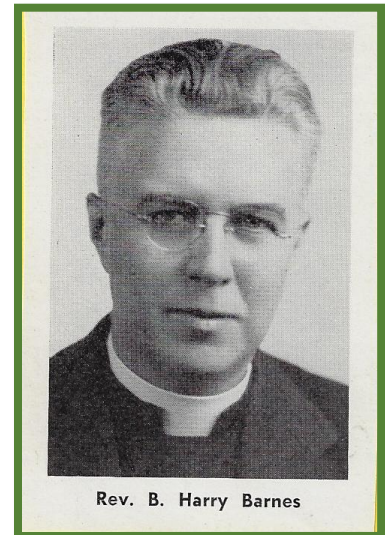


THE SECOND 25 YEARS (1947 – 1972)

Following the pastorate of Rev. John A. McElroy, the **Rev. B. Harry Barnes** (1947-1953) was assigned to the Springfield Community Methodist Church. Rev. Barnes was a graduate of Dickinson College, Drew Theological Seminary and Crozer Theological Seminary.

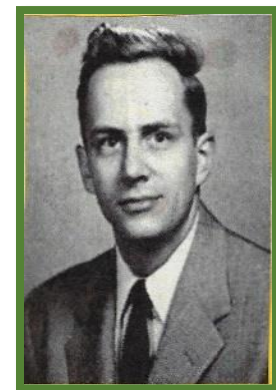
In 1947 under the leadership of Rev. Barnes, Springfield continued to grow and the Church and Sunday School kept pace. When the Church School facilities became



crowded, a third building project was undertaken. A surplus army building was purchased and erected as a temporary rear wing connecting the original building through the kitchen. This provided a meeting room for the Primary Department on

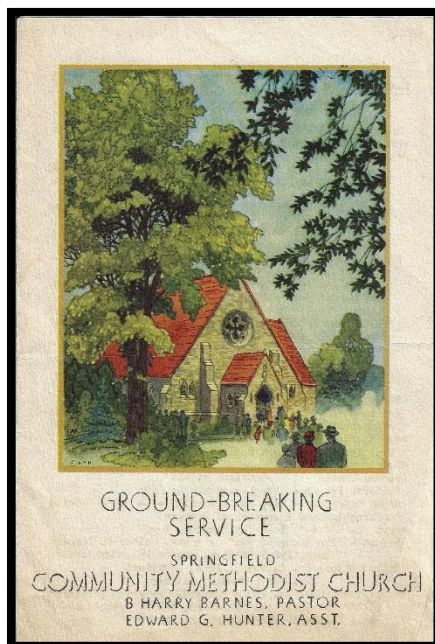
Sunday and for other groups during the week. This new building was dedicated on December 12, 1948 and was commonly known as "Sunshine Hall."

Because of the rapid growth in all phases of church life, it became necessary to add a student pastoral assistant. In September of 1951, **Edward G. Hunter** (1951-1952) was appointed to assist and work with the youth. While in the armed services he decided upon the ministry, largely through the impact of many servicemen who lived lives devoid of spiritual impact or morality. He attained his Theology Degree after he left Covenant.



Rev. Hunter

A little more than 31 years after the first group of people were received into membership, a new Sanctuary was built at the corner of Saxer and Springfield Roads and the name **Covenant Methodist Church** was adopted. By this time, the Church membership had passed the 1300 mark. A considerable sum of money had been made available through the City Missionary and Church Extension Society for the building of a Church, providing the name was changed to include the name “Covenant”, as the money received came from the sale of the Covenant Methodist Church of Philadelphia and was to be used for the building of a new church bearing that name.



The Ground Breaking Service was held on
Passion Sunday, March 30, 1952.

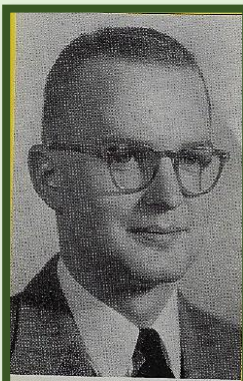
ORDER OF GROUND BREAKING	
PASTOR	Rev. B. Harry Barnes
ASSISTANT PASTOR	Rev. Edward G. Hunter
REPRESENTING THE DENOMINATION	Rev. Walter J. Leppert
REPRESENTING THE CHARTER MEMBERS	Mr. John W. Calder
REPRESENTING THE NEW CHURCH EFFORT	
Chairman, Building Committee	- - Mr. George B. Beitzel
Chairmen, Building Fund Drives:	
First Drive	- - - - - Mr. Lawrence G. Williams
Second Drive	- - - - - Mr. Richard D. Evans
Third Drive	- - - - - Mr. Earle J. Duncan
Chairman of the Original Planning Committee	
and President, Board of Trustees	- Mr. Donald C. Taber
REPRESENTING CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS	
Church School Superintendent	- - - Mr. W. Wayne Glover
Choir	- - - - - Mr. Thomas E. Kraemer
Children's Choir	- - - - - Mrs. Maitland Roach
W. S. C. S.	- - - - - Mrs. Clarence B. Glover
Wesleyan Service Guild	- - - - Miss Constance Kynett
Adult Fellowship	- - - - - Mr. Robert E. McKee
Youth Fellowship	- - - - - Miss Pette Skow
Intermediate Fellowship	- - - - Miss Phyllis Schaffer
Junior Fellowship	- - - - Mrs. Wilmer A. Hoffecker
Church Nursery	- - - - Mrs. Robert C. Mitterling
Friendship Guild	- - - - Mrs. William J. Roberts
Men's Supper Club	- - - - Mr. Maurice M. Haworth
Ushers' Association	- - - - Mr. Henry L. Sallada
Community Church Players	- - - - Mrs. Paul J. Miller
OTHERS WHO WISH TO BREAK GROUND	
All who wish may participate	



At a meeting of the church membership held on June 22, 1952, the name of the church was officially changed and the charter was amended by the Delaware County Court on December 5, 1952.

In addition to the wonderful gift from Covenant of Philadelphia, much hard work by the local membership raised enough money to reduce the mortgage substantially. The project was completed in a year's time at an estimated cost of \$220,000.

Construction begins.....



Rev. John G. Shoemaker

After the departure of Rev. Hunter and the continuing increase in membership, the demand for an assistant continued.

