev. John C. Teyssier, of Laboratory; Rev. William Longbrake, of Claysville; the Rev. S. W. Young, of Van Buren, and the Rev. C. S. Thomas, of Hickory.

The size of the church building has been doubled by a large addition to the rear, necessitated by growth of the congregation and the community by the church. The main floor of the addition will be used for Sunday School, services and social activities. Under it has been dug a cellar in which the church's first furnace has been installed.

**Paris Presbyterian Church
Celebrates 150th Anniversary
Burgettstown Enterprise- October 10, 1940 Edition**

IMPRESSIVE SERVICES MARK SESQUICENTENNIAL AT PARIS PRESB. CHURCH

The closing song, "God Bless America" sung by Mrs. Wayne Culley of Burgettstown, and the benediction by Rev. C. S. Thomas of Mt. Prospect Presbyterian church brought to a close, what was well named "A Wonderful Week" in Paris Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Biddle and his loyal flock, were celebrating the Sesqui-Centennial or 150th birthday of their church. Five months ago, it was decided by the congregation, to fittingly celebrate the occasion, so 11 committees of 6 each were named to be in charge of the whole affair. The following chairmen of committees were named: Arrangements, Rev. R. L. Biddle; Music, Clyde Herrington; Invitation, Mrs. W. P. Ferguson; Decorations, Alice Murchland; Finance, A. C. Fulton; History, Bertha Long; Parking and Transportation, H. A. Lyons; Printing and Registration, Betty Neely; Antique Display, Ada Fulton; Lunch, Bertie Goodman; Ushering, Roy Hurd.

The celebration got a good start last Sunday evening which was known as "Worship Night" when Rev. S. G. Neal of Clinton brought an inspiring message.

One special feature of this service was the special music, furnished by the orchestra of the Mt. Pisgah Sunday School with A. J. Fordebacker as director. It had been decided to register the name of each person attending any service during the week. The registrations obtained by the Committee on this first evening numbered 140. The total registration was near 500; while the total attendance during the week was 1400.

Wednesday evening was known as "Neighbor Night". The names of Neighbor churches were called and representatives stood up to be counted. Then some one, either the pastor or some one else, brought the greetings from the church. The following churches brought their greetings: Pleasant Valley Methodist, Tucker M. E., Eldersville and Bethel M. P. Frankfort U. P., Langeloth and Tent U. P., Raccoon Presbyterian Frankfort Springs Presbyterian, Burgettstown First, and Westminster Presbyterian and First U. P., Cross Creek, Mt. Prospect and Florence Presbyterian, which church is recognized as the Mother of Paris church. The largest delegation was from the Presbyterian church of Hollidays Cove which is recognized as a twin-sister, being also 150 years old.

The address of the evening was by Richard M. Gibson of Mt. Lebanon, Pittsburgh, who used as his subject "The duty and beauty of Loyalty".

Thursday was the great day of the feast, known as "Home Coming" with services at 10:30 a. m., 2:30 and 8 p. m. Ladies served lunch at midday and evening. In the morning the address of Welcome was delivered by Clyde Herrington, which was responded to by J. D. Marsh of Carnegie. Then followed many greetings and reminiscent talks from former members. Some touching, some amusing. The high spot of the morning was the address of Mrs. W. E. Allen of Pitts-

burgh. In her remarks she paid an eloquent tribute to Rev. C. G. Allen who for 44 years had been pastor of the Paris church. Her husband, Rev. W. E. Allen, who for a time was pastor of Frankfort Springs, was a brother of C. G. Allen.

Thursday afternoon brought together a fine company of friends. Greetings from former members and friends were read. Short addresses followed by Rev. C. H. Beak of Eldersville, and Rev. H. W. Strobel of East Butler. The Moderator of General Assembly, Dr. Young had sent a Message, as had the Moderator of the Synod, Dr. W. W. McKinney. The Moderator of Presbytery, Rev. J. C. Teyssier was present and delivered a stirring address. Rev. R. B. Carman, the one appointed to bring the greetings of Washington Presbytery, was listened to with interest. The afternoon was closed with a touching address by Mrs. Allen.

The evening hour found the church crowded to hear Rev. P. W. Macaulay of Cleveland, O. Rev. Macaulay was a pastor at Florence and Frankfort Springs 25 years ago and has every body as his friend. He was exceedingly happy in his address.

Friday night was "Historical Night" and again saw a large gathering. Prof. Charles Campbell of Hollidays Cove brought the local history in an interesting 20 minute address. He was followed by Rev. E. B. Welsh, D.D. of Coraopolis who spoke on the early history of Presbyterianism in Western Pennsylvania. His address was most interesting, made more so by the pictures shown.

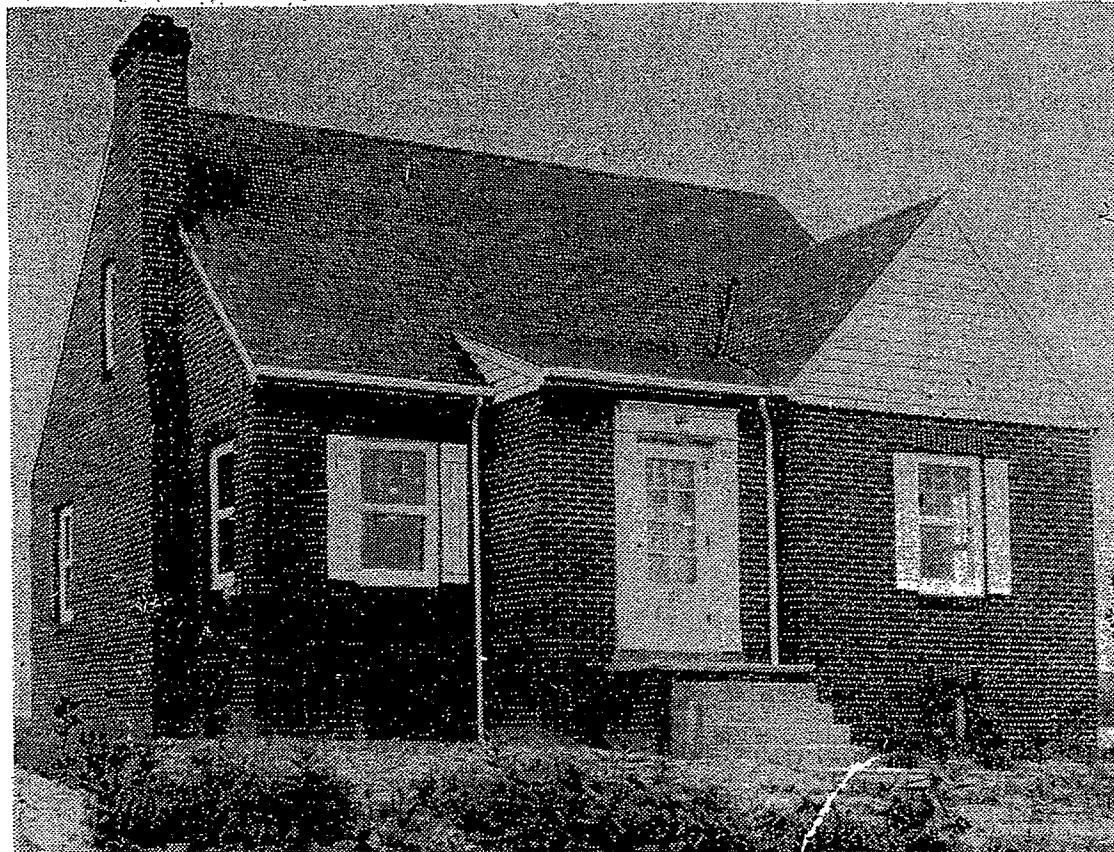
Sunday was Dedication Day, and brought together the whole country side. At 11 a. m. Dr. Biddle, the pastor, assisted by Rev. J. C. French who brought the Message, performed the solemn ceremony of dedication of the new annex to the present building. The large congregation stood reverently, as the officers came forward and knelt as the building was given to God in Prayer.

At 2:30 in the afternoon the Fraternal meeting was held when many three minute congratulatory addresses were heard by laymen and ministers. The praise part of this service could hardly be excelled. An orchestra of 14 instruments directed by Karl W. Niekamp of Wellsburg, W. Va. gave a Sacred concert, in connection with the service. The choir from the Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian church, to the number of 16 assisted the local choir, rendering four selections. Rev. W. H. Flurkey was with Dr. Biddle in the pulpit, pronouncing the benediction.

The evening closing session was again delighted by the special music of the orchestra under Mr. Niekamp. There were solos also by Mrs. Wayne Culley and Clayton Stemple of Crafton. The sermon was by Rev. C. S. Thomas of Hickory who brought the greetings of the Mt. Prospect Presbyterian church. Thus came to a close perhaps the most wonderful week of old "Three Springs Presbyterian Church" 150 years history.

**Paris Presbyterian Church
Burgettstown Enterprise
October 31, 1940 Edition**

Manse Completed at Paris Church



WORK has been completed on the \$13,500 brick building which will serve as a manse for the Presbyterian Church at Paris, Pa. The church was established in 1790 by Rev. Elisha McCurdy and the present edifice was erected in 1857. The congregation has requested assignment of a full-time pastor.

House Erected For \$13,000

Presbyterians Seek Full-Time Minister

PARIS, Pa., Aug. 8.—The new Paris Presbyterian manse is completed. All it needs now is a pastor. The congregation has been hoping that since living quarters have been set up it will be easier to obtain a minister.

The last permanent pastor was Rev. Given T. Kurtz who served from 1944 to 1947. The first minister was the immortal Elisha McCurdy, who served in 1790. The congregation was at that time identified as the Three Springs Church. In about 1846 the Three Springs congregation was divided, some to go to Paris and others to organize the Cove Presbyterian Church. The church was built in Paris in 1857.

Paris church has been served in the past two years by supply pastors. Students of Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, take

charge here ordinarily. Rev. J. L. Biddle of Old Concord, Pa., will be here for the communion services Aug. 14. He was pastor here prior to Rev. Kurtz. The Manse Biddle Women's Missionary Society is named after the late Rev. Biddle.

\$7,500 Raised

Cost of building the manse was approximately \$13,000. The congregation had raised \$7,500 before starting construction. It is located near the church. The contractor was Robert Shaffer of Woodlawn Estates. Theodore Harrington, building committee chairman, had as his assistant Clyde Herrington, Fenton R. Gordon, William Wright, Alice Murkland and the trustees of the church: Carl Utz, Frank Hanlin, Albert Moredock, Fenton Gordon, W. B. Wright and U. P. Ferguson and Edward Suplee.

The congregation which now numbers 100 has seen rapid strides in the past ten years. The Sunday School enrollment is over 200. Bible School this summer conducted by Burt Jones, a seminary student, was attended by 7 children. Sunday School is held each Sunday at 10 a.m. and worship services at 11. Christian Endeavor meets each Sunday afternoon and prayer services are held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Ferguson Chairman

Mrs. W. P. Ferguson is congregational chairman. Other officers are: Mrs. Clyde Herrington, secretary; Carl Utz, treasurer; Mr. Clara Hanlin, financial secretary; and Mrs. Theodore Harrington, pianist. Sunday School officers are: Clyde Herrington, superintendent; Mrs. W. H. Horstman, junior superintendent; Jessie M. Truex, secretary; Crawford Cameron, treasurer; Mrs. Walt George, senior Dept., pianist; and Mrs. Theodore Harrington, Junior Dept. pianist.

