

Irvington

**United Methodist Church
125th Anniversary Celebration**



June 8, 2014

**26 King Carter Drive
Irvington, VA 22480
804-438-6800**



Irvington United Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our 125th Anniversary of continuous worship at this location!

Throughout the years, God has truly blessed the Irvington United Methodist Church family. Thank you for joining us as we give thanks for those blessings and as we celebrate our rich church history.

As a part of God's family, we consider you a part of the Irvington United Methodist Church family – and as family, we invite you to make yourself at home. We pray that while you worship with us, you will experience the grace of our loving God, and that you will come to love our church as we do.

The entire congregation, especially the anniversary committee, has worked tirelessly to ensure that your visit is enjoyable.

Thank you, again, for joining us and making our 125th

Anniversary a special day to remember. Please know that your presence is greatly appreciated. It is our prayer that the peace of Christ would be with you on this day and in the days to come.

Yours in Christ,

J. E. Bailey

Jarvis Bailey, Pastor

History of the Church

By Julia M. Lee

1889 – 1939

(As printed in 1939)

In the period following the War between the States, the people of this community, then known as Carter's Creek, later named Irvington in honor of L.H. Irving, one of the leading citizens, had to go elsewhere to worship God. Those who held to the tenets of the Baptist faith went to "Old Salem," on the road from White Stone to Kilmarnock; the Methodists went to White Stone. They would either cross the creek in small boats or go up to the head of "Old Mill Cove" and cross over the stream on a one-log bridge. Then they walked a good distance on the other side over roads, rough and muddy.

The population of our village began to increase rapidly in the early (eighteen)-seventies, due to the abundance of fish and oysters found in the Rappahannock and its tributaries, and also due to a general shifting of population incident to and following the War.

Secular education was almost as far beyond the reach of the smaller children as church training, so the people began to plan for the education of their youth. In the year 1872 they secured the services of the Rev. W.H.C. Long, from Maryland, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who was to teach during the week, and preach on Sunday-all for the munificent sum of \$800.00 a year.

From the estate of J.O. Haydon was secured the land on which they built the old Chapel, above which was constructed later a "Good Templar's Hall," the birth place of the temperance movement here. The handmade pews and pulpit of this Chapel were not the most beautiful, or the most comfortable: but as a rule, public worship was well attended. Every so often ministers from Old Morattico Baptist Church and Lancaster Methodist Church would fill the pulpit, among them the Reverends Andrew Broaddus, Wayland Dunaway, Fred Claybrook, Alfred Wiles, Herbert T. Bacon, Junius B. DeBerry, and James H. Crown. If any unusual event were to take place, the men of the community cheerfully gave days of work in building a large brush arbor in front of the Chapel, where congregations sat for hours on rough benches without backs.

The congregation, composed largely of members of White Stone Church, grew rapidly, and the need for a larger place of worship was keenly felt. So, under the leadership of the Longs, Newbills, Bussells, Turners, Masons, Hundleys, Rilees, Messicks, O.R. Hopkins, Irvings, W.McD. Lee, Brewingtons, A. James, and others, plans were set on foot to build a Methodist Church. On February 21, 1887, R.M. Saunders and Julia E. Saunders, his wife, conveyed the church lot, four acres and eight perches, for the sum of \$210.00 to L.H. Irving, Wm. J. Newbill, James N. Bussells, George P. Messick, Thomas Rilee, and Wm. H.C. Long, Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

There was organized a Ladies' Aid Society which had for its object the raising of

funds to assist in the building and upkeep of the Church. Men as well as women were members, and young and old attended the monthly meetings. After the business sessions, there were social hours, which became outstanding events of the Church.

By the Spring of 1889 enough funds had been raised to begin the work on the church. It was originally planned to let the Church face the Kilmarnock road, and the work of excavation was begun. However, the plans were changed and the present setting was chosen. All the lumber was brought here on sailing vessels by Captains Wash Bussells and Andrew Powell, and was hauled from the wharf to the church by Mr. Grip Dunton and a black man, Richard Holmes, now living here.

On May 27, 1889, the cornerstone was laid by the Masons, Judge Samuel Downing as Worshipful Master, presiding. He was assisted by our Presiding Elder, Dr. George H. Ray.

