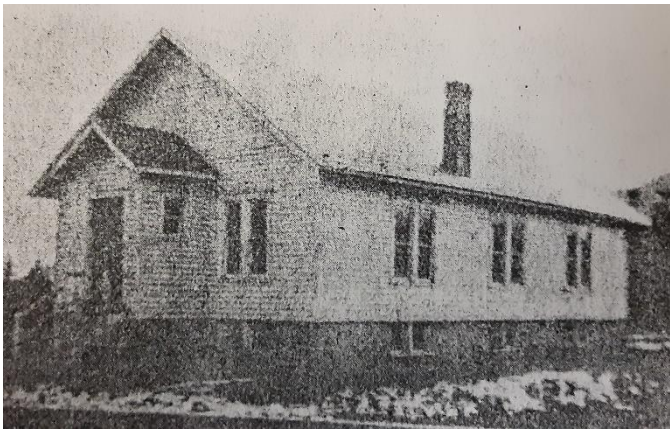
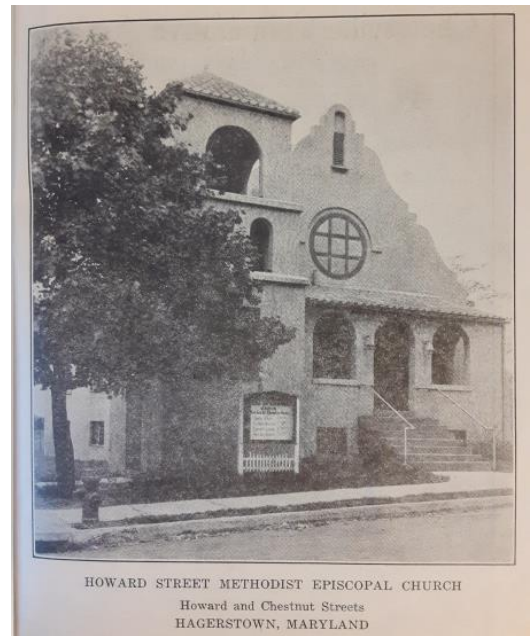


**The History of  
Howard Street Methodist Church  
and  
St. Andrews United Methodist Church  
(1914 – 2011)**



**1915**



HOWARD STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Howard and Chestnut Streets  
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

**1929**



**1960**



**Today**

## Dedication

This online history of Howard Street Methodist Church and St. Andrews United Methodist Church is dedicated to the memory of Gerald G. Holmes who spent countless hours writing, compiling photos and articles, creating, and publishing the printed version in 2011. There are limited copies still available at the church.

## In Loving Memory



Gerald G. Holmes  
January 3, 1930 to October 6, 2020

## Foreword

by Gerald G. Holmes

Writing this book has been a challenging and rewarding project. From the beginning, it was my intention to write a history narrative that included human interest events and relevant photographs.

My belief is that the history of the church should focus on the words and actions of the members. From 1915 to 2010, about a thousand people joined the church and hundreds more attended Sunday worship and Sunday School, but did not join the church.

Briefly, the written history starts with the late eighteenth century when Methodist missionaries reached the frontier towns in western Maryland.

Reverend A.M. Courtney, pastor of St. Pauls' Methodist Episcopal Church in Hagerstown, wrote a history of Methodism in Hagerstown and made a formal presentation to the congregation at the dedication service on November 19, 1887.

St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church was the center of the Methodist movement in Hagerstown and became the mother church of Washington Square Methodist Episcopal Church and Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church on Howard Street in South Hagerstown.

Following the early recorded history, Mary Ohler, a member of Howard Street, wrote a history of the church from its founding in 1915 to the dedication of St. Andrews United Methodist Church in April, 1960.

From 1960 to 2011 I compiled the highlights of the past years with emphasis on the major events. With personal stories and photographs, I intended to make the events meaningful and interesting.

Finally, I want to thank all of the members who contributed information, especially their personal memories, and to those individuals who wrote the early history and saved it so that we can have a better understanding and appreciation of our heritage and our faith.

Gerald Holmes

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## Introduction

### The Beginnings of Methodism

Methodism started in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The new Christian movement was led by John Wesley, an ordained minister in the Church of England. He was educated at Oxford University and served in the ministry of the Church of England.

In the 1730's Wesley was dismissed from the Church of England as a minister for violating church doctrine and practice. In 1735 he and his brother, Charles, went to the colony of Georgia in America to do missionary ministry among the American natives. This ministry was not successful in converting the American natives to Christianity. After three years John and Charles decided to return to England. On the way back to England the ship and passengers experienced a terrible storm and the possibility of drowning. On the ship were people of the Moravian faith. Wesley observed their calmness and faith as they prayed to God for his grace and safety.

On May 24, 1738, during a Moravian meeting on Aldergate Street in London, John Wesley's "heart was strangely warmed" as he listened to a reading of Martin Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans.

Between 1739 and 1744 John Wesley formed church societies throughout England, Ireland and Scotland based on his new beliefs and methods. Later these societies became the Methodist Church. In initiating these changes, John Wesley was no longer allowed to preach in the Anglican Churches.

Through Wesley's leadership, the Methodist Church grew throughout Great Britain and later in America. The growth of the Church in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century was credited to Wesley's faith commitment and his work ethic. During his lifetime of ministry, Wesley traveled 250,000 miles. When he died the church had 175,000 members and 630 lay preachers.

While John Wesley was the principal leader in the Methodist Church, his younger brother, Charles, contributed to the success of the early church through his work as an ordained minister, but primarily as a hymn writer. It is reported that he wrote 6,000 hymns. At Oxford University he established the Holy Club, a highly respected group of ordained clergy. He also worked with his older brother, John for seventeen years.

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, John Wesley started the missionary movement in America. He sent two preachers, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury to America to minister to the growing population of colonists along the east coast and those that had moved westward to the American frontier. This was the beginning of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Under the leadership of Francis Asbury the church started in Baltimore, Maryland and then spread from there to the frontier areas.

In 1784 Francis Asbury was elected as Bishop of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Prior to his election as Bishop of the Conference, Asbury was a successful circuit rider in spreading Methodism throughout the Maryland area. Through his faith commitment, Methodism was carried to the frontier areas of Western Maryland. This was highlighted by Asbury's two visits to Hagerstown.

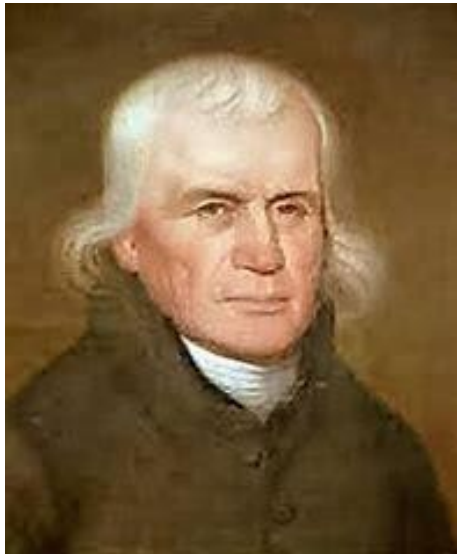
## Founder and Disciples of the Methodist Church



John Wesley, an English Minister and the founder of Methodism.



Charles Wesley, an English minister known for writing of 6,000 hymns.



Francis Asbury, an English Minister, was sent to America by John Wesley to minister to the colonial population.