The Sunday School annex, 30 by 52 feet, was added to the church in 1940. In the past few weeks the Paris Grange members have their community project clean and repainted the exterior and equipment of the church annex. Funds were supplied by the grange. The committee of the grange which worked with the trustees and elders in the project were Mrs. John Fletcher, Mrs. Margaret Schumacher, and Mrs. Clyde Herrington. Harold Hoop heads the grange. Elders of the church, Mrs. Carl Utz, Mrs. W. Ferguson, William Horstman, Clyde Herrington and Theodore Harrington and the trustees are now making plans to improve the church exterior.



PARIS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Founded in 1790

as

Three Springs Presbyterian Church

and

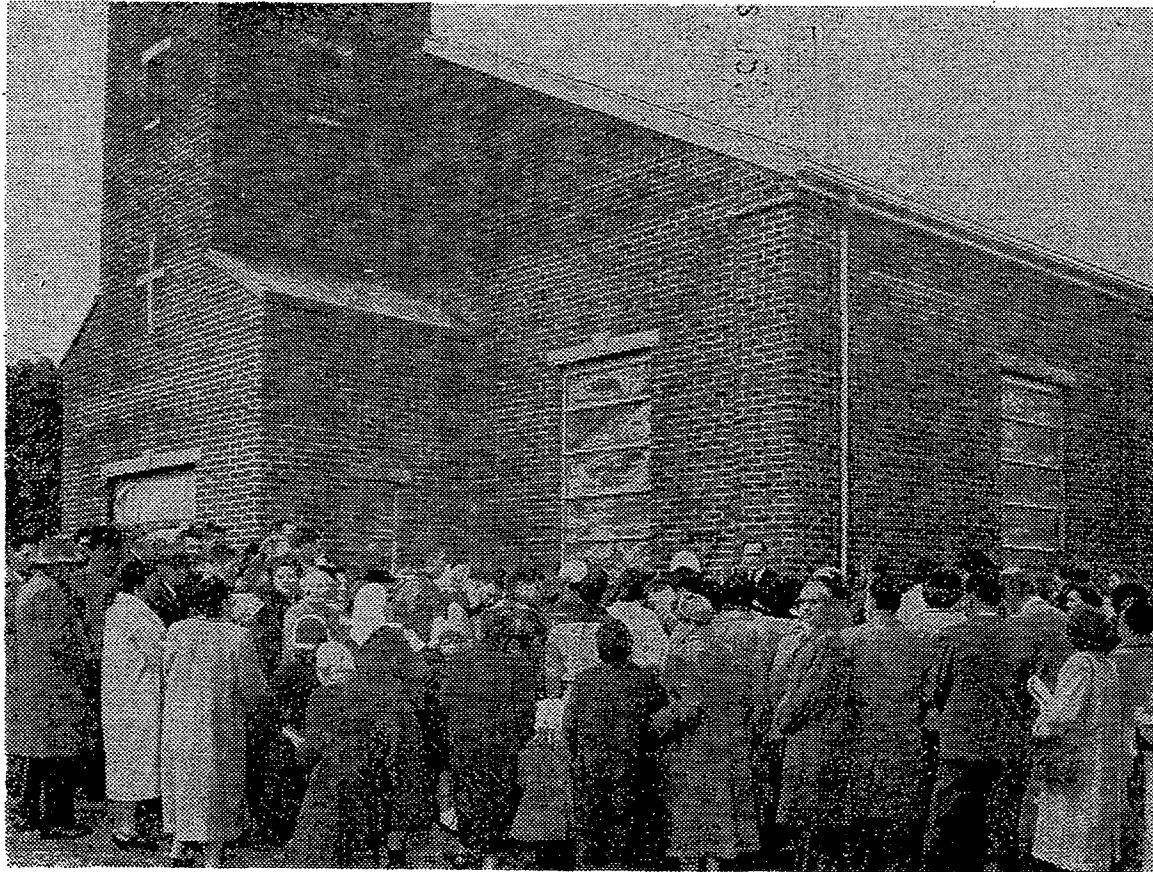
Remodeled in 1954

“We are laborers together with God; Ye are God’s husbandry, God’s building.”

I Corinthians 3:9

Re-Built Paris Church Is Re-Dedicated

PARIS CHURCH HAS INTERESTING HISTORY



The ritual of the placing of the corner-stone at the re-built Paris Presbyterian church was a solemn occasion last Sunday morning, when members of the congregation gathered with their pastor, David Haines (center background) to participate in this historic event. Mr. Haines, who will be ordained as a minister and formally installed as their pastor Friday even-

ing, November 12 at 7:30 o'clock said "I know I speak for every member of the Paris Presbyterian church, past and present, when I say with the Psalmist

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

Our hearts are almost overwhelmed by the strength and beauty found in this, the temple of God. And now, as we contemplate

the goodness and bounty of Him 'from whom all blessings flow' we ask all of you to join with us in worship and in thanksgiving to Him who gave it."

Special services are being held each evening in the church in commemoration of the occasion including the dedication, also, of a new organ on Sunday evening, November 7 at 7:30 o'clock.

John Cooke, chairman of the church unfolds an interesting story of development and growth in this well known and historic house of worship at Paris, Route 22. A forerunner of the present day edifice was the first cabin, built on Weirton Heights in 1790 and known as the Three Springs church. Rev. Elisha Curdy was the first pastor in 1790. A second cut stone building was built on the present site of Three Springs cemetery in 1846 and in 1846, the Cove Presbyterian church of Weirton, W. Va. was formed from Three Springs church. In 1857 the congregation moved to Paris and built the brick church, which has since been re-modelled. An annex was added to the rear of the sanctuary in 1940 and the name of the church was changed to Paris Presbyterian church in April of 1940. A manse was built in 1948 and a large lot east of the manse was purchased this year, for additional parking space.

All the remodeling work on the church, except the brickwork was done by members of the congregation and included the excavating for a new basement to the church, installing a new boiler, new hot water system, concrete floor, covered with phalt tile in the sanctuary, all new windows and doors. The interior of the church auditorium was entirely renovated with a new ceiling, new plaster and a chancel. The campaign to raise \$20,000, which began in November 1953 has been very successful to date \$15,000 has been pledged on a three year basis. The total cost of the remodeling was \$20,000 and new organ, purchased for \$2000.00 was a separate project made possible by additional donations. The work, now completed was begun in March 1954.

Paris Presbyterian Congregation Formed as Three Springs Church in 1790



Cornerstone Ceremony Held

WEIRTON, W. VA.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1954

At Paris Church Sunday



CORNER STONE LAYING services took place at the Paris Presbyterian Church Sunday, October 31. The service conducted by Pastor David Haines opens a week of religious services at the church and will include rededication, ordination and installation rites. The ritual of placing the corner-stone took place at the morning services.

—Times Photo by P. Tennant

Pastor Haines Participates in Ceremony

Practically all of the membership of the Paris Presbyterian Church was in attendance Sunday morning for the ritual of placing the corner-stone in the newly

The placing of the corner stone, yesterday by Pastor David Haines, who will be ordained and installed, Friday evening, November 12, was the start of religious services which will commence Sunday morning, November 7, and continue through Sunday November 14.

THE SERVICES will include the rededication of the church on November 7, at which time the newly purchased organ will be dedicated. A ~~installation~~ installation of the officers of the worship services are on the ar-

Most of the work in remodeling the church, which was done at an approximate cost of \$20,000 was done by the members of the rapidly growing congregation. The construction and remodeling activities commenced in March of this year, and only minor work remains to be done.

Section 3: Celebrating 175 years – 1790 to 1965

***PAGES from Program for 175th Anniversary Service
and Dedication Service August 22nd to 29th, 1965***

The Church Directory

History of church “Milestone of Faith”

175th Anniversary Service
and
Dedication Service

Paris United Presbyterian Church
Paris, Pennsylvania



August 22nd to 29th
1965



THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What can a minister say to those men and women, young people, and children, to whom he ministers, that has not been said before? When he comes upon what, to him is a new thought, he discovers it is only new because God has revealed it to him.

We are living in the one hundred seventy-fifth year of the founding of this church, Paris United Presbyterian Church. We come together to observe an anniversary. We read something of the standards of faith and life by which this church has lived. Then we think back over our own lives and see how the Lord has guided, and blessed, and helped us. Suddenly we realize that we are here today but by the grace of God. We rely on the same Word of God, the same Lord, the same Saviour, the same Holy Spirit, as did those who founded this church.

Generations of people have come and gone. Changes have come to the community, as well as to the nation. But, God's word to His people, His guidance, His mercy, His forgiveness, His love, are the same now, as then. We but follow in His way as we yield ourselves to His will and to His Spirit.

Truly, God has blessed us richly, here in this community. We must never forget that. What has been accomplished is a living memorial, not to people, but to their faith in God, which they used, and which has been increased and enriched by God who gave it.

May the Lord continue to bless us, His church, here in Paris, Pennsylvania, and may He continue to help us to live as His disciples.

JOSEPH L. HUNTER

THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION
for
THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ADDITION

Sunday, August 22, 1965

2:30 p.m.

ORGAN PRELUDE Mrs. Ted Harrington

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN NO. 364 "God of Our Fathers"

*THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*THE GLORIA PATRI

THE SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 3:14-21

THE AFTERNOON PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN NO. 8 "All Hail The Power"

THE OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE ANTHEM - "God's House" - Lynda P. Loucks - The Choir
Mrs. Samuel Lescalette, Director

THE PRESENTATION OF THE KEYS

Roy Hurd, Chairman of the Building Committee
Glenn Harrington, President of Board of Trustees
Henry Hess, Superintendent of the Church School

THE SERVICE OF DEDICATION (To be read responsively)

Beloved in Christ: God, our heavenly Father, having in His grace, which is in our Lord Jesus, brought to its completion our work of preparing for the honor of His name, this building where His gospel is to be truly taught, and prayer and praise offered unto Him; we are now gathered here in His name to dedicate this building to its proper and sacred use.

To the glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit;

We dedicate this building.

For the teaching of His Word, and the singing of His praise;

We dedicate this building.

For the guidance and the shaping of lives, with His help;

We dedicate this building.

That boys and girls, and men and women of future generations may come here to confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and be led in paths of purity and service;

We dedicate this building.

To Thee, our Father, we, the people of this church, and all who meet here with us, do dedicate ourselves anew, humbly seeking Thy guidance, and Thy help, and Thy strength, as we serve Thee together. Amen!

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION The Pastor

THE MESSAGE Rev. William C. Swartz, General Presbytery
Washington Presbytery

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION Rev. Wilbur H. Lyon
Assistant Pastor, Cove U. P. Church, Weirton, West Virginia.

HYMN NO. 140 "The Church's One Foundation"

*THE BENEDICTION

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE

Everyone is invited to the Church Social Room for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

Tuesday, August 24, 1965

7:45 p.m.

In The New Assembly Room

Devotions

Historical Pictures — A. D. White of Hickory, Pa.

Skit — The Senior Youth Fellowship

Music — The Junior Youth Fellowship

Pictures of the Church at Work

Historical Highlights — Mrs. Frank Bowman

In The Social Room:

Refreshments and Fellowship

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Wednesday, August 25, 1965

6:15 p.m.