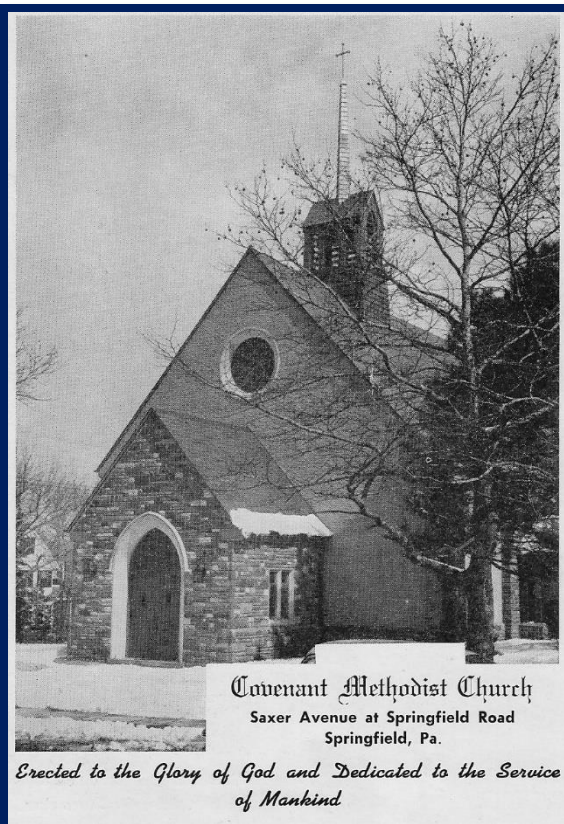
John G. Shoemaker (1952-1953) was appointed as a Student Assistant Pastor. He was a second-year student at Crozer Theological Seminary.





Commemorative Church Plates---Mrs. Earl W. Traster and Mrs. Robert McKee admire plates the Covenant Methodist Church congregation is selling to swell its building fund. It's believed first church financing scheme of its type in county. (Text from newspaper article).

Thankful for the completion of the brand-new structure, the formal opening services encompassed an entire week beginning on Sunday, March 22, 1953 and ending with the **Consecration Service** on Sunday, March 29, 1953.



Covenant Methodist Church

Springfield, Pa.

REV. B. HARRY BARNES, Pastor

REV. JOHN G. SHOEMAKER, Asst. Pastor

THE WEEK OF CONSECRATION SERVICES

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 22, 1953 — 11:00 A.M.

Sermon by Rev. B. Harry Barnes

"The Glory of the House of God"

Music by the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Choirs

7:30 P.M.

Sermon by Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, D. D., L.L.D.

Foundry Methodist Church, Washington, D.C.

Music by the Senior Choir

COMMUNITY NIGHT

Wednesday, March 25, 8:00 P. M.

Union Lenten Service — Springfield Ministers Participating

Sermon by Rev. William Elbert

"The Man Who Saw Jesus Die"

Music by the Senior Choir

FORMER PASTORS' AND HOMECOMING NIGHT

Thursday, March 26, 8:00 P.M.

Former Pastors will speak

Rev. Herbert R. Howells

Rev. Clinton M. Cherry

Rev. John N. Althouse

Rev. Herbert A. McKain

Rev. John A. McElroy, D.D.

Music by the Senior Choir

MUSIC AND FAMILY NIGHT RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Friday, March 27, 8:00 P.M.

Musical Program by The Three Choirs

Choir Directors :

Mr. Thomas E. Kraemer — Senior Choir

Mrs. Maitland Roach — Intermediate and Junior Choirs

Organist: Mr. George Dix

A Word by Mr. Barnes — "The Gospel, a Joyful Sound"

Open House for members and friends following the Service

There will be a tour of the building

Recognition of new members received this Conference Year

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall

by the Woman's Society of Christian Service

CONSECRATION SERVICE

Sunday, March 29, 11:00 A.M.

Consecration and Sermon by Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, D.D., L.L.D.

Resident Bishop, Philadelphia Area of the Methodist Church

Also participating in Consecration Service:

Rev. Alexander K. Smith, D.D., Superintendent, South District

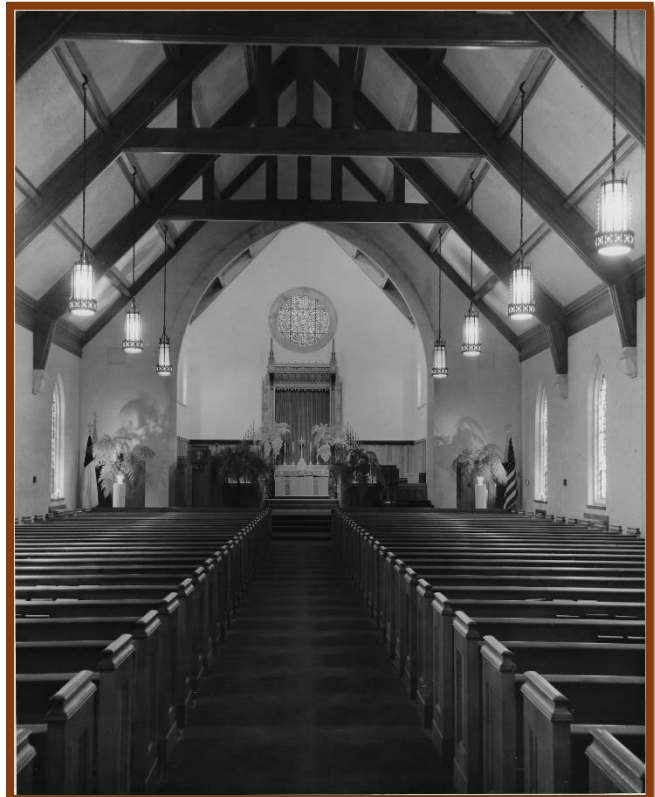
Rev. Walter J. Leppert, Executive Secretary,