**The History of Methodism and the  
United Methodist Church in Maryland  
Compiled by Gerald Holmes**

**Early History of Methodism in Western Maryland**

Jonathan Hager, the founder of Hagerstown, previously named Elizabethtown, came to the Cumberland Valley area in 1730. He laid out the town in 1762. This was the beginning of the frontier town in Western Maryland located along the main route leading to the frontier and settlements of Western Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley. The town grew over the next fifty years and by 1810 there was a population of 2,342 individuals.

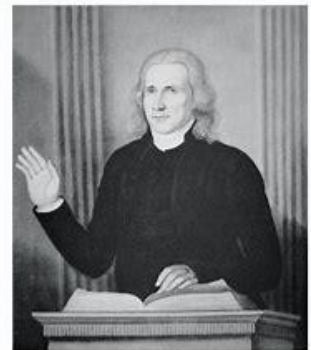
Hagerstown, like most frontier towns, was not inhabited by large numbers of pious people. The town was inhabited by hard working people, but they spent most of their non-working hours at horse races, cock fights, gambling and visiting the local tavern, the "Chiefs Inn".

The first organized churches in Hagerstown were the Lutheran and English churches, later becoming the Episcopal Church. These early churches did not thrive and were not touched by the tides of revival which swept up the Atlantic coast.

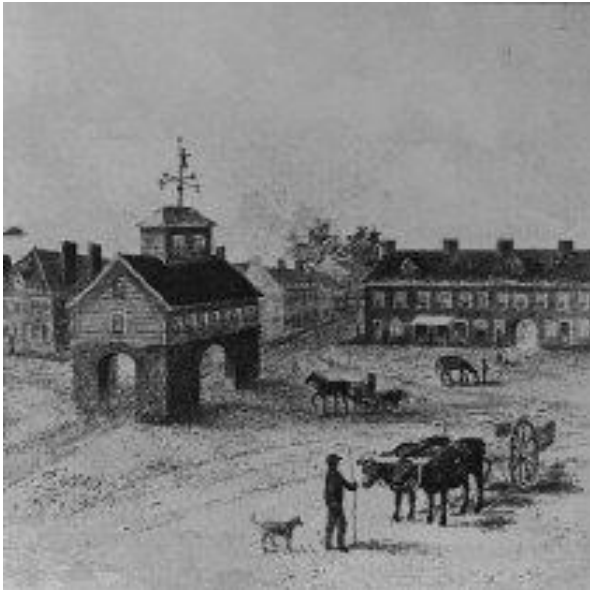
In the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the Methodist preachers began their ministries in Western Maryland. The early Methodist ministers were English educated and were recognized as effective preachers with their John-the Baptist-like sermons denouncing sin and folly and declaring the divine authority of a gospel of free grace, full salvation, and never dying love. The Methodists were leading the way in saving souls of the frontier townsmen.

It is reasonable to assume that as early as 1762 Methodist ministers had traveled into Western Maryland. Between 1762 and 1783 when circuits were formed in the region, pioneer preachers traveled with tireless zeal from settlement to settlement.

On July 17, 1776, Francis Asbury, a young Methodist preacher from England, came to Hagerstown from Frederick. Afterward he wrote in his journal the following impressions: "When we came to Hagerstown it seemed as if Satan was the chief ruler there. The people were busy drinking, swearing, drumming, etc. My mind was disburdened and much comforted after I had delivered myself from Mark 1:15 (The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, repent ye and believe the gospel) through it seemed to answer but little purpose with the people."



One explanation for the behavior of the citizens of Hagerstown on July 17, 1776 might be that they were celebrating the news of the Declaration of Independence that had just reached the western Maryland towns.



An artist's drawing of the Hagerstown Square in 1776. During this period, Christian churches of various denominations were being built in the downtown area of Potomac and Washington Streets. (Thanks to the Washington County Historical Society for providing this drawing).

### **Origin of Methodism in Hagerstown, Maryland**

July 1776 has been designated as the origin of Methodism in Hagerstown. Other denominations were established in Hagerstown prior to 1766. Two churches, Zion Reformed Church and St. John's Lutheran Church were organized six years prior to 1776. The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1774 and the Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches held occasional services from visiting clergymen.

Francis Asbury visited Hagerstown on July 13, 1787. He was scheduled to preach two different times on this visit. However, due to weariness of the horses and the exhaustion of the riders, they were late for the meetings and the people were disappointed when they did not get to hear Francis Asbury preach.

Early Methodism in Hagerstown and Western Maryland was closely associated with the ministry and initiatives of Francis Asbury. He was born in 1745 and educated in England. He came to America in 1771 and spent the next forty-five years traveling, preaching and organizing Methodist churches. During his years of ministry in America, it is estimated he rode 280,000 miles on horseback and preached 16,000 sermons. Through his preaching, the Methodist Church grew by 200,000 members. He died in 1816 at the age of seventy-one.

Francis Asbury and the other Methodist preachers of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries spread the word of God by traveling on horseback to the frontier towns of colonial America. These circuit riders were dedicated preachers and the life they chose to live was filled with many hardships. Their life was one of long journeys without adequate rest, proper nutrition and exposure to the harsh environment. Many of these

young preachers died before age thirty. The commitment and perseverance of these brave men were probably best illustrated by a comment made at the time. In describing their tenaciousness and determination to carry on their mission, one man on the day the weather was terrible said, "The weather is so bad today that the only living creatures moving around are the crows and the circuit riders."

From Francis Asbury's initial visit to Hagerstown in 1776, Methodism grew as verified by the records of that day. In the late 1700's Methodist circuits were set up in Washington, Frederick and Allegheny counties. In 1810 Hagerstown became a circuit and in 1822 a station for one year.

### **Churches of Worship Are Established in Hagerstown**

In 1808 the Methodists secured a place on Jonathan Street for their first place of worship.

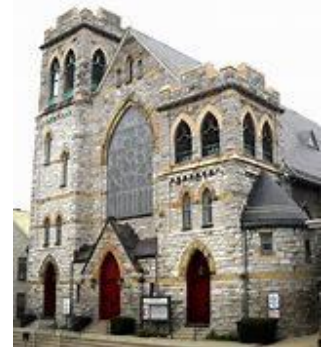
In 1812 the Methodist and the United Brethren built a church on the corner of Franklin and Locust Streets. (This is the location of Otterbein United Methodist Church, formerly St. Paul E.U.B. Church). The two groups shared this church for thirteen years.



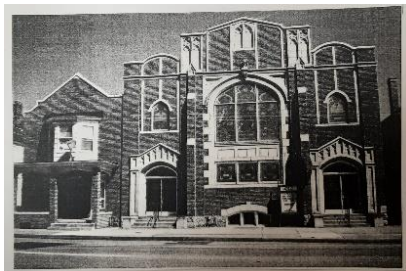
Many stories and events about the early Methodist were written and made a part of their early history. The early Methodists were quite emotional in their worship and were viewed as very pious people. They set high standards for personal morality and had low tolerance for individuals who did not conduct themselves in a righteous manner. They believed strongly in practicing what you preach and believed that your everyday life would exemplify this.

In 1825 the Methodists built their first church on the west side of North Jonathan Street and used it for fifty-eight years.

In 1883 the growing congregation built a new structure on North Potomac Street (currently John Wesley United Methodist church). The church was dedicated in 1885 and became St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church (pictured at right). The membership of the church in 1885 was 400 members. St. Paul's continued to grow and in the early 1900's the congregation assisted in the establishment of two new congregations.