In The Social Room:

Family Covered Dish Dinner — Planned by the Golden Rule
Class

Informal Singing at the Tables

In the Sanctuary:

7:30 p.m.

Singspiration Service — Song Leader, Sam Lescaliette
Organist, Mrs. Ted Harrington

Benediction

MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, August 29, 1965

11:05 a.m.

"O come let us sing unto the Lords let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." " Psalm 95:1

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN NO. 8 "All Hail the Power"

*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

*THE GLORIA PATRI

RESPONSIVE READING NO. 532 "The Gracious Invitation"

CHILDREN'S STORY "Aunt Emma's Happy Day"

*HYMN NO. 254 "Beneath The Cross of Jesus"

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 22:14-20

PRAYER

WELCOME TO VISITORS

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM — "God So Loved The World" John Stainer

MEDITATION — "Remember Me" Luke 22:19

*HYMN NO. 129 — "Break Thou The Bread" Stanzas 1 and 2

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*HYMN NO. 129 — "Break Thou The Bread" Stanzas 3 and 4

*BENEDICTION

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE

THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

PARIS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1790 — 1965

Sunday, August 29, 1965

2:30 p.m.

Elder James Harlan, Presiding

ORGAN PRELUDE

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN NO. 47 "Our God, Our Help"

*THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

*THE GLORIA PATRI

THE SCRIPTURE READING - Josh. 4:19-24 .. Elder Fred Michell
Cove United Presbyterian Church, Weirton, W. Va.

THE ANNIVERSARY PRAYER Rev. David Hare
Pastor, Florence United Presbyterian Church

CHORAL RESPONSE

WELCOME TO THE GUESTS James Harlan

GREETINGS FROM WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY

Rev. Paul R. Graham, Moderator
Pastor United Presbyterian Church, Canonsburg, Pa.

GREETINGS FROM FORMER PASTORS

GREETINGS FROM NEIGHBORING PASTORS

GREETINGS FROM WEIRTON MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Rev. John W. May, First Church of the Nazarene
President of the Association

LETTERS FROM FORMER MEMBERS

*HYMN NO. 219 "Faith of Our Fathers"

THE OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM - "O Mighty God, How Great Thou Art" Johnson

THE ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE "What Mean These Stones?"

Rev. Harry Rankin

Pastor, The United Presbyterian Church, Houston, Pa.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

*HYMN NO. 311 "Lead On, O King Eternal"

*THE BENEDICTION

*SILENT MEDITATION

*POSTLUDE

Everyone is invited to the Church Social Room for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Session

Harold C. Neeley, Sr. - Clerk

Clifford Ahrens	Harold Hooper
John R. Evans	John Hummel
Frank Hanlin	Walfred Pugh
James Harlan	Rev. Joseph L. Hunter, Mod
Henry C. Hess	

The Board of Deacons

Mrs. Tony Wray, Secretary	Mrs. J. H. Murchland, Treas.
Mrs. Gordon Comly	Stephen Rzepka
Donald Cummings	Mrs. Iva Smith
Mrs. James Donahoe	Mrs. W. B. Wright
Charles Harlan	Rev. Joseph Hunter, Mod.

The Board of Trustees

Glen A. Harrington, Pres.	James Riddel
Wallace Allen	George Schayes
Leroy Anderson	Frank Stone
James Reid	David Livingston
Roy F Hurd, Sec.	

The Church

Pastor	Rev. Joseph L. Hunter
Secretary to the Pastor	Mrs. Robert L. Jones
Chairman of Church Corporation	Roy F. Hurd
Treasurer	Mrs. John R. Evans
Financial Secretary	Miss Beverly Hurd
Organist	Mrs. Ted Harrington
Assistnat Organist	Mrs. W. B. Wright
Choir Director	Mrs. Samuel Lescallete
Custodians	Mrs Rose Yeater, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Henwood

The Sunday School

General Superintendent	Henry Hess
Assistant Superintendent	Roy Hurd
Primary - Junior Dept. Supt.	Mrs. Wm. Horstman
Asst. Primary - Junior Dept. Supt.	Mrs. Dwain Poland
Secretary	Teddy Harrington
Assistant Secretaries	Terry Comly, James Williams
Treasurer	Ted Harrington
Assistant Treasurer	Robert L. Jones

Librarian	Mona Lee Conley
Adult Dept., Pianist	Mrs. W. B. Wright
Adult Dept., Assistant Pianist	Mrs. Michael Burdette
Junior Dept. Pianist	Mrs. Ted Harrington
Nursery-Kindergarten Dept. Supt.	Mrs. Crawford Cameron
Kindergarten Teacher	Mrs. Sammie Tate
Nursery - 4 years of age	Lida (Penny) Watson
Nursery - Under 4 years	Mrs. Thomas Balt
Cradle Roll Superintendent	Mrs. Crawford Cameron

TEACHERS

Mrs. Iva Smith, Mrs. Edith Boley, Mrs. Dorothy Marshall, Crawford Cameron, Chester Conley, Henry Hess, Rev. Joseph Hunter, W. B. Wright, Mrs. Tony Wray, Roy Hurd, Mrs. William Horstman, Mrs. John Hummel, Ted Harrington, Mrs. Ted Harrington, John R. Evans, Beverly Hurd, Joyce Wilson, Mrs. Dwain Poland, Mrs. Sammie Tate, Penny Watson, Mrs. Thomas Balt, with Mrs. John Revay, Mrs. W. B. Wright, Mrs. Rose Yeater, Sue Tyo, James Harlan, David Livingston, Mrs. David Livingston and Robert Henwood as substitutes.

ORGANIZATIONS

Loyal Workers Class	Mrs. Albert Nardo, Pres.
Faithful Servants Class	David Livingston, Pres.
Mary Biddle Missionary Society	Mrs. Wm. Horstman, Pres.
Ladies Aid	Mrs. Wm. C. Ralston, Pres.
Senior Youth Fellowship	Sandra Hunter, Pres.
Junior Youth Fellowship	Ellen Cameron, Pres.

175th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Clifford Ahrns, Chairman

Mrs. J. H. Murchland
James Riddel

Mona Lee Conley
Rev. Joseph L. Hunter, Pastor

PARIS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Milestone of Faith"

Since the time of Plymouth Rock, our nation has always been God-fearing and freedom-loving. We have been a nation of churches.

Early pioneers that settled in Eastern U. S. began to cross over the mountains from Virginia, Eastern Pennsylvania, and the other colonies; many of them settled on Indian Creek (now Kings Creek) and on Harmon's Creek and on the ridges between. A few of them built their crude log cabins in the vicinity of Hollidays Cove, now Weirton, W. Va.

For some time these early settlers gathered together and held open-air worship services.

The first mention of Three Springs Church is found in the records of old Redstone Presbytery. The Rev. John Brice, of Forks of Wheeling, was appointed to preach here on the third Sabbath of November, 1790. There was occasional preaching at the little log church, but no regular pastor until 1799, when Rev. Elisha McCurdy (Macurdy) was called to be the joint pastor of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church (now Florence Presbyterian) and the Three Springs Church. Rev. McCurdy was ordained and installed as pastor of both churches, in June 1800 and continued as pastor of Three Springs until 1824 and at Cross Roads until 1835 when he resigned because of ill health. He died in 1845.

McCurdy, one of the most noted of the pioneer ministers, was a fearless preacher and had much to do with the founding of the Home and Foreign Boards of the Presbyterian Church. He rode hundreds of miles over Ohio and Michigan territory, holding conferences with Complanter and other Indian chiefs. He established many missions and even took part in the actual building of some of the mission buildings.

The name of Elisha McCurdy is linked particularly with the great Revival of 1802 which was first manifested in McCurdy's congregation at old Three Springs Church. The revival spread far and wide, influencing the religious outlook of the whole country. In the wake of this Revival came the Sunday School, the Missionary Movement, the Prayer Meeting, the Temperance Movement, and the Crusade against slavery.

Paris Presbyterian Church as we know it has had three different buildings as churches.

The first building used by the church was called Three Springs and was a log structure built in 1790 on the Campbell tract in an area containing three fresh water springs. Today homes occupy that site on Weirton Heights, and there is not the slightest trace of the old church nor of the cemetery where sleep the early members of the church. The recorded will of James Campbell, made in 1797, stated that five acres on which the church and cemetery were located was to belong to the congregation forever. It is not known how or why the land passed from the church's possession.

The congregation held worship in the little log church from 1790 until 1804 and then the site of the church was changed. A larger church was built in what is now Three Springs Cemetery at the top of Cove Hill. This building was of stone, had a sloping roof, and a pulpit high up on the wall. Just as they had been in the little log church, guns were stocked beside the church in case of Indian attack.

In 1940 the Cove Presbyterian Church, in memory of her Mother Church, erected a beautiful granite monument at the site of our second church in the present Three Springs Cemetery.

In 1846 a division occurred in the congregation. It is probable that the cause of the division was the desire of members of the congregation living in Hollidays Cove (now Weirton, W. Va.) to move the church to their village. Whatever may have been the cause, the Cove Presbyterian Church was established as a result. Today it is one of the great churches of this area.

About 1852 the stone church was abandoned and a new site chosen in the village of Paris, Pennsylvania. This was probably brought about by the fact that with the growth of population and improvement of roads, the Three Springs and the Cove Church were too close together; and also by the fact that the Pittsburgh Pike was becoming a much traveled road with expanding population. At any rate a new red brick building was constructed and dedicated in 1857 under the ministry of Rev. John Y. Calhoun. This was found to be an extremely well constructed building, during the remodeling operations in 1954.

In 1940 an annex was added to the rear of the church with basement of concrete block. The upper structure was of wood with composition siding, and the size was 30'x52'. In April of 1940 the name of our church was formally changed to Paris Presbyterian Church by request of the congregation and approval of Washington Presbytery.

In 1948 a modern red brick manse was built on the lot east of the church. In November 1953 under the leadership of Rev. David Haines, a fund raising campaign among members was started to raise \$20,000.00 for remodeling our church. Funds were payable on a three-year basis. This campaign was successful, and in March 1954 remodeling work was begun and the entire church structure, with the exception of the rear and west side of annex, was covered with brick veneer. This was in addition to the excavation and construction of a basement under the old brick sanctuary and extensive improvements, including new steel and concrete floor in the sanctuary, new windows and doors, and all new plaster, and new hot water heating system. In addition to the remodeling of the church structure the large vacant lot to the east of the manse was purchased for additional parking space.

At this time a new organ was purchased and dedicated. Later new pews were also purchased. A new piano was also donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Atkinson. In 1959 a new two car garage was erected of brick and block.

Due to our expanding congregation and the need for additional Sunday school rooms, the first building committee was appointed in 1960 to make a study of the layout and cost of erecting a Christian Education Addition. At this time a fund raising campaign was started in an attempt to raise \$18,000.00. Funds were made payable on a three-year basis. With no action taken for the building of the addition, a congregational meeting was called. However, due to a lack of finances, nothing was started at this time.

In 1961, a second Building Committee was appointed. The committee members were: Roy Hurd, Chairman; Paul Barkhurst, Secretary; Joe Pope, Joe Murchland, Barney Hanlin, Ray Tournay, Bob Caldwell and Delbert Robertson. Later, Bob Caldwell and Delbert Robertson withdrew.

On October 11, 1962, the mortgage was burned as the highlight of the evening at a family covered dish supper.