The work moved somewhat slowly, and at one time looked as though the building would not be near enough completion in the Fall to meet the requirements for dedication. To make that goal the members strove all the harder, having lectures and other types of entertainments to raise the necessary funds.

The Church was dedicated in the Fall of 1889, and at its session that year, the Virginia Annual Conference separated from the Lancaster Circuit, to which we had belonged, the churches of Carter's Creek and White Stone, forming White Stone Circuit. The silver-tongued orator, the Rev. J.R. Tillery, was the first Pastor of the Circuit. Shortly after the establishment of the Methodist Church here as a regular preaching appointment on the Circuit, the Baptists of the community organized themselves into a congregation, continuing to use the Old Chapel for their services, later erecting their own building across the street from the Methodist Church. For years, even until the present time, the Methodists and Baptists have cooperated in all Christian activities, working coordinately rather than competitively.

Carter's Creek was chosen for the home of the pastor of the Circuit, and the Charge rented a house in what is now known as West Irvington. Later, the Charge bought the property now owned by Mr. Jasper Jett for use as a parsonage. The ladies of the Charge organized a Parsonage Society, which had for its purpose the upkeep of the interior of the parsonage. The society met quarterly, and these meetings became red-letter days in the Church calendar – all day sessions, and dinner such an important feature that the committees for serving were appointed three months in advance.

The Sunday School was organized in the beginning, with the Rev. W.H.C. Long as Superintendent. The work of the School has been carried on through the half century under the superintendency of Mr. Long, H.B. Nolley, O.R. Hopkins, B.L. Willing, and the present Superintendent, W.J. Haynie. The first Treasurer of the Church and Sunday School was J.W. Hundley. As this was before the days of perfected organization, if the needs of the Church were pressing and funds were low, he would draw on the Sunday School funds for the deficit, and vice versa if the Sunday School funds were exhausted.

In the first year of the Church life the Woman's Missionary Society was organized, with Mrs. I.E. Wilshin as its President. Until 1937 there were only two other presidents, Mrs. Anne E. Newbill and Mrs. Sallie E. James. In 1937, Mrs. Rachel M Buchan was elected president, serving one year, and was succeeded by Mrs. Pauline L. Haynie, the incumbent. Shortly after the formation of the Missionary Society for the women, a Rosebud Missionary Society was organized.

In September of 1889 the Chesapeake Academy began its work, holding its first session in the Old Chapel and Good Templar's Hall. Our church was greatly helped through the years by teachers from this school, such as: Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Nolley, Mr. and Mrs. S.P. Latane, Mr. Carroll Vaden, Miss Ruth Vaden,, Mr. F.G. Newbill, Mr. and Mrs. D.R. Anderson, and others. Especially do we owe a great debt to the music department of that school for its share in making our Church Choir so efficient that its excellent singing was known throughout the Northern Neck.

During the infancy of our Church there was a revival, unique, almost Pentecostal. It began in a prayer meeting led by several members of the Church, in which there were several conversions. The people were deeply moved, and decided then and there to continue the services. The influence of this protracted meeting was felt throughout our community and in the surrounding villages.

We grew in every way under the ministry of the deep thinker, the Rev. John T. Payne, who, when he pointed a finger and said, "Just another thought!", had really another thought for his listeners. His stay was saddened by the death of his oldest son and namesake. In August, Mr. Payne resigned and the rest of that Conference year we were served by the Rev. M.S. Colonna, Jr.

The next four years we had with us our beloved Rev. J.W.S. Robins, who later came to us a second time. It was during Mr. Robins' pastorate that the Irish Evangelist Lee set fire to the torch of Local Option in Lancaster County. Ray Robins, the only son of the Pastor, died here.

There followed a four year term under the logic and reasoning of the Rev. C.R. James. Members of his family today refute the oft quoted slander about parsonage children. Alfred James and Arthur James are not names to make a parsonage ashamed.

The Christian gentleman, the Rev. J.M. Anderson, came in 1902. For some while there had been on foot a movement to build a new parsonage in the oak grove of the Church yard. In 1903, we completed our pretty parsonage, designed by Mr. W. McD. Lee, and Mr. Anderson's family moved in. He had often been heard to say, "I'd rather wear out than rust out," which wish was not denied him, for he laid down his work at the close of a full Sunday in February of 1906.