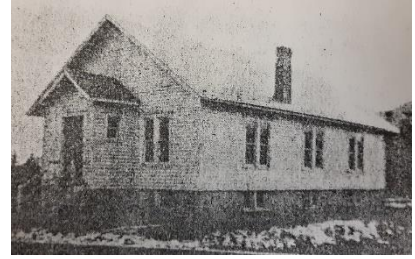
St. Paul's M.E. Church



A congregation was established and a church was built on West Washington Street (Washington Square United Methodist Church-pictured at left).

## **Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church**

A second congregation was established in the south end of Hagerstown and in 1915 a church was built on Howard Street (Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church-pictured at right).



The idea for a Methodist church in the south end of Hagerstown started with a few members of St. Paul's who lived in the south end or took up residence there in the early 1900's. Both John Feldman, the first chairman of the Official Board and Mr. D.M. Snyder, the superintendent of the church School were members of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church. Also coming from St. Paul's were: Mrs. John Feldman, Miss Katie Bailey, Miss Freda Hettinger, Mrs. John Norton and Mrs. Catherine Hoover who became church school teachers at the new church.

Mr. John Feldman, a member of St. Paul's Church and a resident of the south end came up with the idea of building a church in the south end and to serve the growing population of the area. The Feldman family had moved to the south end of Hagerstown in 1899. They lived on the corner of Virginia Avenue and Howard Street. Mr. Feldman was in real estate and was certainly interested in the development of the south end.

At the turn of the century the south end of Hagerstown was sparsely settled. It was somewhat primitive with scattered dwellings and unpaved roads.

John Feldman approached Mr. Harry Bester, the owner and operator of the Bester Ice Company, who owned a sizeable tract of land in the Howard Street area, about donating a piece of land for the location of a church. Mr. Feldman convinced Mr. Bester that a church in the south end would help to encourage people to settle in the area. Mr. Bester agreed and donated the land.

Mr. Feldman and other members from St. Paul's Church who were interested in building the church appealed to the Baltimore Conference for a charter to establish the Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

The new church was established at the quarterly Conference at St. Paul's Church on March 21, 1914. The Rev. George C. Baron, Superintendent of the Frederick District, conducted the meeting and officially authorized the Conference action.

During the planning for the new church, Mr. Feldman was joined by Rev. Charles Brooks, a Salvation Army Captain and Methodist missionary who lived in the south end of Hagerstown. Lewis Orrick, a friend and fellow member of St. Paul's Church, also assisted with the planning.

## **Historical References**

Courtney, A.M. "The Annals of Methodism in Hagerstown, November 1887". This early history was delivered at the dedication of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church on Potomac Street on November 19, 1887.

## History of St. Andrews Methodist Church in a letter from the Founder's Son

The following is a letter sent in 1959 to Pastor Paul Conley of Howard Street Methodist Church from Mr. Richard L. Feldman of Falls Church, Virginia in regard to the history and origin of the Church. Richard Feldman is the son of John Feldman, the principle founder of Howard Street Methodist Church.

---

713 Great Falls Street  
Falls Church, Virginia

October 3, 1959

Paul Conley, Minister  
St. Andrews (nee Howard Street) Methodist Church  
Hagerstown, Maryland

Dear Mr. Conley,

Your reply of September 30 to my inquiry as to present interest in the history of the founding of your Church, was received yesterday on my return from the country. It must have been last January when I visited my cousins in Hagerstown that my cousin, Miss Mabel Feldman (232 North Potomac Street), told me there had been an appeal in the local newspaper for the story of how the Howard Street Church was started, and she said she thought one of us ought to report. My father, John Wesley Feldman, had the idea and nursed it along to its reality. He died in 1926, so I will have to speak for him.

Our family had lived in South Hagerstown from 1896 until my father's death. About 1899 we moved to a location consisting of two acres on the northeast corner of the Williamsport Pike (Virginia Avenue) and Howard Street. On this account my older brother and I were sent to the Howard Street School, which included first through sixth grades. My early memories of Howard, the street, are of sticky red clay in damp weather and, in dry weather, hard ridges of clay cut in the preceding weather by wagon wheels and dump cart wheels. Those were the days of draft horses and "stick-wagons"; very few buggies travelled on Howard Street; if they tried it they let the horse walk' it was smoother that way. From a point near Summit Avenue we school children generally took a grassy path on the north side of "the road" until we reached a potato-patch in the northwest corner of Howard and Maryland Avenue. From Maryland Avenue to the schoolhouse there was a boardwalk, laid about the time I reached second grade. My brother, playing a game of "shinny" at the dinner recess, fell and cut a knee on the boardwalk, introducing our family to the surgical technique of "stiches".

I mention these things to indicate the sparseness of population and the primitive conditions in the neighborhood where, when I had become a senior in high school, my

father started the church. On the south side of Howard Street where the church was built, the slope was steeper and the surface rougher and rockier than on the north side. There were no houses or buildings of any kind between the car-barn and "Webel's Row" on Maryland Avenue. There were six or eight houses on the "street" which went in from Howard, southward, at the foot of the hill, on the southwest corner of which the church was built.

Some acreage there was owned by Mr. Harry Bester, operator of Bester's Ice Company and a "Cold Storage Warehouse" and other business interests. My father, who was in the real estate business from the age of thirty until his death at sixty-six, was acquainted with Mr. Bester and knew about his aim to sell the land as "lots". My father, having been brought up in the "Class-meeting period" of the Methodist Church and having been for all his life an active member of St. Paul's Methodist Church, had the missionary urge to try to plant a church in South Hagerstown. At that time, except for a non-denominational chapel on what became Pope Avenue, east of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad tracks, there was no church south of St. John's Lutheran, (where my mother's parents were married), and the Episcopal Church, St. John's on Prospect Street. My father asked Mr. Bester to donate the lot for a church, telling him that it might increase the value of his remaining property. No doubt Mr. Bester was pleased to contribute in this way to a good cause.

To the best of my knowledge my father's principal consultants in the project were Captain Charles Brooks of the Salvation Army contingent in Hagerstown at that time, and my father's long-time crony, Mr. Lewis J. Orrick, fellow-member of St. Paul's. The next step in starting the church seems to have been captain Brooks' moving his family to one "half" of a double-frame house on the west side of that street which "comes in" from Howard past the original church; I can't name said street, which earlier I indicated could be called a street only by courtesy. I have the impression that my father persuaded Captain Brooks to move to that location. My own contribution to the undertaking was made at that time when, as a high school boy with a trade in uncolored oleomargarine, I used to deliver my donation of two pounds of margarine every week to the Brooks' back door, coming down over the hill "at the back" from another customer's house "back of the Car-barn".

As soon as Captain Brooks settled there, he and my father scheduled Sunday services at the Brooks' home. I think that, previous to that time, my father, with a few devoted members from St. Paul's perhaps, among other, Mrs. Hoover (mother of Rev. Cyril Hoover), held occasional "cottage prayer-meetings in the area. Unfortunately, transportation was so difficult in those days that South Hagerstown was "too far" for pastor and most of the laity of St. Paul's to participate in establishing the new church; and the Washington Square Church had its own problems. There probably was an opinion, also, that the town could not support a third Methodist Church.

Because I was very busy with high school studies and activities, and was, besides, teaching a class of ten-year olds at St. Paul's, I attended sessions in Captain Brooks' "parlor" only once. I recall hazily that my mother, Mrs. Clara Rutledge Feldman, raised

a Lutheran played the reed-organ and was acting as “teacher of the primary department”, consisting of eight or ten tiny-tots. (Mother is now 93 and living since last October in Jacksonville, Florida).