Groundbreaking services for the addition took place on May 12, 1963, and the actual building was begun on June 18, 1963.

Many individuals and organizations of our community deserve a special thanks. Weirton Steel Company donated the structural steel for the building. The steel was painted and erected by men of our congregation. Mr. Robert Goodall and Mr. Westlake donated the crane and the operator for the erection at no cost. Mr. Paul McDougal furnished the welding machine and contributed many hours of his own valuable time to help erect the steel and whatever else was necessary. Mr. William Vogel, a Pittsburgh roof contractor, installed the roof at the cost of material and labor, with no profit. Blueprints were drawn up and Mr. Lou Hoy, architect, stamped them so they passed the Pennsylvania state inspection, at no cost. Many, many hours of work were donated by men of the community who are not church members.

It became necessary for a loan to be made, and the transaction took place through the Hancock County Savings & Loan Association, to be paid in fifteen years at \$267 per month. Incidentally, this was the first loan to be granted a church in this loan company's history. The building is being paid for through the Building Fund and the General Treasury.

Chairs for the assembly room, as well as the piano, were purchased through contributions by various organizations and individuals.

The Christian Education Addition is 38'x60' and is constructed of block and brick with a built up roof, insulated plaster, and acoustic plaster on the ceiling. The two-floor addition consists of nine classrooms and a large room (approx. 15'x36') for the nursery group, as well as a large assembly room upstairs (20'x59'). This fireproof structure also has a new hot water heating system, steel and concrete floors with asbestos tile, and two modern restrooms with ceramic tile floors and walls.

In June, 1963, the dedication of the roadside marker designating the original location of the Three Springs Church was held. Representatives from both the Paris Church and the Cove Church, Weirton, W. Va.,

took part in the service. The inscription on the marker is as follows:

"Three Springs Church, site of original log Three Springs Presbyterian Church — 100 yards south. Built 1790 on land donated by James Campbell. Reverend Elisha Macurdy, first pastor, called 1799. Mother church of Cove and Paris United Presbyterian Churches."

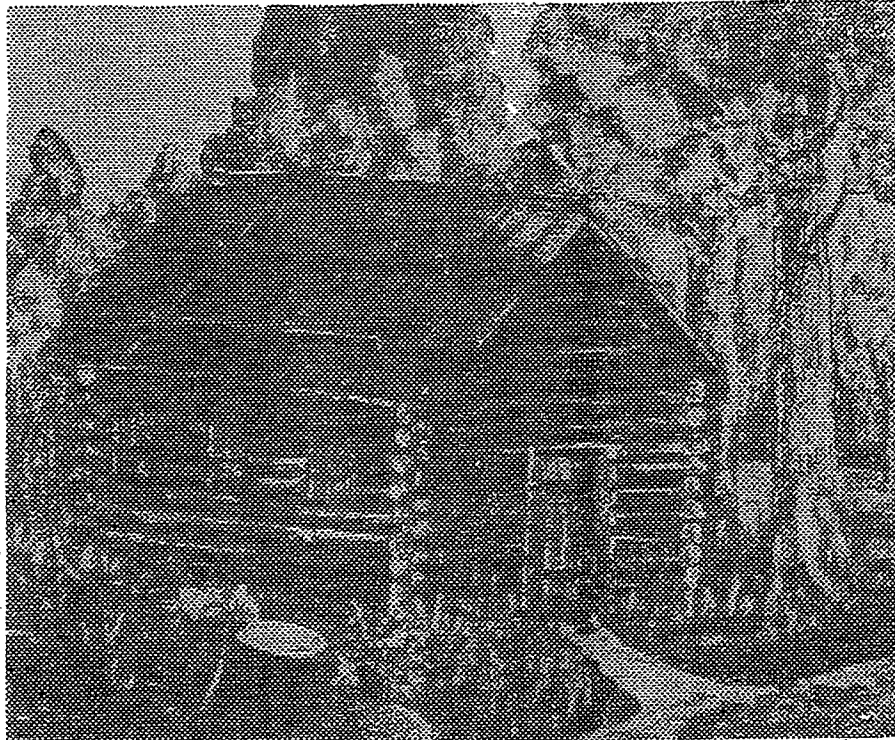
As we celebrate our 175th Anniversary, we have many things for which to be thankful. Indeed, one of our first "thank-you's" should go to the Rev. Joseph L. Hunter family, who have shown their faith and trust by laboring long and hard with us in this construction. This dedication of our Christian Education Addition seems truly to be a most fitting tribute to our growing faith in God and serves as another milestone of faith."

LIST OF PAST MINISTERS

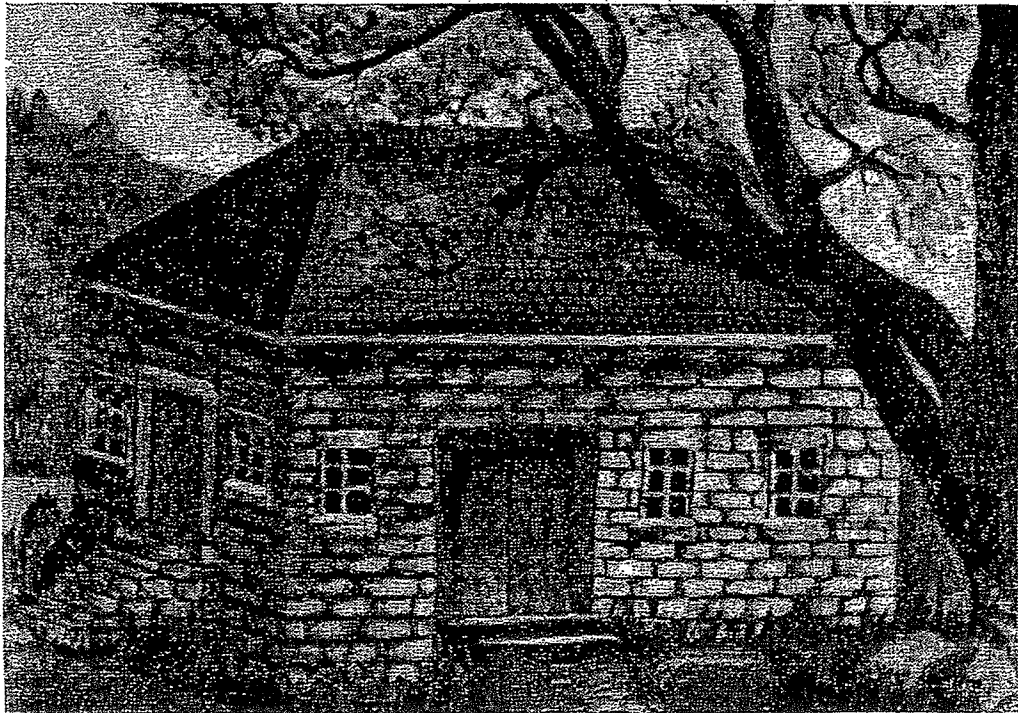
Reverend Elisha McCurdy	1799-1824
Reverend Samuel Reed	1826-1829
Reverend Richard Campbell	1829-1832
Reverend Richard Brown	1832-1836
Reverend Thomas McGill	1836-1837
Reverend R. M. White	1837-1842
Reverend John W. Scott	1842-1946
Reverend George Gordon	1946-1850
Reverend John Y. Calhoun	1854-1861
Reverend J. F. Magill	1861-1863
Reverend D. H. Lavery	1863-1865
Reverend John B. Graham	1866-1878
Reverend William Brugh	1879-1887
Reverend J. D. Spriggs	1887-1888
Reverend A. B. Löwes	1888-1889
Reverend Cyrus G. Allen	1890-1934
Reverend H. D. Beatty	1934-1935
Reverend R. L. Biddle	1935-1944
Reverend Given T. Kutz	1945-1947
Reverend Max Conley	1949-1951
Reverend Curtis H. Griffith	1952-1953
Reverend David A. Haines	1954-1957
Reverend J. Robert Phillips	1958-1961
Reverend Joseph L. Hunter	1961-

The Following men have become ministers from our church membership. All are now deceased:

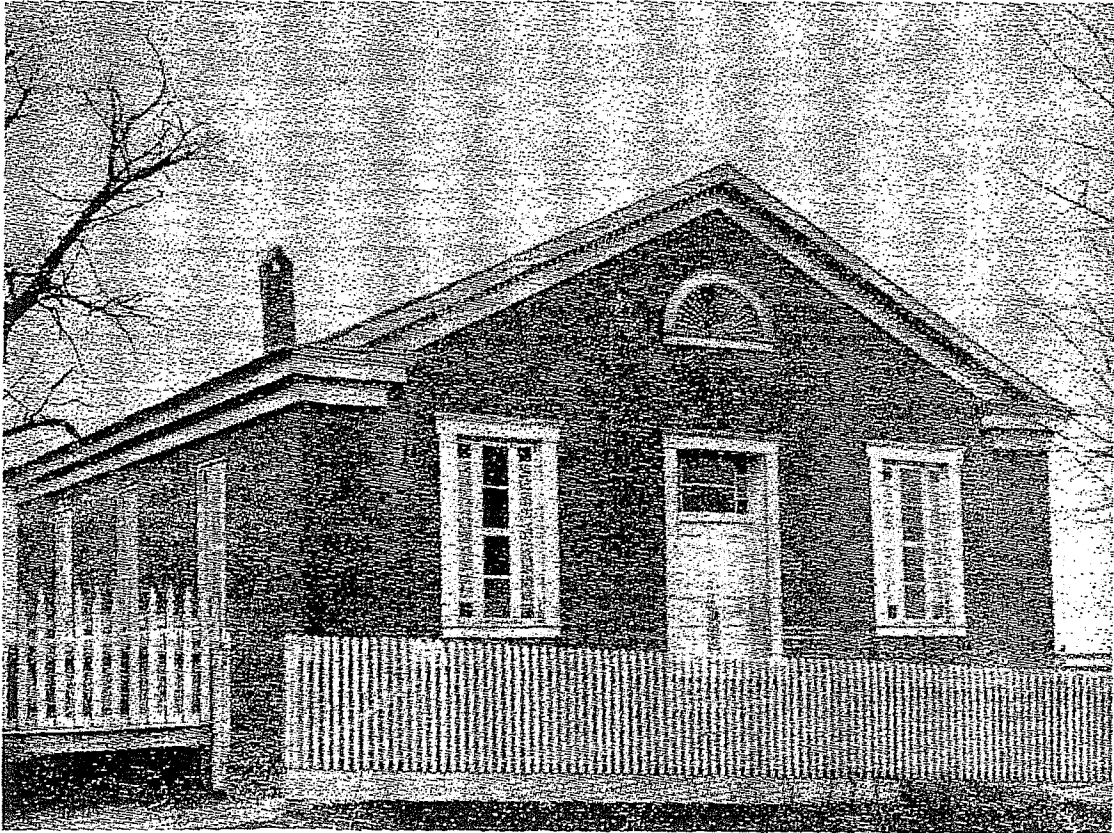
Reverend Hunt
Reverend James Maxwell, D. D.
Reverend Josiah Welch
Reverend Howard C. Campbell



First Church of Log Construction
16th Street, Weirton Heights
1790



Second Church of Cut Stone Construction
Three Springs Cemetery, Cove Hill
1804



Third Church of Red Brick
Paris, Penna.
1857

Section 4: Celebrating 200 years – 1790 to 1990

***A Short History of the Paris Presbyterian Church
200 Years and Beyond***

***(as it was written and published in the
1990 Directory of Paris Presbyterian Church)***

Article from Weirton Daily Times November 17, 1990

Article from Pennsylvania Focus November 12, 2005

A Short History of the Paris Presbyterian Church
200 Years and Beyond
(As it was written and published in the
1990 Directory of Paris Presbyterian Church)

Since the time of Plymouth Rock, our nation has always been God-fearing and freedom-loving. We have been a nation of churches.