During Mr. Anderson's pastorate two missions were established. Anderson Chapel was built near Weems and Moran Chapel was established in the Taylor's Creek community. Mr. J.W. Haydon served both these Missions as Sunday School superintendent. Moran Chapel is now occupied by the congregation of Wesley

Presbyterian Church, and Anderson Chapel was long since sold.

After the death of Mr. Anderson, the Rev. James Riddick Laughton served as Pastor from May of 1906 until the meeting of the Annual Conference of that year. Mr. Laughton then showed promise of becoming one of the most scholarly men of the Conference, which promise has been more than fulfilled in his later ministry.

From 1906 to 1908 the Rev. E.F. Garner pleasingly filled our pulpit and had large congregations to listen to him. During that time, our finances seem to have been good, as the Parsonage Society reported a surplus of \$20.00 in the Treasury, and no needs for supplies in the parsonage except cretonne for a curtain.

Quite a change was made in the interior of the Church during the Pastorate of the kindly and genial spirit, the Rev. John D. Hosier. The pulpit was extended to form a choir loft, the present metal ceiling was put up, walls were tinted and decorated, frosted windows were replaced by stained glass, a new carpet was laid, and pews were rearranged to provide a large center aisle, which provided a better arrangement for funerals and weddings.

In the Fall of 1916, during the second pastorate of the Rev. J.W.S. Robins, the Conference rearranged the District, placing Irvington Church with Kilmarnock. During this year, Mr. Robins was in poor health, and the pulpit was supplied at frequent intervals by several other ministers, notably among them was the Rev. L.C. Smart. The newly formed Circuit was served for one year by the Rev. Frank McLean, being followed by the Rev. W.Y. Scales. Mr. Scales received into the church one of the largest classes of young people on record. The history of Methodism was featured in a program under his direction.

In 1919 Irvington Church was made a station. Our first Pastor was the Rev. George H. McFaden, who gave up his loved work as head of the Masonic Orphanage to come to us. It was in that year that Anderson Chapel was sold. The present organ in the Church was purchased and installed during his pastorate.

The Sunday School reached its high water mark in the years when the Rev. Walter C. Gum was with us. At one time there was an enrollment of 250. Our records show that, with an enrollment of 220, we were having an average attendance of 195. Mr. Gum's spirituality and marked ability caused him to be called to larger fields of service after two years here.

The outstanding monument to the work of the Rev. J.U. Edwards, and his wife, a trained teacher, was the beginning of the grading of the Sunday School, which work was not completed because of his failing health. During Mr. Edwards' pastorate, Mr. Holland R. Wilkinson assisted in two revivals. Due to the illness of Mr. Edwards during his last year, the pulpit was filled by visiting pastors, Dr. T.F. Carroll assisting frequently.

The unfinished work of Sunday School organization was taken up and developed

by the Rev. Wm. R. Reed, who served from 1926 to 1928. At this time the Church reached its highest financial peak. Over \$1000 was spent on the Church, shutting off the wings with folding doors, separating the vestibule from the body of the church, installing electric lights, replacing side walls with the present metal walls, and painting inside and outside. Nearly as much was spent on the parsonage. Our total collections in 1927 reached nearly the \$7000 mark.

The Rev. S.A. Donahoe, later, Dr. Donahoe, by the beauty of his sermons and his wonderful oratory, filled the Church pews for two years. The Sunday School organization was being pushed, and in 1928 there were seven (7) organized classes.

The Rev. E.K. Odell, ably assisted by his consecrated wife, wrought well, keeping his finger tips on the pulse of every phase of the work. Our children and young people were their special interests. They reorganized the Epworth League, and under Mrs. Odell's wise direction, the young people did excellent work.

In the summer of 1934, we had a Home Coming Day, which was a great success. The speaker of this morning was the Rev. Wallace R. Evans, who was sent to us by the Bishop at the next session of the Annual Conference. Both he and his wife kept in touch with all the work, and their busy days were spent for the Church. He worked hard in trying to perfect the Church School organization, took very active part in the Daily Vacation Bible School, and the Training School in which we had been participating every year since Mr. Reed was with us. In 1934 we made a religious survey of the community.