Very soon my parents made contact with Dickinson Seminary to secure some student-preachers. At first the young men came down from Carlisle in pairs. Sometimes they were entertained at our home. It was just a one-day mission for them, coming down on the Cumberland Valley Railroad and going back the same day; consequently it was generally just a matter of meals. Services were held in the afternoon; this made it easy for the student-preachers and besides, avoided conflict with services of other churches.

Exactly when the church building was erected I can't say, but I suppose it was during the winter of 1915-16 when I was away from home in my first year of college. The labor was entirely performed by the members of the new congregation, to the best of my knowledge. I expect most of the material was donation, probably some of it by Mr. Bester. I am confident that my father and his friends from St. Paul's “passed the hat”. And the neighbors and new members in the Howard Street area gave “until it hurt”.

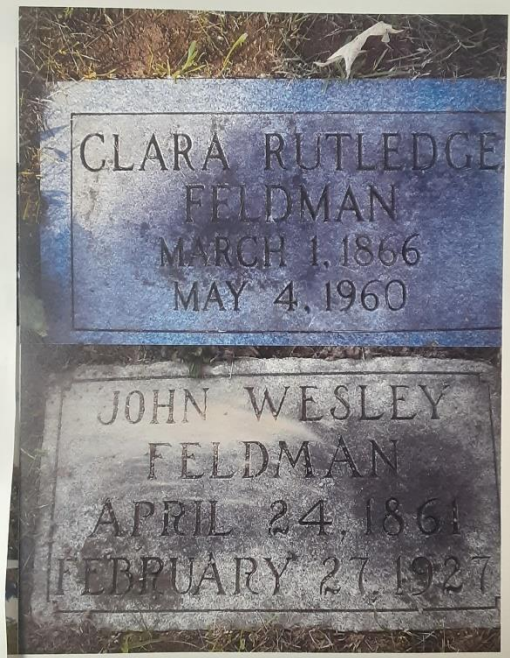
My last contact with the Howard Street Church was when one of its most faithful student preachers, Mr. Raymond Brewer, came to see me in Marblehead, Massachusetts, during the winter of 1916-17. Young Brewer had graduated at Dickinson and had come up to Boston to attend a theological seminary there and because of his friendship with my father, came out to Marblehead to see how I was getting along. If you could locate the reverend Mr. Brewer, probably through the Baltimore Conference, he could give you a lot more information.

I am glad to have the opportunity to file these details with you. After all, not everybody starts a good work such as a church, and although my mother placed a monument in the cemetery for my father, you Church is a superior memorial to a life of good works.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Feldman

P.S. Perhaps it should be recorded that my father “came by” his zeal naturally, for, while my grandmother, Mrs. Katherine Elizabeth Feldman (nee Minnich) had tagged my father “John Wesley”, she had, previously tagged his brother, “Charles Wesley”.



The photographs of the two grave markers seen here belong to John Wesley Feldman and his wife. He was the principal founder of Howard Street Church. They are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown, Maryland.

John Feldman, along with others from St. Pauls Methodist Episcopal Church on North Potomac Street in Hagerstown, joined together to establish Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church in the south end of Hagerstown in 1915. Unfortunately, the writer was unsuccessful in finding a photograph of John Feldman or the other charter members of Howard Street Church who came from St. Pauls Church. As a side note, the parents of John Wesley Feldman were passionately committed to the Methodist church and its founders. In addition to

naming the older son John Wesley Feldman, they named the younger son Charles Wesley Feldman. We can conclude that the Feldman's were faithful to the Methodist Church and its beliefs.

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### History of St. Andrews Methodist Church (1960-2010) By Gerald G. Holmes

Prior to the construction of the church, the organizers of the new church decided to conduct services at the home of Rev. Brooks. Sunday School classes were conducted and cottage prayer meetings were held in the homes of the area.

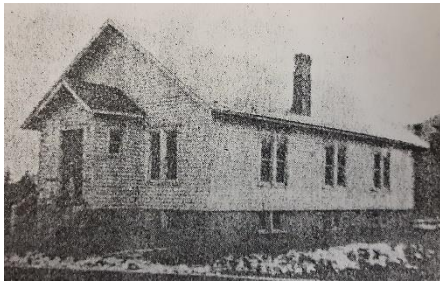
The idea of starting a new church in the south end of Hagerstown did not gain wide support among the Hagerstown Methodists. Washington Square church was started a few years before and was struggling. For that reason many Methodists did not believe Hagerstown needed another Methodist Church.

During the time that the planning for the church was occurring, the members met at Rev. Brooks' house for worship. Mr. Feldman decided to contact Dickinson College at Carlisle to invite student pastors to come to Howard Street to conduct Sunday afternoon services. The student pastors came to Hagerstown on Sundays by train, conducted the services and returned to Carlisle in the evening.

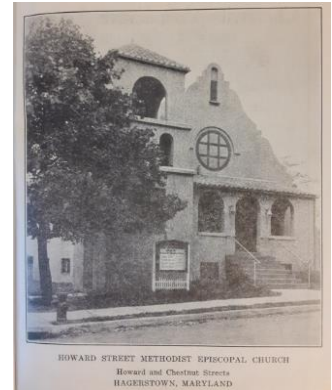
On March 28, 1915, Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated. The building was constructed by volunteer labor and donated materials. Some money was donated by individuals associated with the church and the new recruited members of

the area. St. Paul's Church continued to assist in helping the new church grow, since many of the officers and teachers were former St. Paul's members.

The original structure at Howard Street served the Methodists of the south end until 1929. In 1929 the decision was made to remodel the existing church rather than build a new one.



The newly remodeled church was done along the lines of Spanish architecture. This remodeled structure served the congregation until 1960 when the new church was built and dedicated on Maryland Avenue.



Mrs. Mary Ohler, a member of Howard Street Methodist Church and St. Andrew's was an officer and teacher in the church. She joined the church in 1916 and was a member for 63 years.

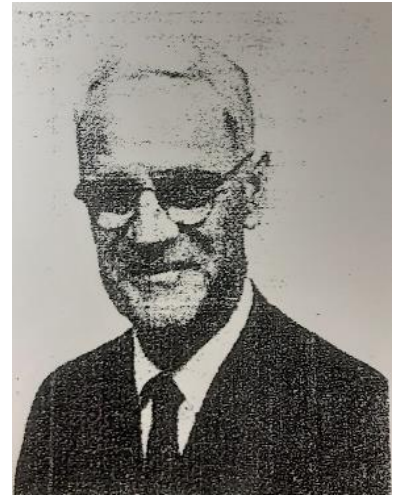
Mrs. Ohler wrote the first history of the church. She covered the period from the founding of the church in 1915 until 1960. The historical narrative included the highlights of the church for the first 45 years. [This history by Mary Ohler is included on page 17.] The history began with the chartering of Howard Street Methodist Episcopal Church and the building of the first church on Howard Street. This structure served the needs of the congregation until 1929.

During the pastorate of Rev. McFarland, lots were purchased at the corner of Summit Avenue and Howard Street. Later the decision was made to sell the lots and remodel the existing church on Howard Street. In 1929 the church was remodeled along the lines of Spanish architecture. This building served the congregation until 1960.