Philadelphia Missionary and Church Extension Society

Rev. B. Harry Barnes

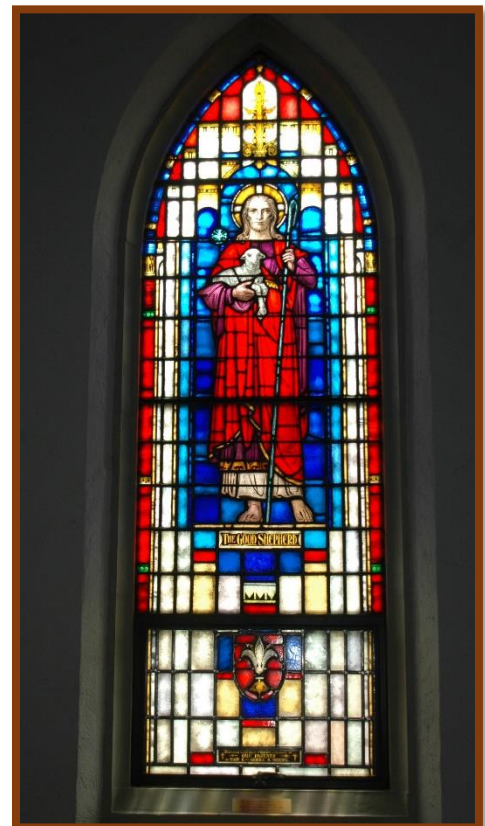
Rev. John G. Shoemaker

Music by Senior, Intermediate and Junior Choirs



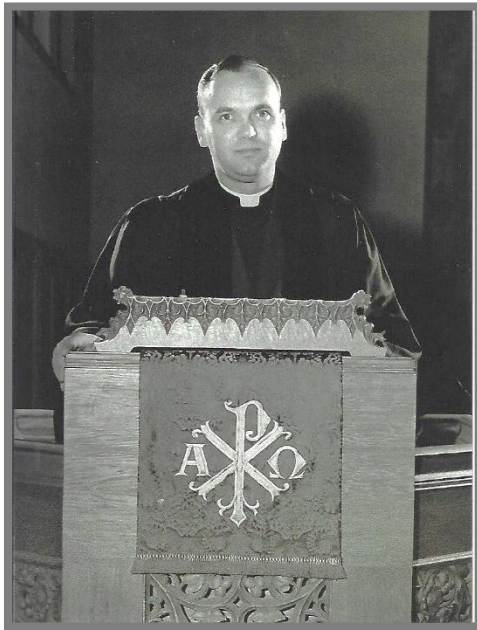
The new Sanctuary is of simplified English Gothic design and was designed and constructed that its architecture blended with the original buildings. It is a two-story structure 42' X 139' constructed of stone and concrete block with a stone and stucco outside finish. The main feature of the exterior is the half timber and copper fleche (*a spire that intersects the nave and apse of a church*) which rises from the ridge of the nave roof to a height of 76' above Saxer Avenue. The body of the fleche was planned to house equipment for the broadcasting of chimes and is topped by a large stainless-steel cross.

The interior of the Sanctuary is also of English Gothic design with an open timber ceiling. The side walls are pierced by eleven 4' X 11' stained glass windows. There is also a 6' rose window at each



end of the Church. The worship center is composed of an open chancel accommodating a choir of 52. The pulpit, lectern and reredos (*ornamental partition wall behind altar*) are of richly hand carved oak. The reredos form the frame for the centered altar cloth. On either side of the chancel are two large organ chambers whose arched openings are covered by rich hangings, looking forward to the day when a pipe organ may be installed.

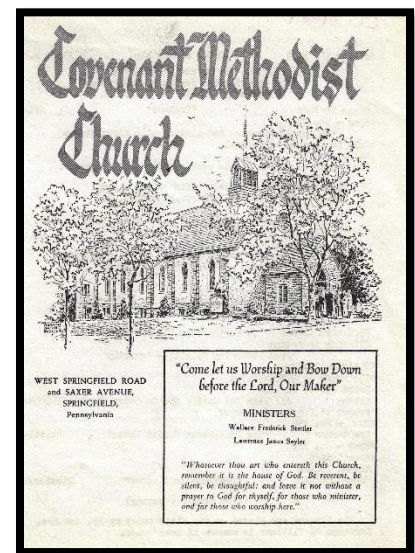
The nave has 26 rows of pews providing a seating capacity of 468 with total seating capacity of 522. Below the nave and chancel are the chapel, several large classrooms, church office, pastor's study, choir room, ladies' parlor and rest rooms.



Rev. Stettler

Just a few months after the dedication of the new Sanctuary, Rev. Barnes was transferred to the Jenkintown Methodist Church. The **Rev. Wallace Frederick Stettler** (1953-1967) was assigned to Covenant following a pastorate at Lima Methodist Church. He was a graduate of Dickinson College and Drew Theological Seminary. During Rev. Stettler's fourteen and a half years at Covenant a membership of 1300 grew to over 2000. A small staff grew to four ministers, two full-time and one part-time secretary, as well as two full-time and one part-time sexton. Research groups, Covenant of Friendship, Epworth Building, three parsonages, an expanded music ministry, and an enlarged youth program are a few of the high spots of his ministry.

Rev. Lawrence J. Seyler (1953-1955) was appointed as an Associated Minister at the same time as Rev. Stettler, replacing Rev. Shoemaker who resigned to continue his theological studies. Rev. Seyler was a graduate of the University of Richmond and Crozer Theological Seminary. He had wide experience in working with young people.

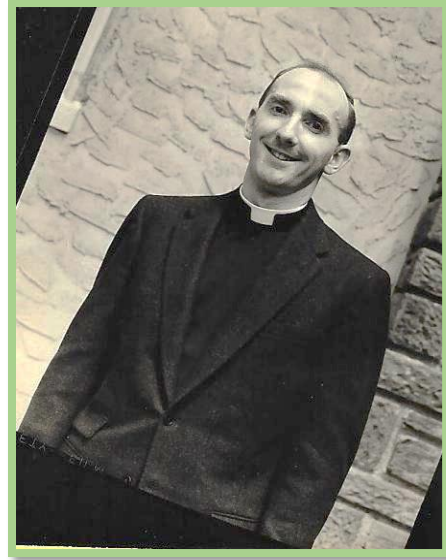


Bulletin Cover October 1953

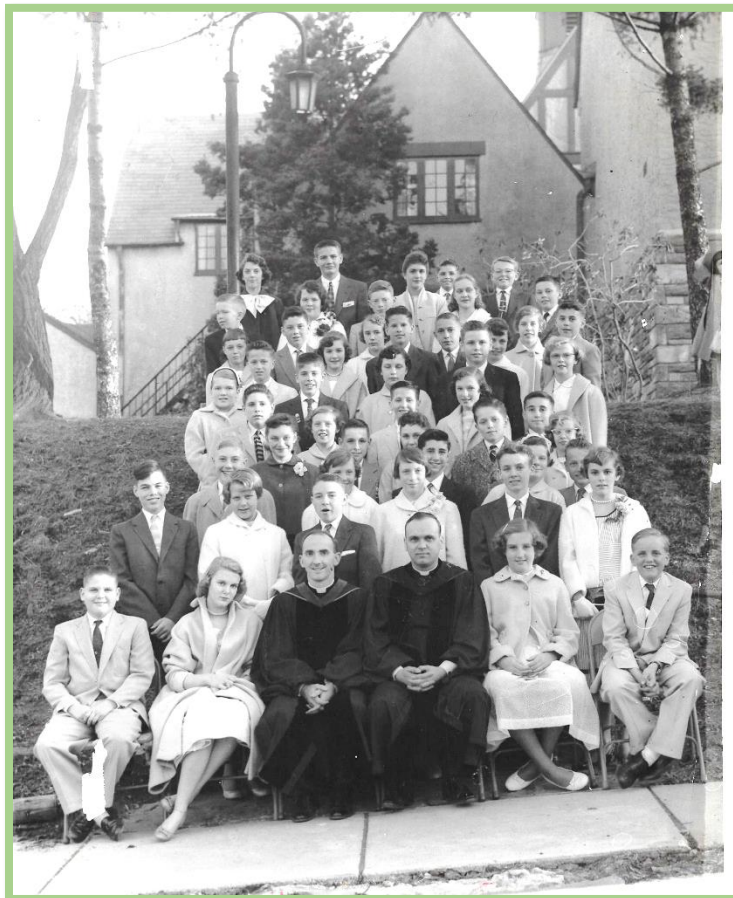
1922 – 2022 ABRIDGED HISTORY



Rev. Seyler seated on far right in the Sanctuary Chapel



Rev. O'Neill



Confirmation Class, April 1956

In May 1955, **Rev. John D. O'Neill** (1955-1959) replaced Rev. Seyler. He was a graduate of Lycoming College and Drew Theological Seminary following a stint in the Navy and the private sector. After several Methodist Church appointments, he was assigned to Covenant to direct the youth programs.