In the late 18th century, the early pioneers who settled in the eastern part of the United States began to cross over the mountains from Virginia, Eastern Pennsylvania, and the other colonies. Many of them settled on Indian Creek (now Kings Creek) and on Harmon's Creek, and on the ridges in between. A few of them built their crude log cabins in the vicinity of Hollidays Cove which we now call Weirton, West Virginia.

To find the first mention of Three Springs Church, we need to go to the records of the old Redstone Presbytery. The Reverend John Brice, of Forks of Wheeling was appointed to preach here on the third Sabbath of November 1790. We still recognize that date as our birthday. There was occasional preaching at the little log church in those early years, but no regular pastor was on site until 1799, when Elisha McCurdy (Macurdy) was called to be the pastor of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church (now Florence Presbyterian) and the Three Springs Church. Reverend McCurdy was ordained and installed as pastor of both churches in June 1800, and he continued as pastor of Three Springs until 1824 and at Cross Roads until 1835, when he resigned because of ill health. He died in 1845.

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The name of Elisha McCurdy is inextricably linked with the great Revival of 1892, which first showed itself in McCurdy's congregation at old Three Springs Church. The revival spread far and wide, influencing the religious outlook of the whole country. In the wake of this Revival came the Sunday School, the Missionary Movement, the Prayer Meeting, the Temperance Movement, and the Crusade against slavery.

The Paris Presbyterian Church as we know it has had three different buildings as churches.

The first building used by the Three Springs congregation was a log structure built in 1790 on the Campbell tract in an area containing three fresh water springs. Today homes occupy that site on Weirton Heights, and there is not a trace of the old church, nor of the cemetery where the early members of the church are buried. The recorded will of James Campbell, made in 1797, stated that the five acres on which the church and cemetery were located belonged to the congregation forever. It is not known how nor why the land passed from the church's possession.

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Hill. This building was of stone, had a sloping roof, and a pulpit high up on the wall. Just as had been the case in the little log church, guns were stocked beside the church in case of an Indian attack.

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“Three Springs Church 100 yards south is site of original log
Three Springs Church. Built 1790 on land donated by James
Campbell. Elisha Macurdy first pastor called Nov. 1799. The
Mother Church of Cove and Paris United Presbyterian Churches.”

But what makes a history of the people of God? What makes the history of the Paris Church so memorable? We believe it is the people, groups, and events that have added meaning to our corporate life in the past. We lovingly remember some of those people in this addendum to our history from 1965.

Some random memories include: the pot-belly stoves used to warm hands and feet and dry out wet clothes. Josephine Neely and Clara (Peggy) Hanlin taking care of the fire; Outdoor Christmas pageants during the pastorate of Reverend Hunter; Men's breakfasts, which still take place each second Sunday of the month at 8:00 am; Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; the Paris Garden Club; and a well-deserved reputation for being a singing church.

One of the groups that still meets regularly is the Loyal Workers Class, which was organized in 1934. Their first teacher was Annie McKnight, who is buried in the Paris Cemetery. The class still keeps flowers on her grave. Other teachers were Eula Daugherty and Esther Lyons. It was one of the largest Sunday School classes, and it donated a lot of time and money to the church. The class stopped having Sunday School classes for a while, but they still had their monthly class meetings the first Thursday of each month at the church. Since then, Mary Lou Williams, Sunday School Superintendent in 1989, worked to get the class to meet again each Sunday morning during the church school hour, with Gladys Hendershot as their teacher. We are glad they are coming back, and hope they continue to grow as a class.

The Girls Class of the Paris Presbyterian Church organized at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Annabelle Hollis on October 9, 1944. Betty Revay also worked to help organize the class. Iva Harrington was our first teacher, and quarterlies were used for the lessons, just like today. At the first class meeting it was decided to have the husbands join the class with the wives after the war was over.

At the November meeting Betty Jean Ferguson made the motion to make "Faithful Servants" the name of the class. Mrs. Walter George was the teacher, and meetings were held in the homes. In 1954 the meetings were changed from Thursday to Friday, and we have since met the second Friday of each month at the church.

Over the years the class has contributed to many worthy causes and funds, and has organized and carried out many projects. Some of them include: the planting of flowers around the church in 1965, the outside bulletin board, the piano in the sanctuary, the painting of several rooms in the church, installing of ceilings, the purchasing of chairs, and the decoration of the ladies room. Crawford Cameron taught the class for several years, and Myrtle Harrington was the assistant. Now teaching is done by class members taking turns. Throughout the years the class has continued to grow, with four of the original members still active Florence Hanlin, Betty Revay, Betty Hurd, and Helen Call. The class has continued to work, play, and pray together, and the hope is that at journey's end God will say "*Well done, good and Faithful Servants.*"

One of the most beloved groups of our past history was the Ladies Aid Society. The group started in the early thirties, when they met in the homes of members. Later on they met in the church after the back addition and basement were finished. These women were the financial and working backbone of the Paris Church. They had chicken suppers (the first ones were held in the Grange Hall). Strawberry festivals, garage sales, and 10 cent suppers were also held.

Our church was noted for its good cooks and pie bakers. In the very beginning, this group even killed and cleaned the chickens, until a farmer and later a store supplied them. The Aid took on the payment on the loan in the 1940's for the back addition to the church. The loan payment was \$100/month, a big undertaking in those hard times.

The hard working and fun-loving character of these women encouraged the young and made them feel wanted, needed, and important to the church. They made their own fun and laughter with style shows, hat contests, come-as-you-are parties, skits, and plays.

Another group that meant much to many people in the past was Christian Endeavor. It was an important part of many churches during the thirties and forties, when the Reverend Biddle was the pastor at the Paris Church. The class members each took a turn teaching from the Christian Endeavor Quarterly that was distributed regularly. The quarterly was similar to those used in many classes today. The topics were taken from parts of the Bible and all joined in discussion of the lesson. Most anyone who went can tell you that Christian Endeavor was where they learned a lot about the Bible, and they will always cherish that. Today's modern parallel to Christian Endeavor is called Youth Fellowship, or simply Youth Groups.

Youth work has always been held in high esteem in the past work of the Paris Church. We presently have three groups that meet on a regular basis: the Wednesday Club, led by Terry Wagner and Sue Ramsey; the Junior Youth Group, led by Debbie Barto and Sally Frantz, and the Senior Youth Group, led by Kelly Ward and Lu Stewart. Thanks to the generosity of one of our members, we are able to help send youth to camp and conference experiences every year by paying at least half of the cost of the camp. In 1990, at least 33 children will have an experience of Christian Camping because of this fund.

The "In Betweeners" Class, a relatively new Sunday School class, has had steady growth, and has helped to incorporate about 20 people into the life and worship of our congregation. The class is taught by Charlotte Smedley, and meets every Sunday using the Serendipity Bible for Groups as curriculum.

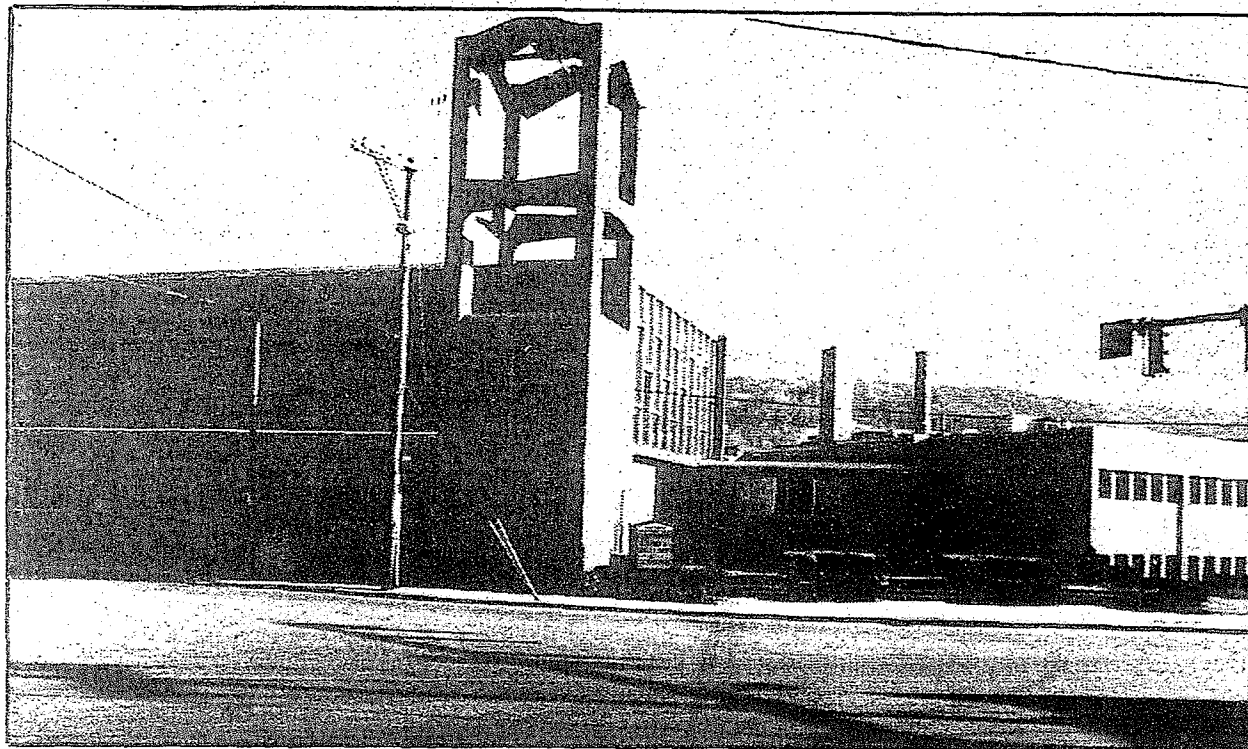
As we conclude these thoughts, and look forward to year 201 and beyond as a congregation, we thank and recognize the people who worked on the preparation of this pictorial directory and the events of the past year. Our Bi-Centennial Committee has included the following people: Debbie Barto, Bonnie Cain, Helen Call, Roy Hurd, Shirley Jenkins, Bea Jones, Barbara Visnic, Enid Williams, Rosina Wray and Frank Trotta, ex officio. Thanks for your many contributions to our yearlong celebration of the past and focus on the future.