From 1915 to 1960, twenty pastors served Howard Street Methodist Church. During that 45 year period, Howard Street Church was both a part of a circuit and a station church. In the 1930's Howard Street was placed on the Smithsburg circuit which included the mountain churches of Mt. Bethel and Mt. Zion. In the 1940's, during World War II, Howard Street Church was placed on with Williamsport Methodist Church.

During the 45 year history of Howard Street Church, the church was served by pastors who went on to greater fields of service. Rev. Raymond Brewer (1915-1916) served as missionary to Chengtlu, China and later became an instructor at John Millikin University. Rev. E. Cranston Riggan (1922-1923) became District Superintendent and later served as Executive Secretary to the Board of Missions and Church Extension. Rev. C. J. Hoover attended Howard Street Church as a youngster and then returned to be pastor of the church in 1942.

Rev. Cyril J. Hoover grew up in the south end of Hagerstown. His parents were charter members of Howard Street M.E. Church. After graduating from high school, he attended seminary and became a Methodist minister. He returned to Howard Street to serve the church as a pastor for 2 years, 1946 to 1947. When Rev. Hoover retired, he returned to Hagerstown and served as Pastor of Visitation at John Wesley UMC.



In 1956, Howard Street Church became a station. Rev. Robert Wallace (1956-1958) was the first pastor to serve the church without any responsibility for other churches. Since Howard Street was now a station church, the congregation rented a parsonage on Guilford Avenue.

During the 1950's the membership reached 94, the annual budget was \$4,000 and the pastor's salary was \$1,400.00.

**Historical References:**

Mary Ohler – “History of Howard Street and St. Andrew’s Methodist Churches” (1915-1960)

John Feldman – “History of Founding of Howard Street Methodist Church” 1959. Information included in a letter sent to Rev. Paul Conley in 1959 from son, Richard Feldman.

**HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH  
MARCH 1915 TO MARCH 1965  
BY MRS. MARY OHLER**

At a meeting of the Quarterly Conference at St. Paul's Church on March 21, 1914 Reverend George C. Baron, Superintendent of Frederick District of Baltimore Conference established the Howard Street Methodist Church.

For about a year services were held in the home of Reverend E.H. Brooks, a returned missionary from China.

March 28, 1915 the Howard Street Church was dedicated on lots presented by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bester. Most of the labor on the church was done by volunteers in the community. It was a lovely spring day with warm fellowship and enthusiasm prevailing. The Independent Coronet Band was in attendance and money for the new building was solicited.

Members of St. Paul's continued to assist in helping the new church grow. Both Mr. John Feldman, who was the first chairman of the official board, and Mr. C. M. Snyder, the Superintendent of Sunday School, were members of St. Paul's. Teachers from St. Paul's were Mrs. John Feldman, Miss Katie Bailey, Miss Frieda Hettinger, Mrs. John Norton, Mrs. Catherine Hoover, Samuel Shackelford, who lived in the community and helped in building the church, was the first Sunday School Secretary.

Most of the early ministers who served the church in those days were students from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. Transportation was no problem for them, passenger service on the Cumberland Valley Railroad ran with such frequency they were easily accommodated.

After World War 1, school was held in the basement of the church due to the shortage of school facilities in the community.

During the pastorate of Reverend McFarland, lots were purchased at the corner of Summit Avenue and Howard Street. Later it seemed wiser to sell the lots and remodel the church. In 1929 the church was remodeled along the lines of Spanish architecture. This building served the Methodists until 1960.



Mary Ohler, a long-time member of Howard Street Church and St. Andrew's wrote this brief history of the two churches from 1915-1960.



This photograph shows the nine Shirley sisters. The sisters grew up in the south end of Hagerstown on a farm. Seven of the sisters had a long affiliation with Howard Street Methodist Church and St. Andrew's United Methodist Church.

From left to right: Front row – Naomi Wade, Gertrude McSherry, Ethel Barnhart, Nancy Summers. Second row – Salome Powell, Mary Ohler, Ruth Bowman, Martha Griffith, Helen Pry

Helen Pry was a charter member of Howard Street Church. Mary Ohler, the author of the Howard Street Church History, joined the church in 1916. Some of the descendants of four of the sisters continue their affiliation with St. Andrew's Church.



St. Andrews' Energizers enjoyed the singing of Tom Netherton, a vocalist with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. The dinner show was at Berkeley Springs, WV in 2001.

# YEAR BOOK and DIRECTORY

*Howard Street*  
at Hagerstown, Md.

*Saint Paul's*  
at Smithsburg, Md.

*Mount Bethel*  
at Bethel, Md.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES  
of  
HOWARD STREET STATION  
and  
SMITHSBURG CIRCUIT  
1932

BISHOP WM. F. MCDOWELL, Resident Bishop  
2107 Wyoming Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.  
REV. FRANK STEELMAN, District Superintendent  
920 Hamilton Blvd., Hagerstown, Md.  
FRANCIS H. LOVE, Minister  
Smithsburg, Maryland - Phone 20



HOWARD STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Hagerstown, Maryland.

## OFFICIAL MEMBERS

### TRUSTEES

H. D. Bowman	Saulsbury Pratt
F. W. Nield	Mrs. Ada S. Stockslager
A. F. Daub	Mrs. Cecile Gutilus

### STEWARDS

F. W. Nield.....	Disbursing
H. D. Bowman.....	Conecional and Recording
J. E. Roher.....	District
Mrs. Mary Chiler.....	District
Mrs. F. W. Nield.....	Communion
Casper Sowers	Mrs. Cecil Gutilus

### COMMITTEES

<b>Auditing</b>		
Saulsbury Pratt	H. D. Bowman	
<b>Finance</b>		
Mrs. Cecil Gutilus	Mrs. Gertrude Lindsay	
H. D. Bowman	Mrs. J. F. Ehlers	
Mrs. Mary Chiler	F. W. Nield	
<b>Pastoral Relations</b>		
H. D. Bowman	F. W. Nield	
<b>Nominating</b>		
F. W. Nield	Mrs. Cecil Gutilus	
H. D. Bowman	Mrs. Mary Chiler	
<b>Membership</b>		
Mrs. Gertrude Lindsay	Miss Edna Detrich	
H. D. Bowman	F. W. Nield	
Mrs. Gertrude Lindsay	Mrs. Caroline Bowers	
Mrs. Mary P. Heperly	<b>World Service Council</b>	
H. D. Bowman	Edna Detrich	
<b>Mrs. Gutilus</b>		
H. D. Bowman.....	Sunday School Superintendent	
Miss Salone Sherley.....	President Epworth League	
Miss Edna Detrich.....	Superintendent Junior League	

# MEMBERSHIP ROLL

HOWARD STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Hagerstown, Maryland.