Under Rev. O'Neill's guidance, 10 youth went to Puerto Rico to help build a volley ball court. There was much activity in foreign mission through this period. Covenant's budget was increased to provide full or partial support for workers in India, Africa, Hawaii, Malaya, and Puerto Rico.

WEEKDAY KINDERGARTEN

Started September 17, 1956

The following history was written by a Covenant member (name unknown):

In 1956 Harold Gaunt and Ken Wicks co-chaired the church's Education Work Area. When people started asking for a Kindergarten (St. Matthews already started one), they instituted one at Covenant and consulted with Louise (Calder) Robinson, one of the church members already running a kindergarten in her home. She chose to stay with her own business, but made recommendations.

For one year (1956-57) an outside professional was retained to operate the church kindergarten. When she left, Ellen Gaunt, a church member and professionally trained kindergarten teacher took the job. The first term of the year (1957-58) continued to be taught in the lower level of Covenant's Sanctuary building. In 1957, upon the completion of the Epworth Building, Kindergarteners were moved there. The "old" kindergarten room became an office for the minister.

Mrs. Gaunt continued teaching alone in Epworth for two years. The church secretary helped with bathroom duties and comforted sick children. Then a second class was added under Ruth Bradshaw's tutelage. As the demand grew so did the school. Two years later Marty Frick joined the group and, in time, a nursery school was offered in addition to kindergarten. The education building was well used. When public kindergarten phased out that need at Covenant, a nursery program was enlarged; and then as societal change sought babysitting, the Mother's Morning Out and Summer Fun Programs were added. All of this went on during the week to offer good basic education. In the summer, Vacation Bible School was offered and every Sunday an excellent program of Christian education was held.

*Early
Kindergarten
Class
Marty Frick,
Teacher*





At a monthly meeting of WSCS, a program about the Holy Land was presented by Mmes. Wallace F. Stettler, Millard P. Robinson and Walter J. Hall, Jr. who had traveled there.



Mmes. Stettler, Robinson, Hall

WOMEN'S SOCIETIES

From the beginning of Covenant, women had and continue to have an important role in the organization of the church, in fund raising events, dinners, charitable causes both at home and abroad. The original Ladies Aid Society merged with the Women's Home Missionary Society and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, resulting in the organization called Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS). In 1956, Covenant had 28 Circles, representing one of the largest groups in the organization.



LADIES OF WSCS PREPARING FOR A DINNER

L: R Grace Spahr, ?, Rebecca Calder, Emily Harris, Ethel D'Angelo

Continual growth of Covenant Church, particularly in the Children's and Youth Divisions made it imperative that Covenant embark on an educational building program in early 1955. A well-planned and publicized financial campaign over a period of three years raised sufficient money to completely pay for the building and furnishings in excess of \$200,000. The newly named "Epworth Building" consisted of 14 classrooms, a library, and a prayer chapel.



EPWORTH GROUNDBREAKING

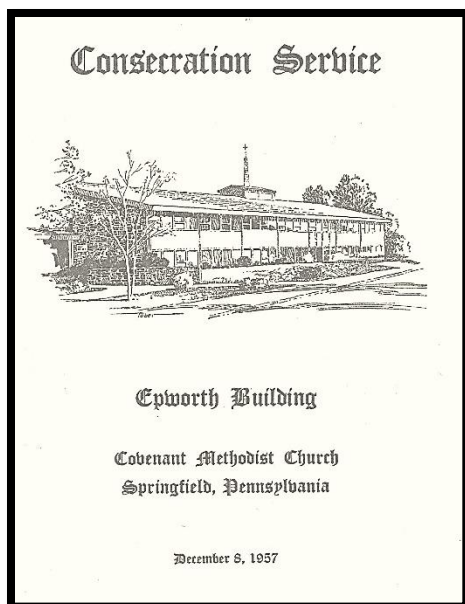
February 24, 1957
Harold Gaunt, Speaker



EPWORTH CORNER STONE LAYING

October 20, 1957

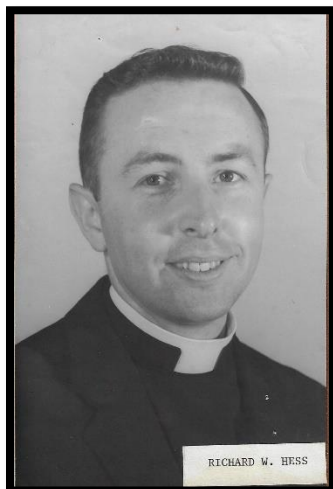
L:R: Rev. O'Neill, Harold Gaunt, Dr. Charles Phillips, Ken Wicks, Charlotte Skillman, Ray Davis, ?, Rev. Stettler



C.C. HANCOCK MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

During the planning of the Epworth Building in 1955, Rev. Stettler and others at Covenant had a vision for a second Methodist Congregation for Springfield Township as the community was growing by leaps and bounds. The new church building on the corner of Sproul and Wesley Roads was consecrated on December 22, 1957. Covenant Methodist Church provided partial support as a missionary project.

In May of 1958, **Rev. Richard W. Hess** (1958-1961) succeeded Rev. O'Neil as an assistant to Rev. Stettler and director of the youth programs. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Drew Theological Seminary.