Our last year as a station was under the leadership of the Rev. James Riddick Laughton, who was appointed to us for the second time in 1936. The Annual Conference of 1937 again made us a part of Lancaster Circuit, joining us with White Marsh, Bethel, and Emmanuel Churches.

The Rev. B.B. Bland came in 1937 and at once began a campaign for the youth of the town. The Junior Choir is a monument to his talented wife. His Holy Week services were outstanding. We were very glad to be able to send him up to Conference with our share of the finances fully paid up, something we had failed to do for several years previous.

In 1938 we started out again under new leadership. Much has been done toward perfecting the Church organizations, big things are planned for the ongoing of the Kingdom, by this tireless, devoted leader, the Rev. Allen J. Carter.

Our Church through these years has been served by the following Organists: Mrs. W.J. Newbill, Mrs. Pearl Rilee Clements, Mrs. Charles L. Smith, Mrs. Olive White Messick, Pauline Long Haynie, and Nora Smith Brewington.

The Rev. Dr. Lovick P. Law, General Evangelist of the Methodist Church, and Prof. F.J. Balmond, Evangelist-Singer, have been recent and valued additions to the Church.

This is indeed a goodly heritage. "Seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses," we dare not fail to take up the torch, and go on from victory to greater victory, till the last stronghold of the enemy is taken. The obstacles overcome, the victories won in this half century are a challenge to us. "There is still the Man on the Cross."

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or even thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou are God."

1939 – 1989
by
Pauline Hearold Franklin
and
Geraldine Sizemore Dameron
(As printed in 1989)

We are now gathered in celebration of the 100th birthday of Irvington United Methodist Church. It is with many warm remembrances that we present to you a brief history of the pastors who have served us, and their contributions to our Christian Growth these past fifty years.

(1940 – 1944) The Rev. John Light, his wife, and young daughter, Jean, served our church during these years. How lovely Irvington must have been when the church was central in most lives.

(1944 – 1949) The Rev. John T. Brown and his wife brought three young teenagers to fill our parsonage, Joyce, Hugh and Barbara. Joyce remained in Irvington with her new husband, Chandler Luckham, and served as our organist for many years.

(1949 – 1953) The Rev. and Mrs. Henry S. Roane (Erma), though they had no children, blessed us with their love and ministry to our youth. It was they who saw the need and began plans for an educational building. Many still remember the "Mile of Dollars" on the sidewalk fronting our church – a beginning to our dream.

(1953 – 1956) These years brought the Rev. Allen D. Minter and his wife, Margaret, to serve our church. They had one son, Danny, and Janet soon arrived to add to an already lively household. Our lovely new educational building was completed during their ministry. Rev. Minter is presently serving a church in Dunn Loring, Virginia.

(1956 – 1959) During these years, we were privileged to have with us the Rev. Alfred G. Stables, his wife, Lois Gibson, and their young son, Arthur Allen. While here, another son, Tommy, was born. While we are saddened when our ministers leave, our system is good: they go on to share their gifts with others.

(1959 – 1967) Retirement couldn't hold him! The Rev. Chester A. Tucker returned to the pulpit, bringing his lovely new bride, "Miss Katie White," a friend of many years. His life was a sermon, and he has been seen shoveling snow on the church walk early Sunday morning. It was during his ministry that we celebrated the note-burning and dedication of our educational facility. Also in 1964, we purchased a lovely new Everett piano for the sanctuary.

(1967 – 1968) The Rev. Reginald Vanderberry, also a retired minister, filled our spiritual needs during this year. Mr. Vanderberry then retired to Topping, Virginia, and still serves his Lord with a sermonette printed in his County Newspaper.

(1968 – 1969) The Rev. Mary Louise Steele served our church during this year, bringing with her the new experience of our first "lady preacher". It was she who initiated the use of our youth as acolytes, and all the children are given an opportunity for this service.

On April 23rd, 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church united to become The United Methodist Church.