LIST OF PAST MINISTERS

Reverend Elisha McCurdy	1799-1824
Reverend Samuel Reed	1826-1829
Reverend Richard Campbell	1829-1832
Reverend Richard Brown	1832-1836
Reverend Thomas McGill	1836-1837
Reverend R.M. White	1837-1842
Reverend John W. Scott	1842-1846
Reverend George Gordon	1846-1850
Reverend John Y. Calhoun	1854-1861
Reverend J. F. Magill	1861-1863
Reverend D.H. Lavety	1863-1865
Reverend R. L. Biddle	1935-1944
Reverend Given T. Kutz	1945-1947
Reverend Max Conley	1949-1951
Reverend Curtis H. Griffith	1952-1953
Reverend David A. Haines	1954-1957
Reverend J. Robert Phillips	1958-1961
Reverend Joseph L. Hunter	1961-1974
Reverend David A. Walker	1975-1978
Reverend Richard W. Clark	1979-1983
Reverend Dr. Robert B. Shane (interim)	
Reverend Dr. Elwin C. Vanderland	1984-1987
Reverend Pelton Vandercoy (interim)	
Reverend Dr. Francis L. Trotta	1988-1997
Reverend Kirk Irwin	
Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler	2004-current

Sister Presbyterian Churches

Cove United Presbyterian Church



Clergy associated with church to attend

The year-long activities marking the 200th anniversary of Cove United Presbyterian Church in Weirton will culminate with a special church service Sunday, when Price H. Gwynn III, moderator of the General Assembly, will be special guest speaker. He is the highest official of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and an elder at the Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N. C.

During the 11 a.m. worship service, Gwynn will extend greetings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and will make a presentation at the 1:30 p.m. program. He will be available for a 20 minute question and answer period.

The sermon, "Not As They Do!" will be delivered by the Rev. Inn Soon Choi, a former associate pastor at Cove Church. Choi is in his 14th year as pastor of Parkview Presbyterian Church, a 400 member congregation in Reynolds-

burg, Ohio. Mrs. Ron Choi will be the soloist, singing "How Beautiful."

Other special guests of the day will be individuals who grew up at Cove Church and entered the ministry.

Returning favorite sons of the church will include the Rev. Robert Marsh of First Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's County, California, Md.; the Rev. Robert Brown, son of the late Dr. G. Ousley Brown, (former pastor) and associate pastor of Collingwood Presbyterian Church, Wexford, Pa., the Rev. Franklyn McHendry, retired 25-year pastor of Clearwater-Largo Presbyterian Church; and the Rev. Robert Gracey, clergy member of the Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery who supplies area pulpits.

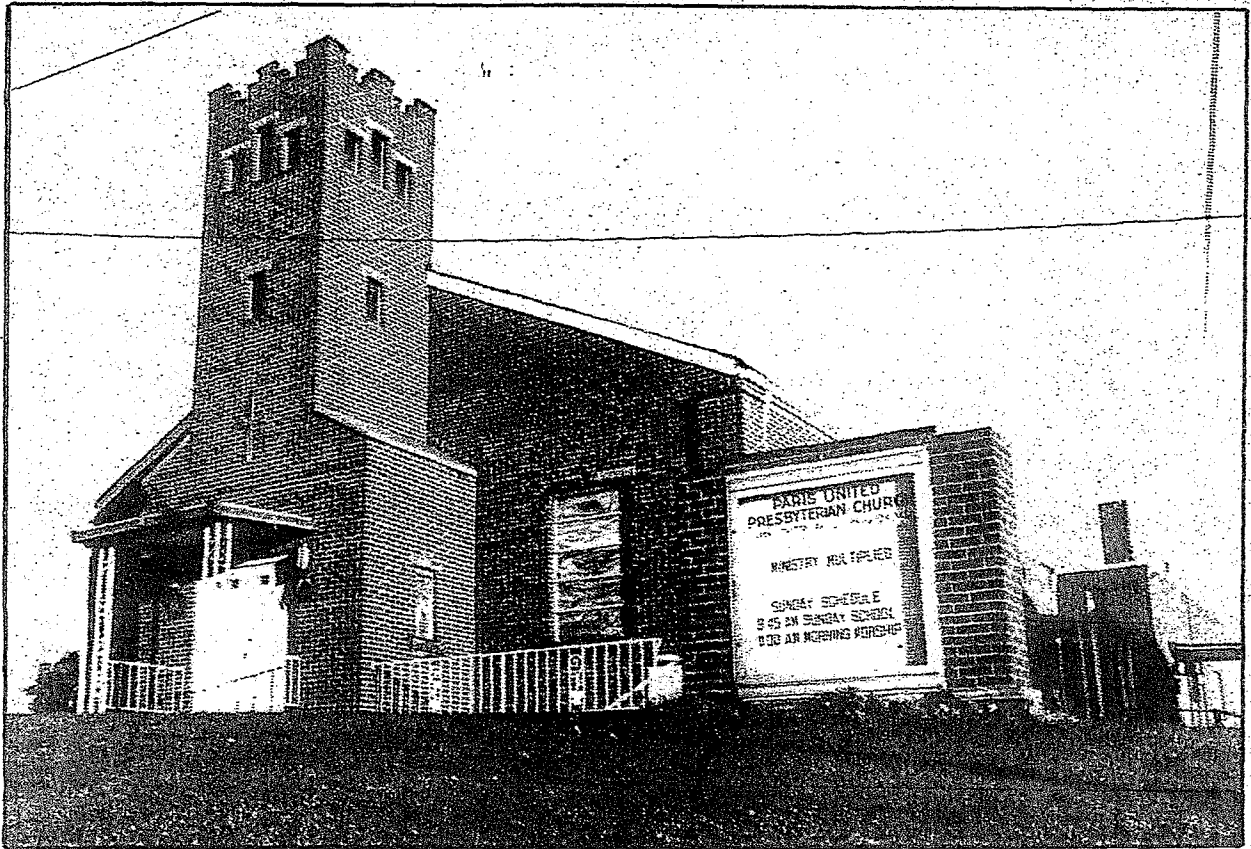
Other special guests will include the

Rev. Richard Baker, executive Presbyterian of the Presbytery of the Upper Ohio Valley; Nancy Ludewig of Mingo Junction, moderator of the Upper Ohio Valley; and John Contoveros, a seminary student at Dallas Theological Seminary and an affiliate member of Cove Church.

The worship service will begin at 11 a.m. in the church sanctuary. A luncheon, program and reception will follow in the church fellowship hall.

The year long celebration was observed with several services and activities in combination with the sister church in Paris. A day long service in the mode of the early services was held with attendees dressing in period costumes. It was the first time in 130 years the congregations joined together to observe their common foundation.

to observe 200th anniversary Paris Presbyterian Church



Fellowship featured at day-long event

On Sunday, The Paris Presbyterian Church in Paris, Pa., will be celebrating its 200th birthday during a day long observance.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a fellowship hour hosted by the church's bicentennial committee. There will be no Sunday School classes this week only.

The special morning worship service, with the Sacrament of Communion, will begin at 11 a.m.

Special guests will include members of 50 years and some of the former pastors and interim pastors.

Preaching at the 11 a.m. worship service will be former pastor, Dr. Elwin Vanderland, of San Antonio, Tx, who served the Paris Church from 1984 to 1987.

Immediately following the morning worship service there will be a catered dinner served in the church fellowship hall. Emphasis was placed on the fel-

lowship of returning friends and present members so there will be time following dinner to visit. A few dinners will be available for last member attendees.

More information may be obtained from the church office at (412) 729-3450.

During the past year, the congregation has been remembering its 200 years of existence with several special events, some with the Cove Presbyterian Church. Both Paris and Cove were formed from the Three Springs Presbyterian Church which held its first worship service on the third Sunday of November 1790.

The Paris Church moved to a site near the state line a bit south of the village of Paris. All manner of perils faced the parishioners in the pioneer days, Indian attacks, cold, snow, animals and little money. However a small log cabin was built by donations of supplies and

labor with the men and boys doing the building.

According to a story handed down through the ages, the stove was stocked with wood and lit to provide heat one cold and snowy Sunday. No one knows for sure what happened but the roof of the building caught fire during the service. The men tried to put out the fire by tossing snow on the roof, but there were too few men and too much fire. The boys were admonished to come and help but, as the story is told, they danced around in glee thinking they would not be pushed out of bed on cold Sunday mornings if there was no church to attend.

The church then moved to the building which now houses Progar-Nicola's Store which was built by the Secedor congregation. It then moved to the present site and has undergone many additions and remodelings since occupying the present site.

Two becoming one

Presbyterian churches merging to start new era

By **EMILY R. EBERLIN**
Staff writer

Two churches, each with more than 200 years of history, soon will become one and begin a new era in area Presbyterian worship.

Sunday, Nov. 20, Florence Presbyterian Church officially will merge with Paris Presbyterian Church to create a larger congregation that convenes under one roof for weekly services.

Soon, the 1786 established Florence Presbyterian Church, which now sits on Steubenville Pike, will cease to exist as a place of worship. The church's 45 members will be added to Paris Presbyterian's 225 regular attenders. Services for the new body of Christians will be held at the Paris church, also on Steubenville Pike.

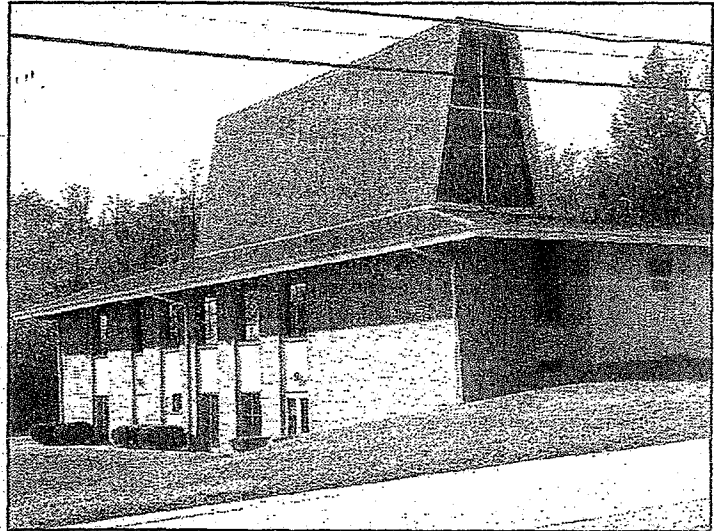
The Rev. Tina Hosler of the Paris Presbyterian Church said the members of the Florence body of worshipers decided it would be best financially to become part of the Paris congregation.

"They were no longer able to afford a pastor. Rather than closing, they decided to merge with us to keep their history," Hosler said of the Florence members.

Florence Presbyterian Church's most recent minister, The Rev. Ernie Poland, was ordained recently and now is leading a church in Keyser.

He served four years at the Florence church while completing seminary training.

Before his departure locally, Poland and Hosler prayed together regularly for the two congregations,



Emily R. Eberlin

SHUTTING ITS DOORS – The Florence Presbyterian Church no longer will be a place of worship. The church is merging with the Paris Presbyterian Church soon. In the future, however, the Florence church may house a youth center for Burgettstown and Weirton area teenagers.

specifically that God would provide direction for the churches' futures.

Jean Roberts, who has been a member of Florence Presbyterian for 50 years, said the decision to merge was not an easy choice to make but what God wanted.

Roberts and Betty Lemmi, who grew up in the Florence church, presently are filled with mixed emotions towards the closure of their worship institution.

"The merger is a happy yet sad occasion," Lemmi said.

When she drives by the vacant church in Florence, Roberts tries not to look at the structure to avoid a feeling of sorrow.

"Being able to join this church is uplifting, though," she said Thursday, when she and Lemmi met with Hosler at the Paris church to discuss the upcoming merger service.

Hosler asked Roberts and Lemmi to bring their church's banners and other items special to the congregation for display during the service.

"We want their history to be part of ours now," Hosler said.