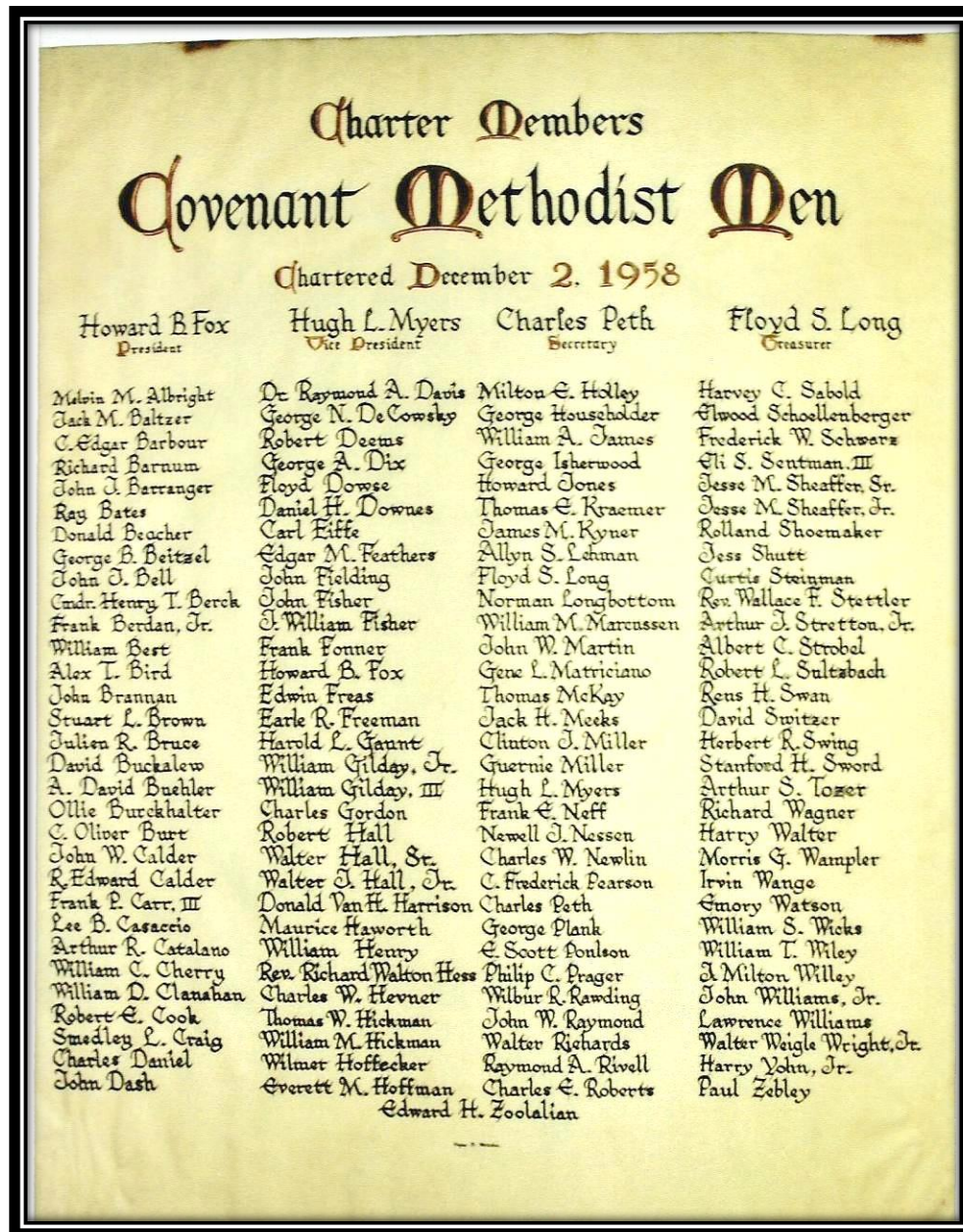
In 1951, the Community Church Players of Covenant Methodist Church was formed. They presented plays, usually at the high school, several times a year until 1958. Their first production was "The Campbell's Are Coming" under the direction of Don Taber.



THE CAST L:R Front row: Dean Kramer, Peggy Coale; Second Row: Lydia Gaylor, Mary Roberts, Louise Richter, Etta Baker; Standing: Ira Fritz, Dick Evans, Bill Hickman, Charles Andrews

The Rebecca Calder Auxiliary to Methodist Hospital is Organized

In 1956, this new auxiliary to the Methodist Hospital of Philadelphia was organized at Covenant. It was named after Rebecca Calder who along with her husband were charter members of the church and who were active in missionary work. The primary purpose of the organization was to provide linens for the hospital. Women of the church were invited to join in the sewing projects.



Methodist Men's Meeting



Methodist Men's Dinner



Rev. Wells calls on Mrs. Rebecca Calder

Rev. Richard B. Wells (1959-1961) served Covenant as Assistant Pastor concentrating on pastoral visitation. In his short time with Covenant, he made 1200 calls at homes of members including the serving of communion to shut-ins. He retired after 55 years of serving his fellow man.



SALUTE TO THE PARKING COMMITTEE

Every Sunday, in all kinds of weather, these men of the Parking Committee were on duty to give even the most inexperienced drivers excellent help in parking their cars, and to maintain efficient use of Covenant's parking lot.

In the spring of 1959, **Rev. Robert H. Wright** (1959-1964) was appointed Associate Pastor. Following college and a stint in the U. S. Army, he matriculated at Drew Theological Seminary and was awarded a B.D. degree by that



Rev. Wright

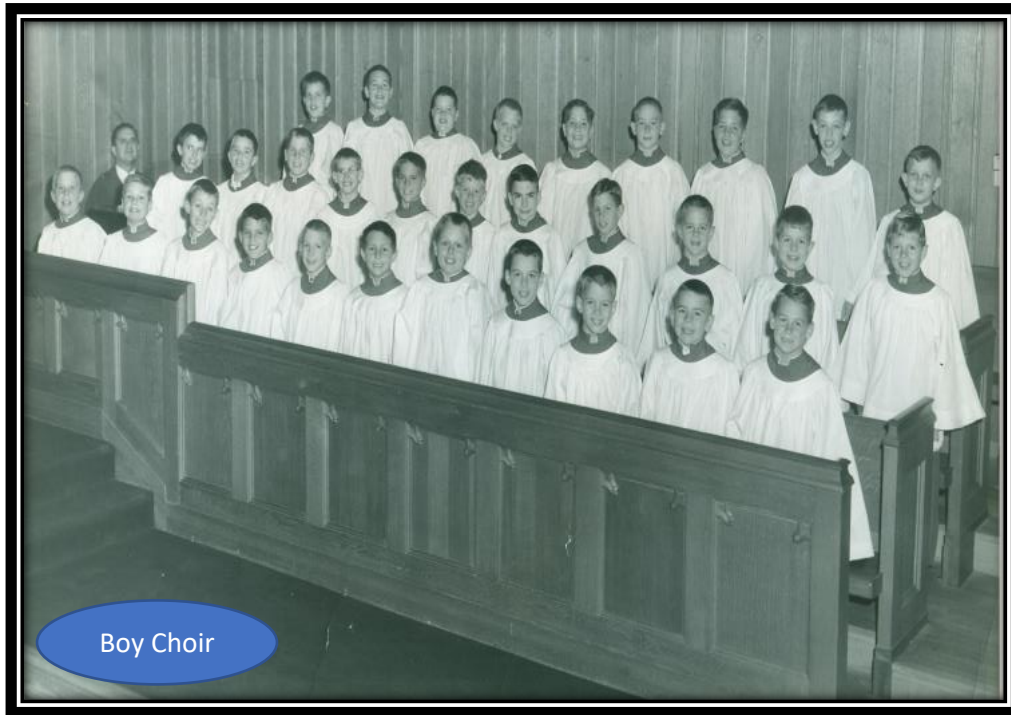
institution in June 1959. Thereafter he was ordained a Deacon in the Methodist church and was received into full membership in the Philadelphia Conference when he was ordained an Elder in 1960. Youth activities were enlivened by his leadership. In May 1964 he was assigned to Llanerch Methodist Church.