Name	Address
<b>A</b>	
Arnold, Mrs. Ethel	230 First Street
<b>B</b>	
Bagent, Miss Mary	1048 Corbet Street
Bagent, Albert	1048 Corbet Street
Barnhart, Mrs. Ethel	334 Chestnut Street
Barnhart, Ernest	844 Spruce Street
Barnhart, Edna	844 Spruce Street
Bailey, Mrs. Ida	765 Spruce Street
Bailey, James F.	Essex, Md.
Bailey, Mrs. James F.	Essex, Md.
Bailey, Gardner	765 Spruce Street
Bocins, Elizabeth	Frederick Street
Bowman, H. D.	Funkstown, Md.
Bowman, Mrs. Susan	Funkstown, Md.
Bowman, Mrs. Ray	330 Howard Street
Bowers, Mrs. Caroline	300 East Wilson Boulevard
Bowman, Margaret	330 Howard Street
Burgan, Mrs. Helen	Frederick Street
Beard, E. Catherine	Reading, Pa.
<b>C</b>	
Childress, Arthur	Sherman Avenue
Childress, Mrs. Arthur	Sherman Avenue
Cooper, Frank L.	867 Virginia Avenue
Cooper, Mrs. Frank L.	867 Virginia Avenue
<b>D</b>	
Decker, Charles R.	710 Chestnut Street
Detrich, J. M.	227 West Side Avenue
Detrich, Mrs. J. M.	227 West Side Avenue
Detrich, Edna R.	227 West Side Avenue
Detrich, Ernest I.	227 West Side Avenue
Detrich, Ruby F.	524 West Franklin Street
Dubel, Blanche	812 Virginia Avenue
<b>E</b>	
Ehlers, J. Fred	209 West Wilson Boulevard
Ehlers, Mrs. J. Fred	209 West Wilson Boulevard
<b>F</b>	
Faulders, Mrs. Mary	First and Potomac Streets
Fitzgerald, Mrs.	South Potomac Street
<b>G</b>	
Giegas, Edward	515 Reynolds Avenue
Gilkey, Mrs. Minnie	1028 Spruce Street
Gutelius, Mrs. Cecil	401 South Potomac Street
<b>H</b>	
Hillyard, George	Litersburg, Md.
Hillyard, Mrs. George	Litersburg, Md.
Harr, Harlan T.	835 Maryland Avenue
Harr, Mrs. Harlan T.	835 Maryland Avenue
Hiel, Rosie	1107 Corbett Street
Hiel, Mary	1107 Corbett Street
Hepperle, Earl W.	823 Maryland Avenue
Hepperle, Mrs. Earl	823 Maryland Avenue
Hillard, Joseph	Hope Avenue
<b>I</b>	
Itnyre, Mrs. Lillian	111 Bester Street

## MEMBERSHIP ROLL—(Cont'd)

Name	Address
<b>K</b>	
King, Mrs. Ella	220 First Street
King, Lewis	220 First Street
Kitteil, Bruce	High Street
Kittell, Joseph	105 High Street
Kuhn, Mrs. J. K.	Kuhn Avenue
<b>L</b>	
Lindsay, Mrs. Gertrude	915 View Street
Lindsay, Agnes	915 View Street
Lizer, Mrs. Marcella	554 Frederick St., McCleary Apt.
Lizer, Leroy	554 Frederick St., McCleary Apt.
<b>M</b>	
Myers, Mrs. Catherine	415 West Wilson Boulevard
Martin, Mrs. Snyder	Baltimore, Md.
Martin, Glen	900 Block Maryland Avenue
Mace, Mrs. Pauline	Hewetts Cross Roads
Mace, Mrs. Cora	Hewetts Cross Roads
<b>N</b>	
Nield, Frank	711 Chestnut Street
Nield, Mrs. Frank	711 Chestnut Street
Nield, Catherine	Smithsburg, Md.
Nield, Grace	722 Chestnut Street
<b>O</b>	
Ohler, Grover	1030 Spruce Street
Ohler, Mrs. Mary	1030 Spruce Street
Ohler, Romaine	1030 Spruce Street
Ohler, Thurman	1030 Spruce Street
<b>P</b>	
Parlett, Irvin	Hewetts Cross Roads
Pratt, Saulsberry	812 Virginia Avenue
Pratt, Mrs. Ida	812 Virginia Avenue
Props, Mrs. Catherine	Downsville Pike
<b>R</b>	
Robertson, Mrs. M. H.	Howard Street
Rohrer, Joseph	732 Chestnut Street
Rohrer, Mrs. Joseph	732 Chestnut Street
Ruth, Mrs. Mary	823 Spruce Street
<b>S</b>	
Sherley, Salome	Downsville Pike
Sherley, Nancy	Downsville Pike
Sherley, Frances	Downsville Pike
Slick, Mrs. Susan	915 Chestnut Street
Slick, Amelia	915 Chestnut Street
Sands, Madeline	209 West Wilson Boulevard
Stultz, Charles W.	Route 2, Smithsburg, Md.
Stultz, Mrs. Janie	Route 2, Smithsburg, Md.
Stockslager, Mrs. Ada	Funkstown, Md.
Slusher, Mrs. Gertrude	831 Maryland Avenue
Shaw, Mrs. Cora	28 South Locust Street
Shaw, Carman	28 South Locust Street
Sowers, C. L.	816 Maryland Avenue
Sowers, Mrs. C. L.	816 Maryland Avenue
Sweeney, Mrs. A. D.	Sherman Avenue
Snook, Albert	935 Spruce Street
Sommer, John G.	1301 North Potomac Street
<b>W</b>	
Weller, Alice	Lappins Cross Roads

## History of St. Andrew's UMC (1960 – 2010) by Gerald Holmes (continued)

As the congregation increased there was a need for more space. In the late 1950's with the help of the conference, a lot was purchased on the Downsville Road, one block south of Wilson Boulevard. The congregation, with Conference assistance, began with the planning to build a new church.

On April 26, 1959 ground was broken for a parsonage, located next to the site for the church. The pastoral family moved into the new parsonage on September 28, 1959.

Reverend Paul Conley was the pastor during this transition period. He provided the leadership for both the construction of the parsonage and the church.

On Sunday, September 20, 1959, a ground breaking service was conducted. This was followed on January 31, 1960 with the laying of the cornerstone for the new church. On Easter Sunday, 1960, the first service was conducted at St. Andrew's Methodist Church.

The new church was the result of hard work, generous gifts and the faith of a growing congregation. Mr. Samuel Hoover, a member of the church and teacher of the Men's Bible Class, gave generously in support of the building program. He donated \$20,000 to the Building Fund. The congregation showed its appreciation for his generous support by naming the Education Building in his honor. Later on, St. Andrew's became the beneficiary of a trust fund which was set up by Mr. Hoover as part of his will. The trust fund provided the church with interest income on a regular basis and allowed the congregation to pay off the building indebtedness with a dollar for dollar matching from the fund.



In April 1960, the church indebtedness was \$83,116. By the early 1970's the total church indebtedness was paid off through the efforts of many people participating in a variety of fund raising projects.

Much credit and gratitude is due to the National Board of Missions, the Conference Board of Missions and church Extension, the estate and trust fund established by Mr. Samuel Hoover and St. Pauls Methodist Church of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Throughout those early years at St. Andrew's, the church offered many opportunities for worship, Christian service and fellowship. Something was available for all ages and groups. The Methodist Men were active. The Women's Society of Christian Service gave women of the church opportunities for study, missionary endeavors and fellowship.

There was a Young Adult Fellowship, Junior MYF, Senior MYF and a Jacks and Jills Group for children age 5 through the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There was also an excellent Adult Choir.

Reverend Paul Conley served at St. Andrew's until 1962. Reverend Charles Sisk (1962-1965) followed Reverend Conley and was the pastor when the church celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1915-1965) on March 28, 1965. The church membership continued to grow throughout the early 1960's and reached 287 members by 1965.



**CORNERSTONE LAID FOR CHURCH** — Members who played an important part in the planning and formulation of the new St. Andrews Methodist Church are shown at the cornerstone laying yesterday afternoon. Left to right are: Dr. Paul Warner, district superintendent, who gave a brief address; Dr. Harry C. Marsh, former district superintendent, who started the building plans, Reverend Paul Conley, minister, and T. L. Shaffer, trustee and chairman of the Building Committee. The \$130,000 structure will house the Fellowship Hall and the Educational Building. The Sanctuary will be built on the Maryland Avenue side at a later date, with the Fellowship Hall being used in the interim.