(1969 – 1972) Raymond (Ray) Logan, though still a student and with his brand new wife, Wendy, blessed our congregation with his dynamic preaching. His brother, Bobby, filled the pulpit at Bethel United Methodist Church, a former member of our Charge. Those Logan Boys could stir the soul! It was during this time (1969) that we again accepted the Christian calling to unite with and become sister-church with White Marsh United Methodist Church. Also, plans were made for a Lay-Witness mission to be held in June of 1972. Ray presently serves as an Army Chaplain in Colorado.

(1972 – 1978) The Rev. Herbert Parker and wife, Emma Lou (with his daughter, Georgia Gail, visiting frequently) guided us through these years. During this time we purchased the memorial pews, choir chairs, and pew Bibles for our sanctuary. The Lay-Witness mission was held in June of 1972, which touched many people. Also, the Parkers were the first of our ministers to occupy our newly purchased parsonage. Mr. and Mrs. Parker are presently serving Mt. Moriah Church in Charlottesville but will be retiring to their recently purchased home in Charlottesville.

(1978 – 1981) Dr. Joseph S. Johnston with his wife, Edna Cralle, returned from retirement to bless us with his eloquent sermons and gentle manner. Dr. Johnston had been the first president of Virginia Wesleyan College and again retired to White Stone where he is still called upon frequently to preach. It was during his stay that we, with mixed emotions, sold our lovely old parsonage. It still stands today, being nicely kept by its new occupants and holding within its walls many pleasant memories. Also, in 1980 H. Jane Treakle donated a beautiful Hammond organ for the sanctuary.

(1982 – 1986) Stephanie and Shari came with their parents, the Rev. and Mrs. J. Charles Dameron (Sue), to again bring children to our parsonage. Charles was a "local boy come home" having been reared in Northumberland County. During this time our children of the 1960's were now bringing their children and our educational

building again was in full use. Charles and Sue provided a quiet, but effective, visiting ministry. Sue had food at the door almost before the word of need got out, and Charles was the bedside comforter of many. During their stay with us, our educational building received a fresh coat of paint.

(1986 – 1989) Marion Paul White enters his first appointment going backwards! He is retiring from business, courting his wife, Irma Lee, and beginning school. God called and called and “M.P.” has finally slowed down long enough to answer. His son, Paul Scott will be a senior at Ferrum College this fall and his daughter, Holly, recently married.

While here, Rev. White has thrilled the little ones with his children’s sermons, after which they attend Children’s Church under the direction of Bill Feamster. The Men’s Club is again quite active and we have beautifully renovated the interior of our educational building. M.P., a man of many talents, took time from his busy schedule to install the carpet.

During these years we have been privileged to have many of our members give freely of their time and talents in providing our worship services with their gifts of musical ability. Jayne Jackson was for many years a devoted Choir Director and we are now enjoying the talents of Terry Barrack, one of our young mothers. Our organists and pianist have been Charlotte Luckham, Anne Jett Bellows who served until her death in 1966, and Joyce Brown Luckham who served until her death in 1982. Betsy Crockett Smith, Wanda P. Lee, and Brenda Jackson Daniel, young ladies, who grew up in our church and community, also have frequently shared their gifts of music. Also, one of our Baptist friends, Mrs. Emma Gunther, a gifted organist, gave freely to our congregation for many months. We are presently so fortunate in having three of our young members faithfully serving our church in song, piano, and organ: Donna Chapman, Susanne Ruddock, and Terry Barrack.

We are so pleased that we have had two of our youth accept the call to preach – Thomas G. Lee now serving in Courtland, Virginia and Herbert P. Hall who after serving many churches, has retired and come home. He brings with him Roberta, his wife, also a native of this area. Though retired, they continue to serve their home church and all who call on them.

One of our former pastors, Rev. Walter Gum, became a bishop of the United Methodist Church and retired in July 1968.

Rosie (Hundley) and her husband, William Feamster, have retired and Bill organized and is the director of our successful “Children’s Church”. Bill has made contributions of time and financial support to help provide a delightful playground for our children with all sorts of things to pull on, climb on, and swing on.

The Decade After the Centennial Celebration

1989 – 1999

by

Geraldine Sizemore Dameron

The years between have been good years – we have seen many changes, lost and gained members, witnessed weddings, Baptisms, births, and deaths. Through all, we remain a church filled with much love.

While we were saddened to learn of the death of the Rev. Herbert Parker in 1996, we had been blessed to have him visit us only several weeks prior. Retirement could not hold him for he was still preaching.