Following the retirement of Thomas E. Kraemer after 30 years of tremendous service to Covenant Choirs, **Dr. James Allen Dash** (1960-1962) became Organist and Director of Music on September 1, 1960. He earned music degrees (B.S., M.Ed., and Mus.Doc.) at Temple and the University of Pennsylvania and was awarded three graduate fellowships for European study. He arranged and published church choral music in his own company. During his time



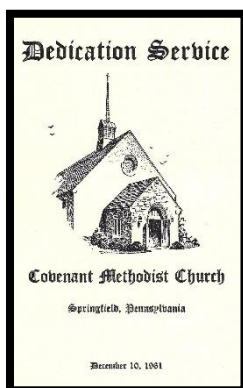
Dr. Dash

at Covenant, he initiated the formation of many choirs. The Men's Chorus, the Boy Choir, the Aldersgate Choir and the Collegiate Choir all were organized under his leadership. He gave several concerts, presenting Handel's "Messiah", Sir John Stainer's "Crucifixion" and the Spring Concert of 1961. In addition, private music lessons were offered by him to members and friends of the church. Unfortunately, he died unexpectedly in March of 1962. A Memorial Service was conducted in the Sanctuary on April 3, 1962 by Rev. Stettler.



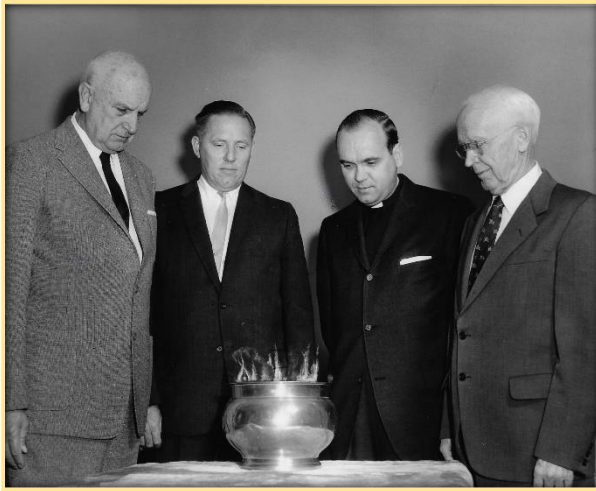
Boy Choir

COVENANT MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY



To celebrate Covenant's 40th Anniversary, a mortgage burning and dedication of the Sanctuary and Epworth Building was held at both Sunday morning services on December 10, 1961. Bishop Fred Pierce Corson was guest speaker. Assisting in the service were the Bishop's cabinet, district superintendents and officials of the church. The Wesley, Collegiate, and Chancel Choirs provided special music. The Sanctuary and Epworth Building, both debt-free, were presented to the bishop at the dedication by Ralph S. Miller, President Board of Trustees.

1922 – 2022 ABRIDGED HISTORY



The mortgage being burned was the one for \$60,000 taken out in 1953 to help pay for the Sanctuary. This anniversary was based on the date of 1921 as the founding date; all subsequent anniversaries have been based on the official beginning in 1922.

Photo: L:R George Beitzel, Lay Leader; Ralph Miller, President Board of Trustees; Reverend Stettler; John Calder, Charter Member.

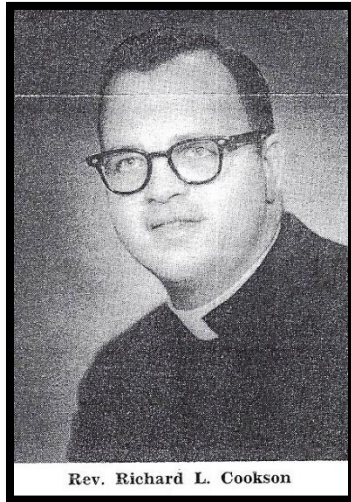
In October 1962, **John H. Henzel** (1962-1964) became the new Director of Music, serving as combination organist and director of the Chancel, Collegiate, Aldersgate, Wesley, Boy and Asbury Choirs. The senior high Aldersgate choir assumed the responsibility for providing choir music weekly at the 9:30 a.m. service.



*Robert McKee, Music Chairman
John H. Henzel (R)*



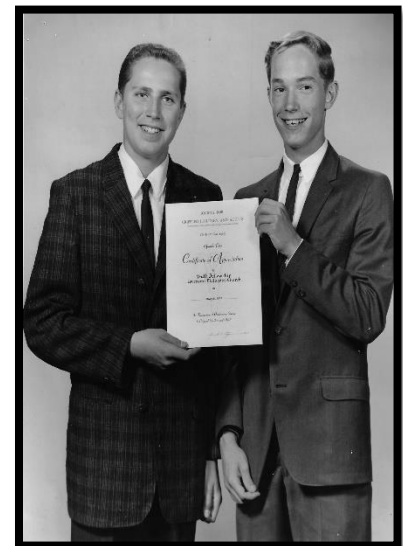
*1960's Sunday School Class for 4 yr. olds, 11 o'clock service
Mrs. Barbour, Teacher*



Effective July 1, 1963, Bishop Corson transferred **Rev. Richard L. Cookson** (1963-1966) to Covenant to serve as Minister of Christian Education. He graduated from Grove City College and Drew Theological Seminary. Rev. Cookson had a reputation throughout the country as a leader in the field of Christian Education. He had a keen interest in promoting the program of Junior and Senior High youth through coordinating the Sunday morning and evening program, youth choirs, Methodist student movement, etc.

As reported to the Official Board, a church of Covenant's size should have at least three full time Ministers available for pastoral responsibilities. With the appointment of Rev. Cookson, Covenant now had three pastors on staff. Rev. Cookson handled the total Christian Education program and Rev. Wright developed Parish Ministry.

In 1963, Covenant Junior and Senior High Fellowships received an award from the Easter Seals Association for their outstanding service to the Easter Seals Program for the last several years. The award was presented at a luncheon to Ken Prager (L) and Chuck Churchman who represented Covenant's Fellowships as the only youth group recognized.



Donald C. Taber shows two of his Williamsburg sketches to Rev. Cookson and Mrs. Ralph Miller

Covenant sponsored an exhibit of original art work by church members. Twelve persons contributed to the display: Donald C. Taber, Mrs. George D. Beatty, Rev. Richard L. Cookson, Mrs. John A. Dash, Mrs. Richard D. Evans, Mrs. Robert F. Fonner, Mrs. William E. Gibson, Mrs. Eldridge M. Mount, Mr. Elwood P. Schollenberger, Mrs. Leon H. Sperow, and Mrs. John H. Way. Mr. Taber also designed the masthead for the Covenant Caller and the front page of the Sunday Program.