The St. Andrew's Methodist Church cornerstone was laid on January 31, 1960.



Construction of St. Andrew's Methodist church was completed in March, 1960

The Parsonage of St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 1014 Maryland Avenue



Reverend John Ewald started his pastorate in 1965. During the time he served (1965-1969), the church reached its peak in membership and attendance.

The national and world events of the late 1960's did much to shape the ministry of the period. The civil rights movement was in full swing and the Vietnam War was becoming extremely controversial.

In response to the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War, Reverend Ewald initiated community forums so the church members could learn about these events and be ready to respond in a Christian manner. These activities did much to raise the social conscience of the members.

One of the events that occurred during the late 1960's was the visit to Hagerstown by **Reverend E. Stanley Jones**, the renowned evangelist, missionary and author. The week of services, featuring Reverend Jones' sermons, were held at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Hagerstown. Reverend Norman Vanbrundt, the pastor of John Wesley, was instrumental in bringing Reverend Jones to Hagerstown. At that time, Reverend Jones was in his 80's, still full of energy and enthusiasm and was looking forward to his return to India. His messages were inspiring, educational and interesting. His many years of service were a testimony to his strong faith and his devotion to his calling.

Another highlight of the 1960's was the visit of **Bill Mann**, a national known vocalist in the United Methodist Church. The St. Andrew's United Methodist Men went to the National convocation of the United Methodist Men where they heard the singing of Bill Mann. The United Methodist Men were so moved by Bill Mann's singing that they invited him to Hagerstown for three performances. During those performances, he introduced the audiences to the Christian song "His Name Is Wonderful". It became a favorite of the church and can be found in the United Methodist Hymnal.

During the 1970's St. Andrew's was served by Reverend Clark Blade, Reverend Dennis Upton and Reverend Fred Walz. It was during that time that the church decided to renovate the worship area and make it the permanent sanctuary. The floor was carpeted, pews were installed and a new organ was purchased.

In this period of the 1970's, a children's group, namely the "**Jacks and Jills**" were hosting some wonderful fellowship activities. These activities included trips to Mount Vernon, the Washington Zoo and other interesting sites in the Washington, D.C. area. These trips and activities were educational and provided great fellowship.

In the ministry area, the church hosted a Bible Conference and a Missionary Conference. These two activities brought some excellent and dedicated resource people to St. Andrew's to share their knowledge and experience as it related to their careers. These activities were open to members of other churches and the sessions were well attended.

In the decade of the 80's, the church was served by Reverend Gene Perry, Reverend Ann Laprade, Reverend Gay Bulach and Reverend Norman Obenshain. One fact of special importance for this period was that two of the four pastors were female. Reverend Ann Laprade was the first female pastor to serve St Andrew's.



The "Jacks and Jills", a successful children's ministry at St. Andrew's. The group traveled to many interesting places. On this trip the group traveled to Washington, D. C.



E. STANLEY JONES, one of the world's most-traveled missionaries, began his lifework in India in 1907, and continued it not only in that country but throughout the Orient. He spent time each year in the United States as well.

Dr. Jones was famed not only as a missionary but as an evangelist and religious writer. His Ashrams (retreats) and evangelistic missions have enriched the lives of untold numbers of people both in this country and in the Far East.



Bill Mann, a well known Methodist vocalist, came to Hagerstown in 1969. He presented several concerts and made a visit to St. Andrew's.

One highlight of the 1980's was the Heritage Sunday Service, conducted on April 29, 1984. The Heritage Service was planned in conjunction with the United Methodist Bicentennial, 1784-1984.

The Heritage Service will be remembered by those in attendance because it was the last time that the Howard Street Church was used in a worship service by the St. Andre's congregation. The uniqueness of the service was the use of both church building. The service of Remembrance was held at Howard Street, then the congregation walked to St. Andrew's where the Service of Renewal was conducted. Reverend Paul Conley, Reverend Kenneth Tyson, District Superintendent, and Reverend Ann Laprade led the service. This was a warm spiritual experience for those who had worshipped at Howard Street and for those who never worshipped there.

In the 1970's, the Odd Fellows association purchased the Howard Street church building. The Odd Fellows decided to renovate the building and also decided to give items from the church to the congregation at St. Andrew's. They donated the church cornerstone, the church bell, a pew, the prayer bench and other items.

In 1986 the Parents Day Out Program was started. This ministry was designed to provide child care combined with pre-school learning activities. This program operates one day a week with the concept of providing free time for parents.

In the final decade of the century, Pastors Andrew Cooney and Travis Knoll led the ministry of St. Andrew's. During this time, physical improvements were made with the planting of memorial gardens, adding air conditioning to the Sanctuary and making the church more accessible for the handicapped.

In 1992 Trilogy, a contemporary musical group was begun. The group combined keyboard, regular guitar and bass guitar, along with vocal presentations.

As we moved toward a new century, St Andrew's experienced growth in membership and worship attendance. In 1993, the church had 150 at the Christmas Eve Service and 170 on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. The average worship attendance in 1996 was 125.

In 1998 a Bell Choir was started. The Bell Choir was well-received as a new music ministry. The Bell Choir was named "The Faithful Ringers". They perform at the worship services on a regular basis and go to Reeder's Nursing Home once a year.

In 1994 "The Energizers", a ministry for senior members, was started. This ministry was highly successful with the group reaching membership in the thirties. Since its inception the group has experienced interesting programs, both at the church and trips to religious and historical sites and lots of good fellowship.

One of the ministry highlights of the 1990's was "The Disciple Bible Study". This well-written, in depth Bible study brought about a renewed interest in the Holy Scriptures. The Disciple Bible Study was divided into four books. Each book covered thirty weeks of study with hours of preparation for each lesson. Pastors Andrew Cooney and Travis Knoll led the bible study for five years. During this period of time the classes were well-attended and the class members gave the Bible Study high praise.



St. Andrews' sanctuary at Christmas. The pews and carpet were added in the 1970's.



Reverend Ann Laprade was the first female pastor at St. Andrews (1983-1986)



The Jubilators Quartet and the accompanist came to St. Andrews in the 1970's to sing and testify. They were well-received by the large attendance at the Sunday night concerts.



Wall plaque in narthex shows names of the stained glass window donors at Howard Street Methodist Church



Sanctuary Lectern from Howard Street Methodist Church



Howard Street Methodist Church Bell



Howard Street altar rail is now mounted on the wall in the Fellowship Hall at St. Andrews UMC

The last pastor to serve St. Andrew's in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was Travis Knoll. He was the 38<sup>th</sup> pastor to serve the congregations at Howard Street Methodist Church and St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on Maryland Avenue.

In 2000 a large church sign was installed on the front lawn. This sign included a message board for advertising upcoming events.

From 2001 until 2010 St. Andrew's was served by Pastors Betty Dunlop and Michael Henning. During Pastor Dunlop's years of service, the church leadership adopted a new mission statement: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ". The church also initiated a Parish Nursing Ministry.