Also, our own Rev. Herbert Hall and his wife, Roberta, are with us ONLY when he isn’t preaching somewhere else. He is frequently sought to fill the pulpits of other denominations. In 1997 he received the honor of becoming Pastor Emeritus of this, his home church.

While the five oldest members named in the history of 1989 have now transferred to “Eternal Membership,” we now honor Mrs. Vernon (Doris) Crockett as our oldest member. This lady has just celebrated her 86th birthday! Our youngest member, Master David Doyle, aged two, rings our steeple bell each Sunday morning while being held in the arms of his great uncle Thomas (Sonny) Hearold.

The Years Go On

(1989 – 1992) Rev. M.P. White left us to serve two churches in Northumberland County, one of which had burned several years prior. A beautiful edifice now stands in its place.

(1992 – 1996) Our very first clergy couple now occupies our parsonage on Edgewood Lane. Timothy Erhardt will serve Irvington and Delia Ann, called “Dede” will serve Heathsville, in Northumberland County. They came as newlyweds with Justin, Tim’s young son. While here, Mariah was born. This pastor offered a ministry of great compassion: “good-byes” were not without emotion.

(1996 – 1999) We have welcomed another clergy-couple, James A. and Sue Ann Ely Salmon. Jim serves Irvington and White Marsh churches and Sue Ann serves at Heathsville. Sue Ann graduated from Wesley Theological Seminary this month, and has received an assignment to serve White Stone UMC, beginning in July. Sue Ann was ordained a Deacon at the Annual Conference of 1998, and Jim is a student in the summer program at Wesley. Jim is an organizer and a builder and his talents are quite visible! White Marsh, our sister church, is alive, enjoying excellent health, and growing! They have reached a goal of \$ 115,000 for renovation and repair of their beautiful old church, which is currently underway. Irvington has undergone some quite attractive cosmetic improvements and a ramp for the handicapped has been installed.

Also, the White Marsh Computer Learning Center now occupies a room in the Irvington Educational Building. This ministry serves both children and adults, without cost. Funding was made available through the Jessie Ball DuPont Fund, for which we are grateful.

Just weeks before the Homecoming, the church learned that our floor under the sanctuary was subject to collapse, due to water damaged beams and sills. Beginning on April 30th, 1999, the old carpet, floors and joists were removed, the beams replaced, and new joists and flooring installed. On this new floor, we have installed new carpet. This was not an expense we had anticipated, but partial funding was achieved through the efforts of the pastor and the chair of the Finance Committee.

Prior to the discovery of the damaged flooring, the church had decided to initiate a capital improvement project, the building of a link between the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. The Link will also contain two handicap-accessible restrooms, coat closets, and a solid ramp from the sidewalk to the entry. This capital improvement will cost the church approximately \$ 65,000.

Irvington United Methodist Church History **2000 - 2014**

It is with great pleasure that I have again been called to record the history of Irvington United Methodist Church. May her roots grow deeper and her love spread wider.

Geraldine Sizemore Crockett Dameron

**Onward, Christian soldiers marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!
Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.**

Our United Methodist system of transferring our ministers is a good one. Each new minister brings fresh talents, gifts, hope and love to share with us.

2000

We begin this recording of our heritage with the coming of The Rev. John Biondolillo. During his tenure we had Sunday morning breakfast. On occasion he would bless us in solo with his strong voice. His wife, Cheryl, stood quietly beside him in her wide-brimmed lavender hats. He was the last of our pastors to occupy our parsonage, which we later sold.

2004

The Rev. John Durkovich (his pastorate) came to us with these words; "Just call me John." His laughter and his love of God were contagious. At his side was his devoted wife, Betty.

During this time we completed our expanded kitchen and the enclosed "link," connecting the sanctuary to the educational building. Also, the cornerstone, removed from the original foundation, was opened; sadly, all contents had disintegrated. The cornerstone is displayed in the connecting hallway.