“SEVENTY NINERS”

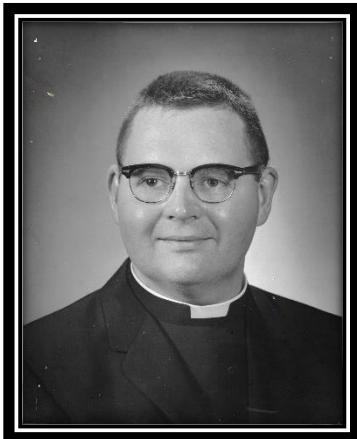
The “79’ers” (an eligible couple’s combined age could not exceed 79) was organized February 1963. The group came into being as a means by which young couples in the church might become better acquainted. Its emphasis was on fun, fellowship and service to the church. Events included a Lenten activity, dinner out, Saturday work sessions at Camp Innabah, Dell concerts and family picnics.



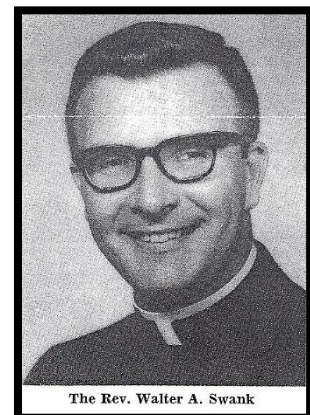
SHORTCAKE IS BUT ONE OF BAZAAR ATTRACTIONS

Mrs. Richard D. Evans, Mrs. Jack J. Barbour, and Mrs. John J. Barranger display a few of the lovely handmade items which were available for purchase at the Woman’s Society Strawberry Festival on June 11, 1964

Rev. John S. Reese (1964-1965) joined the ministerial staff in June 1964, replacing Reverend Wright as an Associate Minister. He earned his B.S. degree from Kutztown State Teacher’s College, M.A. degree from Lehigh University and Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Eastern Theological Seminary in 1964. Following a stint in the Army Signal Corps, and working as an elementary teacher and principal, the ministry called him. Bishop Corson appointed him to the Cheltenham Avenue Methodist Church in February 1965.



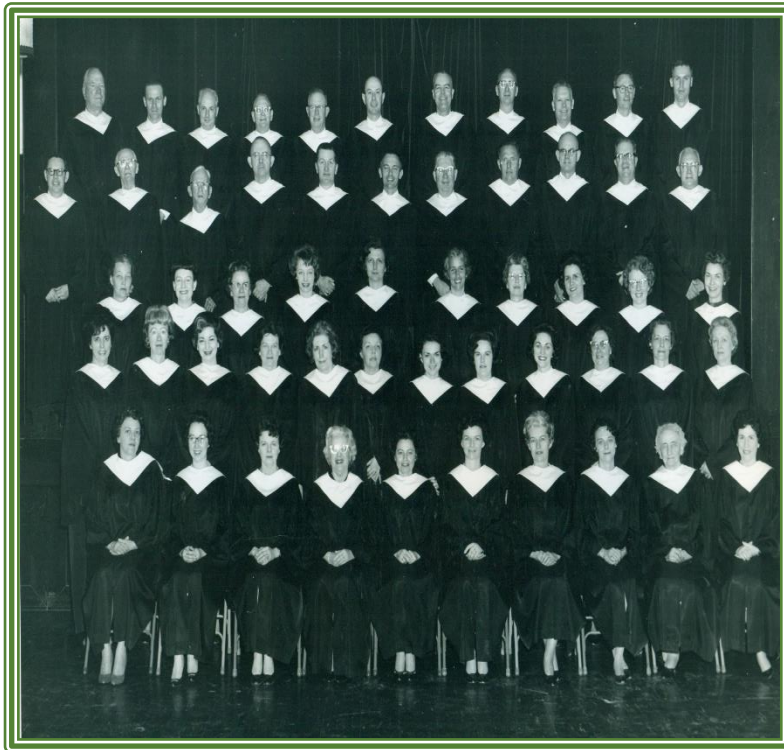
In what was a period of revolving door associates, **Rev. Walter A. Swank** (1965-1966) was assigned to Covenant following the transfer of Rev. Reese. He earned a B.A. from Eastern Baptist College and his theological training took place at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. At the 1966 annual conference, Rev. Swank requested that he be relieved of his pastoral responsibilities at Covenant as he felt compelled to invest his life in the teaching profession.





Upon the resignation of Music Director, John H. Henzel, **George W. Weldy, Jr. (L)** and **Richard S. Kromer** served as choir directors for the Chancel Choir and Aldersgate Choirs respectively. The Asbury and Wesley Choirs did not resume rehearsals until a new director was found. The Music Committee began searching for a part-time replacement without success. Eventually a new direction emerged for Covenant.

Kenneth G. Fansler (1965-1972), a certified Minister of Music with twelve years' experience in the field of music and Christian Education, was recommended to the Official Board which unanimously approved his full-time employment effective January 1, 1965. He was a graduate of Salem College majoring in church music. At the time of his hiring, he held a local Preacher's license, had completed the introductory studies for the ministry, and was working on a four-year program to advance his education. The youth program was very strong during this period. Music, innovative worship services, trips and retreats, and the addition of a bell choir were a few of his accomplishments.



CHANCEL CHOIR 1965

The "Crucifixion" was the Lenten cantata for 1965. During May, the Chancel Choir participated in the annual worship service for the Philadelphia Conference at Arch Street Methodist Church where the new Methodist Hymnal was officially introduced. Later in the month the Chancel Choir sang at the Centennial celebration of the Methodist Home for the Aged.

HANDBELL CHOIR ADDED TO MUSIC MINISTRY



A dedication service of a new 37 set of Handbells occurred on November 7, 1965 at both services of worship. They were given by friends in memory of Dr. Percy L. Mehring, who was a member of Covenant for 20 years. The Handbells were hand cast at the Sellersville, Pennsylvania factory of the Schulmerich Carillon Company. George W. Weldy, Jr. and Richard S. Kromer worked with Mr.

Fansler to produce specialized arrangements. Junior High youth rehearsed for six weeks and were ready to “ring” at Christmas time.

By 1966, Covenant was the largest Methodist Church in Delaware County, having a membership of over 2,100, and the second largest church in the Philadelphia Conference, a body that encompassed 330 churches at the time.

1966 was a busy year as Covenant welcomed two new ministers in the fall of 1966: **Rev. Leo C. Farley** (1966-1969) and **Rev. Robert E. Norman** (1966-1970). While both took part in the total ministry of the church, Rev. Farley had responsibility for Christian education and Rev. Norman assumed the responsibility for membership and evangelism.

Rev. Farley was a graduate of Concord College in West Virginia and received his Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Religious Education Degrees from Crozer Seminary. Rev. Norman graduated from William and Mary College, the University of Virginia Law School, and Crozer Theological Seminary.



A new church sign was installed on the corner of Springfield Road and Saxer Avenue in the summer of 1965 as a means to publicize church events.