Florence Presbyterian Church first began in an area known as King's Creek, which was three miles north of Florence. A documented account of the church's history said the first congregation met in a small building made of logs on the highest point of elevation in Washington County, presumably as protection from Indians.

In 1798, the church relocated to a place called Bricelands Crossroads and was called Cross Roads Presbyterian Church until the area was named Florence.

The church's meeting house burned down in 1845



Section 5: 225 years celebration – 1790 to 2015

Letter dated January 29, 2013 from Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler, Pastor re vote on dismissal to ECO

Letter dated January 30, 2013 from Washington Presbytery regarding dismissal

Welcome to ECO letter acknowledging that on June 1, 2013 we are officially an ECO congregation

Photos taken on ECO Sunday, June 2, 2013

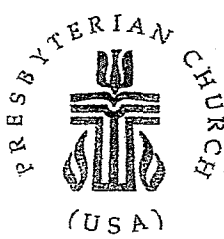
Letter in the Bell Tower for one year anniversary as an ECO congregation

Gathering Place Coffee Shop opened January 2013

Expansion and Additional Outreach – Cotter property

Paris Presbyterian Church (ECO) today – 2015

Summary by Rev. Dr. Christina (Tina) Hosler



Paris Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler, Pastor

127 Steubenville Pike, Paris Church: 724-729-3450
Burgettstown, PA 15021 Manse: 724-729-3505
Fax: 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. 724-729-3450

January 29, 2013

Dear Member of Paris Presbyterian Church,

As you know, Paris Presbyterian Church has been in the process of discernment for over a year, listening for God's direction for our congregation. In 2010 the General Assembly voted to change the standards of leadership for our denomination, and we have found the new standards to be inconsistent with the Word of God. As a result of these changes to the Book of Order, PPC has been considering other options for denominational affiliation.

The option that is in line with our beliefs, values and theology is the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO). This is a rather newly established Reformed denomination and they hold to a high standard of living for ordained leadership. We have held a number of congregational informational meetings and our officers have presented a Minute for Mission during our worship services to provide continued updates during the process of discernment. An Elder has been in attendance at the ECO gatherings in Orlando, Minneapolis and Colorado Springs. Three Elders will attend the ECO gathering that is being held in Orlando on January 30-February 1, 2013.

As part of this process, the Session, Deacons and Transitional Team have met with the Washington Presbytery's Pastoral Response Team (PRT), consisting of Rev. Craig Kephart, Rev. Keith Hornung, Ruling Elder Joe Jefferys and Ruling Elder Pat Cook. The PRT met with our officers at our annual officers' training retreat in December and two additional meetings at PPC. They also attended our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2013.

As many churches are seeking dismissal from the PC(USA), the denomination is applying fiduciary requirements on congregations as part of the gracious separation policies. No congregation will be dismissed from the PC(USA) without a fiduciary responsibility to their Presbytery. Since it is the general consensus of the congregation to pursue dismissal to ECO, the Session has entered into the negotiating phase of this process.

In working with the Washington Presbytery's Pastoral Response Team we have agreed on a *proposed* formula to calculate an amount to be paid to the Presbytery that would allow us to be dismissed to ECO *with our property*. Keep in mind that the formula changes depending on the outcome of our vote. For example, if our vote results in 90%- 100% in the affirmative to be dismissed to ECO, we are proposing payment of 10% of our property assessment. If the vote is 85%-89% in the affirmative, the amount would be 15% of the property assessment, and so on. Our property assessment for the 3 lots and buildings is a total of \$117,178.00. Assuming that our vote will be 90% or better, the amount we would pay Presbytery is \$11,717.80. Again, this is a very generous offer on the part of the Presbytery PRT. *This is not final*; it is simply the beginning of the negotiating process and must be presented to the Presbytery Council on February 12th and then brought before the Presbytery for vote at the March meeting.

At this point in the process, it is the prayer of the leadership of PPC that everyone feels well-informed and ready to move forward. Please plan to attend this important meeting to vote on dismissal to ECO on *Sunday, February 10th immediately following the 11:00 worship service*. Only *active* members of PPC are eligible to vote and the vote will be taken by ballot. If you have any question regarding membership, please contact Kelly Ward or Audrey Shaw, who are on the Shepherding and Membership Team.

If you have any questions regarding ECO, PC(USA), the process, or any other questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me, an Elder, Deacon or a member of the Transitional Team. We want to make sure that all voting members have a thorough understanding of the situation before registering their vote. May God continue to bless us as we move forward in this time of transition.

In His Service,

Lina

Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler, Pastor
pastor2paris@yahoo.com
cell: 412-908-1362

Transitional Team

Chair: Stephanie Visnic	svisnic@comcast.net
Bea Jones	bljones39@yahoo.com
Debbie Trump	kcb98_98@yahoo.com
Deb Peterson	debjopeterson@gmail.com
Charlie Brooks	nancyseik@comcast.net
Patty Noah	pattynoah@yahoo.com
Bobby Jones	mouny84@yahoo.com
Larry Smedley	smeds@comcast.net
Richard Anderson	kranderson@verizon.net
Kayla Grey	kaygrey2013@yahoo.com
John Grey	greyd267@hotmail.com

Session

Audrey Shaw	jkshaw@yahoo.com
Barb LaPosta	bjlaposta@yahoo.com
Bobby Jones	mouny84@yahoo.com
Bea Jones	bljones39@yahoo.com
Brad Winwood	bwinwood@hotmail.com
Charlotte Smedley	smeds@comcast.net
Don Wilson	no email
Jeff Trump	jtrump@osmre.gov
Karen Cowan	karencowanrn@comcast.net
Kelly Ward	kward0142@comcast.net
Paul Gerard	gerard2385@hughes.net
Rob LaPosta	rlaposta@comcast.net

Deacons

Carol Chwala	lips15021@yahoo.com	Karen Anderson	kranderson@verizon.net
Debbie Barto	dbarto1952@comcast.net	Marilyn Reed	marilyn.f.reed@usps.gov
Carol Cassella	carolcassella2@gmail.com	Aggie Wiltrout	allen_aggie@yahoo.com
Barb Visnic	barbvisnic@comcast.net	Richard Anderson	kranderson@verizon.net



WASHINGTON PRESBYTERY

The Rev. Craig A. Kephart
Executive Presbyter
craig.kephart@gmail.com

Elder John A. Rodgers
Stated Clerk
john.rodgers.clerk@gmail.com

January 30, 2013

Dear Members of Paris Presbyterian Church,

Greetings to you in the name of our one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This letter arrives as you come toward an important vote in the life of Paris Presbyterian Church. You will choose whether or not you believe it is God's call for Paris Church to seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA), in order to serve Christ as a member congregation of *ECO – A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians*. For many weeks this has been a matter of prayer for your leaders and for us in the Presbytery. The understanding of the Pastoral Response Team – representatives of Presbytery – is that your leaders have concluded, before God, the healthiest option is for Paris Church to go. There really are no words to describe the sadness with which I and the leaders of the Presbytery have received this news. We were hoping for a different outcome.

This letter, however, is not another pitch for you to stay.

There has been ample time for Presbytery's representatives and your leaders to hear and be heard by each other during the discernment process. We from the presbytery would simply describe where the denomination stands in a different light than how you see matters. (And, in fact, we are not of one viewpoint ourselves on many issues!)

But we have heard the conviction at Paris that you will find a better fit with the ECO. And so we step back, with respect, as you take this vote. Please know that should you decide it is God's will for you to stay, we will welcome this decision with joy. Should you discern it is time to go, it will be with our blessing and our prayer that you may thrive in your ministries, for the glory of the Risen Christ.

Before you take this vote, please know that we thank you for the most gracious hospitality extended by Rev. Dr. Hosler and the leaders of Paris. Their diligent efforts have sought to make this process peaceable and Christ-honoring at every stage. You are to be commended for engaging the theological and spiritual issues and dimensions of separation, and for thoughtfully engaging PCUSA policy in comparison with your local congregation's shared beliefs. And, at the same time, your Pastor Tina has provided servant leadership as co-chair of Presbytery's *ARISE 2.0* campaign and has chaired our Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee, helping also to educate our presbyters about the new ECO denomination as it is "birthed." You have all proven yourselves to be genuine colleagues in Christ's ministry. Thank you for all the ways your efforts have bless the Presbytery over the long years of our journey together. You are crowned with good works (Proverbs 14:14).

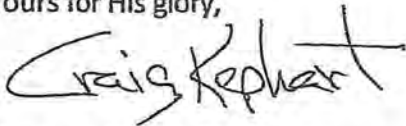
Page Two
January 30, 2013
Ltr to Paris Congregation

And also, please hear my hope that we have served well as partners in this final process, and to apologize to you for any ways in which the Presbytery – either in reality or in how things seemed to be – failed to respond in partnership as your frustration was building up over a number of years. Such are the tensions of life together; we are thankful for heavenly grace that covers a multitude of our sins.

Therefore before you take this vote, as the Executive Presbyter I formally ask you to forgive us, the Presbytery of Washington, for any offenses – for what we have done or what we have left undone. As Paris Church heads into its God-ordained future may it be with true reconciliation, releasing a past we cannot change and looking forward with hope to God's good providence.

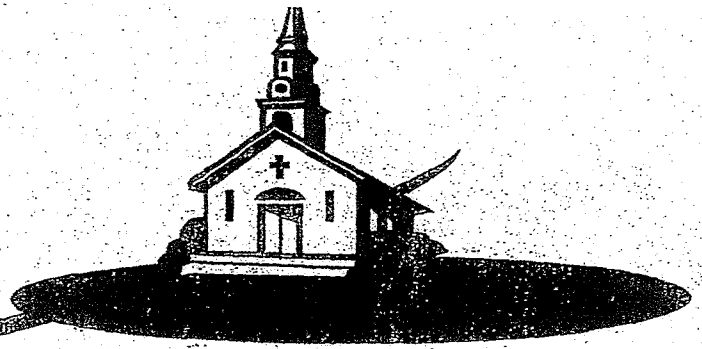
Finally, I express my own personal gratitude for the gracious way this process has unfolded. Truly, if the call is to endure the pain of separation, all of you, together, have accomplished this in a way that brings honor to our relationship as the Body of Christ. Should you vote to affiliate with the ECO, be assured that we will continue to pray for your faithful mission, to value you as continuing colleagues in ministry, and to look with hopeful eyes for what God may yet do with and among us as we serve our common Lord.

Yours for His glory,



The Rev. Craig A. Kephart
Executive Presbyter

THE BELL TOWER



Paris Presbyterian Church
127 Steubenville Pike
Burgettstown, PA 15021
724-729-3450
Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler

Greetings Covenant Partners!

Welcome to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. As of June 1st, we are officially an ECO congregation. I am so proud of all of you for the careful and prayerful discernment that you have done over the last 2 years. It is very clear that this is where God has called us to be.

ECO is intentional about calling church members *covenant partners* instead of *members*, because we are partners in ministry, and we have made a covenant to be accountable to one another. By calling people *members*, it tends to feel like we are joining a club or organization, rather than being a part of something bigger. We are *partners* in furthering the Kingdom of God; *partners* in making disciples of Jesus Christ, which is what the Great Commission calls us to do.

The other exciting value of ECO is their focus on outreach. We have already made great strides in seeking ways to serve the community. The Gathering Place was the first big step in meeting this challenge. As we move forward, we have changed Margie's job title to Director of Outreach and she will be overseeing the Outreach Ministry Team and directing our outreach activities (book signings, mat making for the homeless, morning exercise program, and so much more).