2008

Bless his heart! The Rev. James N. Ritter with his musically gifted wife, Alouise, gave up retirement to tend this flock. When you heard "Praise the Lord," in a very distinct and melodic voice, you knew Jim was close by. Jim was a master of Brunswick Stew! He provided the recipe, the great big pot, the supervision, and much of the stirring power. You provide the appetite! It was my privilege to help him deliver communion to our shut-ins. Alouise went to be with God in September, 2013, and Jim is comforted by their children.

2010

During this time we were sent two clergy-women, a totally new and interesting era. The Rev. Dr. Donna Bowen, also retired, served part of the year with us and spent part of the year in Florida. Her sermons were meticulously prepared and presented. In Dr. Bowen's absence, Linnea Carlson (Local Supply, pending full membership) filled our pulpit. Linnea brought with her an adorable toddler, Marta, whom she had adopted from Haiti. She traveled to Haiti to bring her home. Marta was baptized into the Christian faith in our church.

2012

God is bringing His children together! We were sent an African-American pastor, with more than twenty-five years in pastoral leadership, to be our spiritual leader. The Rev. Jarvis Bailey, M.Div. and his wife, Monica, are both educators in the public school system and parent three young adult children, two sons and the daughter of Jarvis' deceased sister. Jarvis' sermons are dynamic and his message is "love your fellow man." Both he and the United Methodist denomination have chosen well.

We presently have just under 100 members. As of today, our oldest member is Mrs. Ida Dise Turlington, age ninety-five. Ida still attends church when she is able and will long be remembered for her beautiful soprano voice.

Also, our young Cryshon Ross, a lively seven year old, is a frequent attendee with his mom, Mary Ellen. He transforms into a perfect gentleman when he assists with the collection of tithes and offerings!

We are also blessed to have among our congregants one of our former pastors, the Rev. Charles Dameron, serving as Pastor Emeritus. His wife, Sue, serves as our United Methodist Women President.

During these years we have lost from our congregants the Rev. Philip Thomas, Pastor Emeritus, the Rev. Herbert Hall, Pastor Emeritus, and the Rev. John Durkovich, who have been called to Eternity.

The Rev. Philip Thomas' wife, Eleanor, was a local native. At age five, young Philip was preaching to the birds from an up-turned bucket. His quiet presence radiated with the gentle presence of God.

The Rev. Herbert P. Hall grew up in Irvington and at age six was called to the ministry from this church. His wife, Roberta Dunaway, also born and reared in this area, was his steadfast support. Their son, the Rev. Wesley Hall, continues to preach locally with his life-long companion, Brenda, the daughter of missionaries.

Our beloved Rev. John Durkovich, (personal history) a former Veteran's Administration chaplain, was also welcomed Home by the God he served with such joy. John was a first generation American whose parents came from Czechoslovakia through Ellis Island in New York. He was from the Lutheran faith but spent forty years in the United Methodist ministry. His wife Betty, educated in Religious Education, had taught school.

Bazaar

For the past fifteen years, our church has had an annual bazaar on the first Saturday of the months of October, November, and December, under the leadership of Audrey Lowery. Much fellowship is enjoyed during the year in preparation of these homemade gifts, baked goods, and lunches. The proceeds are divided among the church needs, a chosen charity, and two high school scholarships -- one each from the counties of Lancaster and Northumberland.

The United Methodist Church is divided into Conferences. Each Conference is led by a Bishop. The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church is divided into 16 districts with the overseer of each district being a District Superintendent.

In July of 2011 the Rappahannock District of the Virginia Conference was discontinued and its 60 churches were assigned to the newly formed York River and Fredericksburg Districts. Irvington United Methodist Church became a member of the Fredericksburg District under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Theodore Smith, D.S.. This new district is comprised of 75 churches. We are truly a "connectional" church with a presence throughout the world.