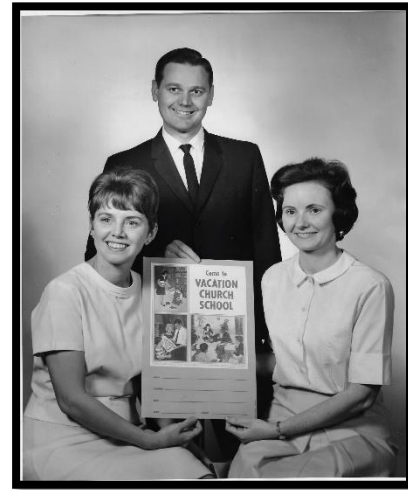
Rev. Farley



Rev. Norman



*Group Leaders of the 1966 Christmas Workshop for Families are:
L:R (seated) Gilda Myers, Ethel D'Angelo and Marian Kelly; 2nd
row: Patricia McAllister, Emolyn Mount and Jeannette Irby*



*Rev. Farley with Dorothea Swaab
and Katie Singley (R) make plans for
the 1967 Vacation Church School*

After 14-1/2 years as Covenant's Senior Minister, the congregation received a letter from Rev. Stettler stating that he had accepted a position as the ninth President of Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, Pennsylvania and would be leaving Covenant in October 1967. He cited as his most important accomplishment "the spiritual growth of the congregation and its increasing sensitivity to the needs of others through the outreach of the church." A farewell reception was held at the Woodland Avenue Junior High School where 400 of his friends and colleagues gathered to wish him well in his new endeavor.

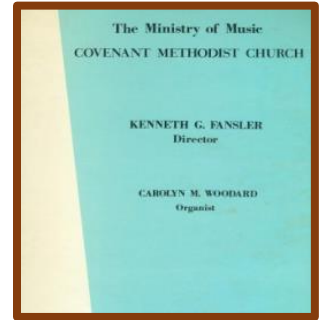
By the time Rev. Stettler left Covenant, plans were well underway for the construction of a second educational unit. Two adjacent properties on South Hillcrest Road were purchased and an architect was chosen to assist in developing plans.

On December 3, 1967, **Rev. Harvey W. Marsland** (1967-1971) filled the vacancy created by the departure of Rev. Stettler. For the past 13 years, Rev. Marsland was pastor of the Wayne Methodist Church where he substantially grew the congregation and orchestrated a \$1 million building program, thus continuing Covenant's tradition of strong pastoral leadership. He graduated from Lafayette College and Drew Theological Seminary.



Rev. Marsland

In May of 1968, a recording was made by the Chancel and Aldersgate Choirs featuring one side of anthems and hymns by the Chancel Choir. The second side included music by the Handbell and Aldersgate Choirs and seasonal music by the Chancel Choir. The recording was made at the Wayne Methodist Church with organ accompaniment by Covenant's Carolyn Woodard.

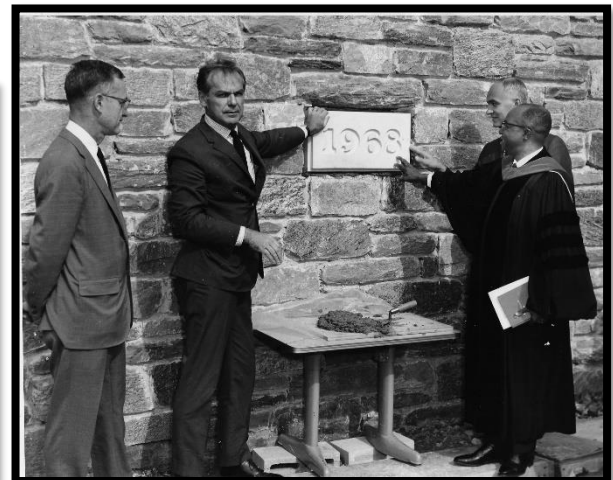


In April 1968, construction began on the new Fellowship-Education Building to house youth educational units, a choir room and a Fellowship Hall. The plan also called for additional parking facilities extending onto Hillcrest Road. The new Fellowship Hall was to be located on the top floor and was built to accommodate 600 people for a general meeting and 350 for a dinner meeting. The original church building was torn down to make way for the new building. Cost of the new building and furnishings was approximately \$425,000.



Demolition of Original Sanctuary

April 1968



Cornerstone Laying

October 20, 1968

L:R: Jack McGarrah, Cliff Garner (Architect), Walter Hall, Jr. (Chairman, Building Committee), Walter Hazard, District Superintendent

Another change that occurred in 1968 originated at the national level and affected Covenant's name. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church adopted a plan of union. The resulting body became the United Methodist Church. Therefore, Covenant became **Covenant United Methodist Church**.



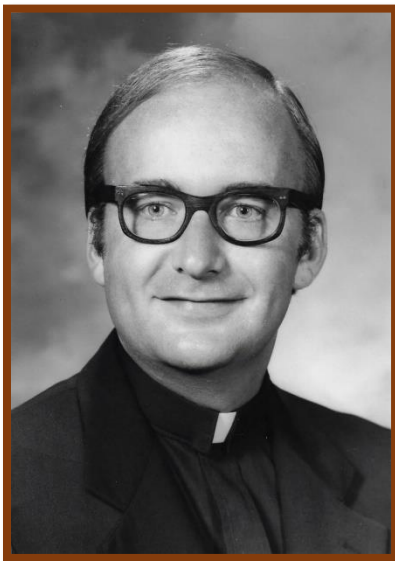
On Sunday, December 8, 1968, eighteen children from the Church School participated in Covenant's annual creche program on the lawn of the church. The Christmas Story was sung through carols by the children as the figurines were placed in the Creche. Amy Grant placed the Christ Child at the 9:30 a.m. service while Karen Russell did the same at the 11 a.m. service. At each service, eight other children from the various grades aided in placing the other figurines. In charge of the program were Walter Way, Darlene Bachman and Louise Mannion.

On Sunday, May 4, 1969, Dr. J. Gordon Howard, presiding Bishop of the Philadelphia area officiated at the consecration of Covenant's newly named "Kingswood" Building. The new building was named after the first school established by John Wesley.



SENIORS FORM NEW GROUP

KEENAGERS, created in 1969, is a group of people who are over 55 years of age who met for dinner and entertainment six times a year. People came from Covenant as well as others in the community. The meals were served by the women of Covenant. This group continued for 40 years.



REV. VANCE

Following the departures of Reverends Farley and Norman, **Rev. Richard A. Vance** (1970-1972) was appointed to Covenant as Assistant Pastor by Bishop Howard. He came from Crozer Theological Seminary where he had just received the Master of Divinity Degree. His undergraduate work was at Duke University where he received his A.B. degree in 1964. Prior to his entrance into ministry, he was Director of Public Relations at Duke and later worked in sales for IBM.



For additional information, a 145-page history of the Women's Societies and an ongoing 100-page history of the Music Ministry at Covenant have been written and are available by request.

TO BE CONTINUED....THE NEXT 25 YEARS (1972-1997)

Respectfully compiled by Nancy Siegfried Hansen