I challenge each of you to think of ways we can be of service and meet the needs of our community. I've had several people approach me lately with wonderful ideas: Heather McCloud is putting together a community youth program for the fall, Jessica Fowler is putting together a community young adult group that will meet at the end of June, we are trying to organize a PPC booth for the Burgettstown Community Days, and the ideas are coming in daily. I have been encouraging people to bring the ideas to me and Margie with a Ministry Plan. A Ministry Plan answers the questions: Who? What? When? Where? How?

I wanted to thank the Session, Deacons and Transitional Team for the many extra hours they put in during our discernment process. I have been overwhelmed by the way the Holy Spirit has been working in your individual lives as well as the life of this congregation. The reason the Holy Spirit has been evident is: 1) God is good! 2) You have been faithful. So, well done good and faithful servants!

May God continue to stretch us as he blesses us and remember: you can't *receive* a blessing without *being* a blessing!

Rev. Tina

Celebration ECO Sunday, June 2, 2013
We are now ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians



Celebration ECO Sunday, June 2, 2013

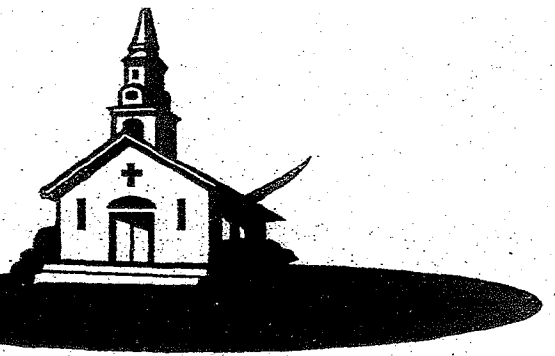


**Praise Team: Kristin Frazier; Stacy Slack;
Jeff Trump and Kelly Ward**



**Choir: Rob LaPosta; Jim Cassella; Shirley Jenkins;
Patty Lawrence; Denise Campbell (hidden); Bea
Jones; Barbara Cameron; Karen Tate (hidden);
Mary Barish; and Agnes Wilttrout (hidden)**

THE BELL TOWER



Paris Presbyterian Church
127 Steubenville Pike
Burgettstown, PA 15021

Greetings Church Family!

Happy One Year Anniversary as an ECO Congregation! ECO continues to grow, with a current membership of 130 congregations and 216 pastors. The Great Lakes Presbytery, of which we are members, has welcomed 4 new churches this year and there are others awaiting dismissal from their PC(USA) Presbyteries. Not only is ECO growing, but Paris Church is growing, both numerically and spiritually. We have quite a few people who have expressed an interest in becoming members, and we are planning a confirmation class this summer to welcome our young members.

I am excited that our Bible studies are growing and that people are growing as a result of being in a Bible study or small group. As a result of becoming members of ECO, we have expanded our vision and increased our outreach efforts. The mat-making ministry has increased and has been extended outside of PA and WV. The Gathering Place activities have reached many people in our community. Music groups have actually been calling us and inquiring about being a part of our summer concert series on Friday nights on the deck. Some of you have gotten involved in Work Wednesday, Lunch Bunch, the Daniel Plan, Children's Church, or some of the other opportunities. I encourage all of you, if you haven't already, to find a place to plug in. It takes every one of our covenant partners (members) to do what we've been called to do: go and make disciples of all nations.

As we rejoice in what God is doing here at Paris and in ECO, let us remember our brothers and sisters in the PC(USA). First, continue to pray for those who are seeking dismissal and are being held back by their presbyteries. Second, pray for all of the commissioners to the upcoming General Assembly, which will be meeting in Detroit, MI from June 14-21. At this meeting, there are 4 proposals regarding marriage going to the assembly for vote. They are as follows:

"Seek to redefine marriage by asking GA to issue an authoritative interpretation allowing PCUSA ministers to perform and PCUSA property to host same-sex weddings..." (Item 10-03, 10-04)

"Seek to redefine marriage by amending the Book of Order to replace 'man and woman' with 'two people'..." (Item 10-01, 10-02)

"Seek to rescind the 1991 authoritative interpretation that prohibits PCUSA pastors from performing and sessions from allowing facilities to be used for same-sex weddings." (Item 10-06)

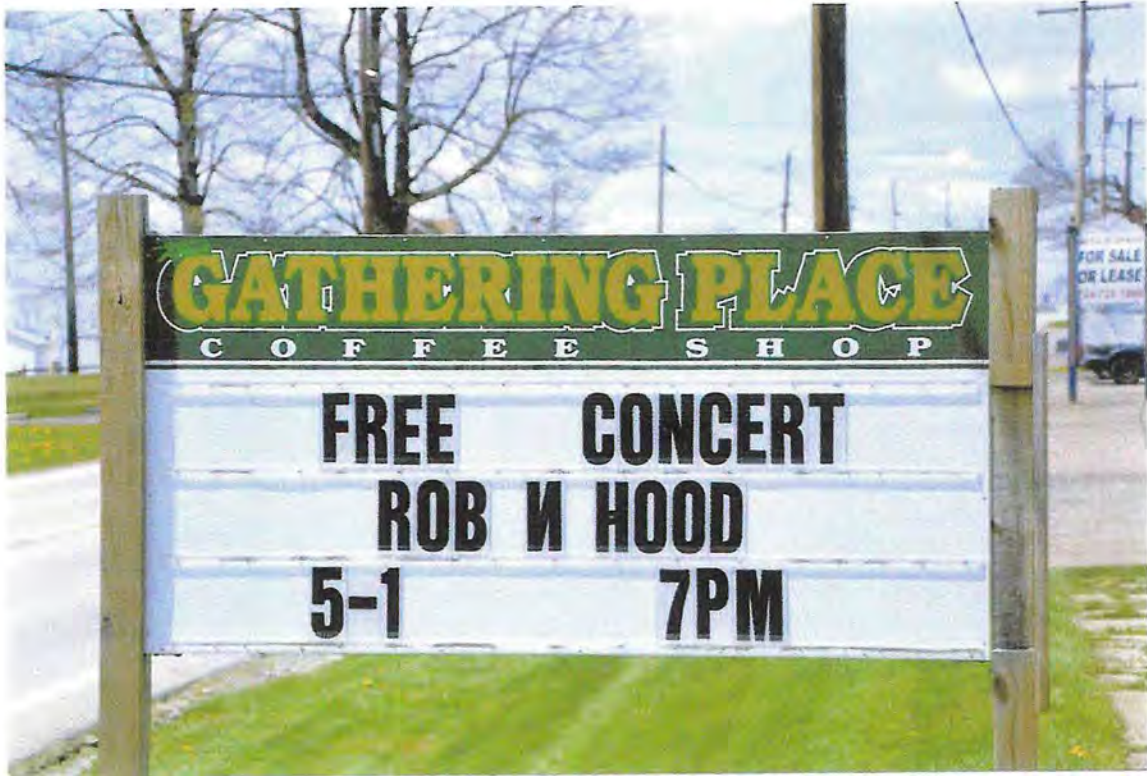
"Seek to create a task force to identify common ground and reconcilable differences on same-sex marriage." (Item 10-07)

May God continue to bless us as we try our best to be faithful to His Holy Word.

In Christ,

Rev. Tina

**Gathering Place Coffee Shop
Opened January 2013**



Session approved the construction of the Gathering Place May 2012 which was redoing an area that had been used for opening exercises for the Sunday School and was intended for outreach into the community. Just before Christmas, the Gathering Place Coffee Shop was completed with the help of people from the church and volunteers from the community and opened January 2013. The Gathering Place is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm.

In April of 2013 Margie Zellars job was changed from Pastoral Assistant to Director of Outreach. She arranges to have a "Coffee with the Author" at least once a month and to have a summer concert series on the deck (or inside if it rains) also once a month.

The Coffee Shop Ministry has proven to be a tremendous pouring of outreach to the community. All of the events are free and open to the public.



Expansion and Additional Outreach The Cotter Property

When the Cotter property went up for sale, the Church was immediately interested in purchasing it. The property borders the property of the Church. Although no immediate plans were made other than storage, it is an opportunity for future expansion and additional outreach to the community. After negotiating for several months, the closing on the Cotter property was October 2014.

Paris Presbyterian Church (ECO) today
1790 – 2015 225 years

Mission Statement

Let by the Holy Spirit, the mission of Paris Presbyterian Church is to answer God's call to be His faithful people by: 1) Reaching out to others through mission, care and comfort, 2) Sharing Jesus' message of love and salvation in worship and service, and 3) Nurturing the faith and life of His children.

Address: Paris Presbyterian Church (ECO)
127 Steubenville Pike
Burgettstown, PA 15021

Phone: 724 729 3450

Website: <http://www.pariseco.net>
www.eco-pres.org

E-mail: parispresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com

Facebook: Paris Presbyterian Church

Worship Services: Sunday 8:45 am Contemporary Service
10:00 am Sunday School/Fellowship Hour
11:00 am Traditional Service

Gathering Place Hours: 10:00 to 3:00 Monday thru Friday

Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler, Pastor
Rev. Tara Fanton, Associate Pastor



As you can see, Paris Presbyterian Church has a long history of faithful discipleship. God has worked in powerful ways throughout many generations, and He continues to bless Paris Presbyterian Church today. While most churches struggle to continue a Christian Education program, especially Sunday school classes, Paris currently has three adult Sunday school classes and one youth Sunday school class that meets year-round. There are also 7 small group ministries that meet throughout the week.

With gratitude to Margie Zellars, our Director of Outreach, we have regular events in the Gathering Place Coffee House. During the summer months, we have concerts on the deck every Friday night. People from the church and community bring their lawn chairs and enjoy an evening outside listening to music. Once a month we provide lunch and bring in local authors to talk about their books and do a book-signing. We have also partnered with Weirton Medical Center to have “Wellness Luncheons,” with different medical topics each month.

During my time serving at Paris, I have seen tremendous growth in its members. I have never been concerned about numbers; I am more concerned about souls. I am not worried about *numerical* growth; I am worried about *spiritual* growth. I am very proud of the Paris congregation (whom I affectionately refer to as my “Parisites”) for accepting the challenges that I give them each week during worship. God challenges all of us to live for Christ in every area of our lives, so I have tried to give the congregation practical suggestions for living out the gospel. Many accept these challenges and step out of their comfort zones to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. They, as well as others, have been blessed by these efforts.

The Parisites (c’mon – there were Israel-ites, Moab-ites, Midian-ites....why not Paris-ites?) have experienced tremendous spiritual growth over the years because many of them have accepted a few very important challenges in recent years. First, as a congregation we have participated in *The Year of the Bible* 4 times and we recently completed *The Story*. Amazing things are guaranteed to happen when people are in the Word of God every day. Second, I challenged the congregation a number of years ago to tithe. That’s right, 10% of everything that comes into the house goes to the church as a tithe. Many people accepted this challenge and have been blessed beyond words. The Session has also agreed to tithe 10% of the church’s income to mission, as a tithe. God has blessed all of these efforts.

In summary, Paris Church continues to build on the foundation that was laid by the many saints who have gone before us. We give thanks for the generations past and we prepare for the generations to come. We must continue to use our gifts “*to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ*” (Ephesians 4:12, 13).

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Christina (Tina) Hosler