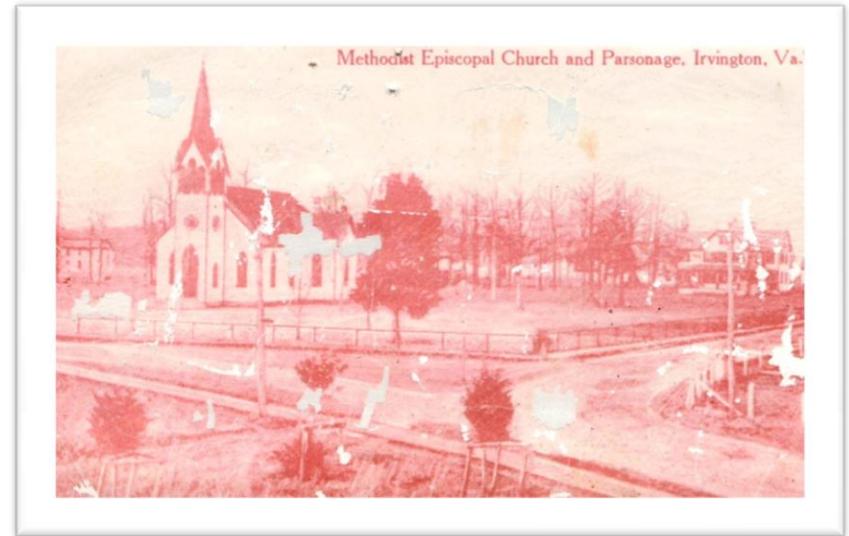
Today we are blessed to have the Bishop of the Virginia Conference, the Rev. Young Jin Cho, as our preacher for this our 125th anniversary.

Our prayer is that our little church on the corner will continue to serve its people, the community, and the world.



**Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.**

**Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.**



Irvington Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage in 1915

A Poem by one of our Deceased Members, Pauline H. Franklin

***As he walks with us, talks with us
Holds us close by his side;
Gives comfort to broken hearts,
Heals the sick when they cry.***

***We will continue this pilgrimage,
Carrying Jesus Christ's banner of love high;
Until one day we take our place,
With the Saints, that Jesus has called to his side.***

***With thankful hearts,
-and grateful joys of jubilation
We give to thee; we leave behind
God's heritage with great expectation.***

***Now, Oh! Lord, with willing hands,
-thoughtful and humble hearts;
We praise thee for our accomplishments,
Thank you for our battles well fought.***

**MEMBER DEATHS
FROM 1989 THROUGH MAY 2014**

ASHBURN, Gladys
BARRACK, Camille
BARRACK, Howard Henry
BARRACK, Isla Mae
BARRACK, Raymond
BELLOWS, John C. Jr.
BURGESS, Claude
COONEY, Elvin C.
COONEY, Ruby G.
CHRISTOPHER, John
CROCKETT, Doris
DAWSON, Barron, Sr.
FEAMSTER, William
FLINT, John Leon
FRANKLIN, Guy SR.
FRANKLIN, Janet S.
FRANKLIN, Pauline
HALL, Roberta
HAYNIE, Edward L.
HAYNIE, James
HAYNIE, Ruth
HEAROLD, Dorothy
HEAROLD, Minnie P.
HOLLBERG, Herbert
HUGHLETT, Ida B.
HUNDLEY, Andrew SR.
HUNDLEY, Beatrice
HUNDLEY, Eva
HUNDLEY, Rosa

HUNDLEY, Roy
LONDON, Margaret (Peggy)
LEWIS, Dorothy
LEWIS, Lucille
LOWERY, Mary Alice
LUCKHAM, Catherine
LUCKHAM, Chandler
LUCKHAM, Essie
LUCKHAM, Hiram
MASON, Beatrice
MASSEY, Albert T.
MITCHELL, Anna
PAINTER, Richard
PATTERSON, W. H.
REYNOLDS, Marion
REYNOLDS, Richard Carroll, Jr.
REYNOLDS, Zora
SMITH, Arnold Sr.
SMITH, Mary E.
TEBBS, Mary C.
THOMAS, Eleanor
TURLINGTON, Ella Mae
TURLINGTON, James
WARNER, Thomas
WHALEY, Robin D.
WINSTEAD, Clifford
WINSTEAD, Iola
WRIGHT, Claire
WRIGHT, John

Anniversary Committee

Food

*Cynthia Bishop
Mary Pittman
Lucille Christopher*

Invitations

*Audrey Lowery
Stavroula Alachnowitz
Edwina Crockett*

Music

*Edwina Crockett
Patty Dawson*

History Booklet

*Geraldine Dameron
Brenda Hall*

Leadership

*Rev. Jarvis Bailey, Pastor
Rev. Young Jin Cho, Bishop
Rev. Dr. Ted Smith, District Superintendent*