In 2003 Marjorie Tressler, a painter and former member of Howard Street and St. Andrew's, painted a beautiful painting and donated it to the St. Andrew's congregation. Titled "All of God's Children Come to Me", it is mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary and was dedicated in 2003. Marjorie, the daughter of Leland and Margaret Myers, donated the painting in memory of her parents, her grandparents, and in honor of her aunt, Anna Grace Wilson. [See next article]

In 2004 John Schol was appointed Bishop of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Under his leadership the Discipleship Adventure was initiated. The new Ministry included five elements: Celebration, Connection, Development, Service and Sharing. The Discipleship Adventure concept was designed to fulfill the mission of the Conference: "To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ".

In the first ten years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, St. Andrew's has had notable success in its mission ministry. With quality leadership, the congregation has graciously supported, both local and world-wide missions, with generous donations year after year.

While the active congregation continues to be faithful in their regular giving, the Fund Raising Committee continues to provide additional financial support that is necessary to meet the church's ministry and mission goals.

In 2008 the Worship Committee with congregational support purchased supplemental song books titled "The Faith We Sing". The new song book includes hymns that did not make the United Methodist Hymnal and songs that were written in the last 20 years.

In response to actions of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, all churches in the Conference were required to write a Safe Sanctuary policy, adopt it and implement it by 2008. The purpose of the policy was to create a safe church environment for children and youth.

In 2010 we celebrated our 95<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation (1915-2010). The congregation was at Howard Street Church for 45 years and at St. Andrew's Church on Maryland Avenue for 50 years.

Looking back on 2010, the church leaders made the commitment to continue the mission: "To make disciples of Jesus Christ". To improve the ministry of the church, the leadership, in the annual planning session, decided to reorder some priorities to attract new members with emphasis on young adult families.

Over the last two years (2009-2010) the church experienced a decline in worship attendance and church school. The drop in the attendance and the aging of the congregation presented a major challenge as we strive to meet our mission goals.

In response to the above realities, the church leadership decided to initiate some new ministries. To reach out to the community the Worship Committee launched the "Drive Thru Prayer" ministry. The Drive Thru Prayer is conducted on the church parking lot once a month during the warm seasons. The ministry is intended to reach the people as they drive by on Maryland Avenue and the Downsville Road with an invitation to stop and receive prayer for a personal need or concern.

In 2008 the economic recession started. Since that year individuals lost their jobs and some lost their houses. As a result, these individuals needed assistance with the basic needs of everyday life.

While St. Andrew's members could not do all that was needed, the members responded with regular donations of food to the Food Bank. The church's Good Samaritan Fund provided financial assistance for food purchases.

St. Andrew's members also gave generously to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to help the people of Haiti after the earthquake of 2010. Recently the church members gave a generous gift to the people of Japan who suffered from a serious earthquake followed by a tsunami.

As we draw the curtain on this period in the history of this congregation, we remain committed to God's call to join together in worship to praise God, to pray for his guidance and help as we do his work. We thank God for his love, for the gift of life and the promise of eternal life. Amen.

## Painting Celebrates Church, People, Who Nurtured Artist's Faith

Article by Marlo Barnhart in Herald Mail Newspaper

January 13, 2003



Armed only with a black and white photograph and her own childhood memories of a beloved church building, Marjorie Tressler set out to create a painting worthy to hang in the sanctuary of St. Andrews United Methodist on Maryland Avenue.

But more than just a static painting of a building Tressler wanted her work to reflect her belief that a church is the people who came together to worship Jesus Christ.

And accomplish that she did, as congregation leaders and members commented recently on the beauty and spirituality of the 5 by 7 foot gilt-framed oil painting that graces the back wall of the church.

“The idea was born in 1999 when Gerald Holmes, chairman of the administrative council, approached me about such a project”, Tressler said.

Several days after the painting was erected in the church in late December, Holmes and Tressler met in the sun-lit sanctuary, along with the Rev. Betty Dunlop, pastor of the church. “We wanted to blend the old and the new”, Holmes said as he admired the huge work of art, “and Marjorie did just that.”



Artist Marjorie Tressler blended her memories into the painting she donated to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church on Maryland

Avenue. "I was baptized in this church and married in this church," Tressler said. "My children were baptized here – it is very special to me."

By Ric Dugan/Staff Photographer

Now an acclaimed portrait artist living in Waynesboro, PA, Tressler was a child attending the former church building on Howard Street that she painted into a corner of the new church building that was first occupied in 1960. "I'm known for doing children in my art, not bricks and mortar," Tressler said. "So I combined the two."

Dominating the scene is Jesus dressed as she expects He would have been in His lifetime. Surrounding Him are boys and girls of modern day, barefoot in

their innocence but obviously youngsters of modern day. "Some of the children are neighbors of mine, while one is my grandson, Chris," Tressler said. As for Jesus, Tressler said she located a model who not only agreed to pose for the painting but also to let his hair and beard grow for the project.

"I painted Howard Street as I remember seeing it while growing up," Tressler said. "I thought of all in the congregation who influenced me, those who encouraged me and those who always treated me as a responsible young person." But Tressler said she especially wanted to do the painting and donate it to the church because of all those who helped her grow into the love of Christ. "I was baptized in this church and married in this church," she said. "My children were baptized here – it is very special to me."

The painting is titled "All of God's Children Come to Me" and it is dedicated to the memory of Tressler's parents, Leland and Margaret Myers and her grandparents, Frank and Margaret Nield, and in honor of her aunt, Anna Grace Wilson as well as the members of the congregation.

Tressler had a solo exhibition at Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in 1993 and has several works on permanent display in the community. Her latest work has been a big hit with the members of her former congregation.

"Now we have something beautiful to share with the community" Holmes said.

## Samuel L. Hoover (Church Benefactor)

Samuel L. Hoover attended Howard Street Methodist Church from 1949 until his death in 1960. During the eleven years that he was a member of the congregation, he taught Sunday School, served on the Administrative Board and the Building Committee. He was also active in the Methodist Men and participated in weekly Bible Study sessions.

In the late 1950's Mr. Hoover became interested and supportive of the plan to purchase a site for a new church building. He was convinced that the growing congregation needed a larger building on a site that provided space for a parsonage and adequate parking.

When the decision was made to purchase a site and building a new building, Mr. Hoover was invited to serve on the Building Committee.

During the pastorate of Reverend Robert Wallace (1956-58) and the superintendence of Dr. Paul Warner, the Baltimore Conference, through its missionary program, provided the funds for the purchase of a lot south of Wilson Boulevard adjacent to the Downsville Road. This action meant that the congregation would be building a parsonage and a church in the near future.

The Building Committee struggled to raise funds to support the construction of the buildings. Finally, with congregational donations, gifts from a variety of Conference sources and a generous gift of \$20,000 from Mr. Hoover, construction began on the project.

Mr. Hoover remained actively involved with the Building fund Committee until 1959 when he became physically unable to attend church and carry out his official responsibilities. In spite of his failing health, Mr. Hoover was brought to the site of the new church in 1959 and invited to turn a spade of ground in the area where the church was to be built.

After an extended illness, Mr. Hoover died on February 3, 1960 at the age of 92. The new church building, with a new congregational name, St. Andrew's, was consecrated on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960. As an expression of their gratitude, the Building Committee named the Education Building in his memory.

Shortly after Mr. Hoover's death, the church members learned that Mr. Hoover had established a trust fund in his name and made St. Andrew's church his primary beneficiary. The Trust Fund had assets well over one hundred thousand dollars. The interest and principal from the Trust Fund allowed the congregation to pay off its building indebtedness on a matching basis. The total church mortgage was paid off in the early 1970's thanks to Mr. Hoover.

Through Mr. Hoover's thoughtfulness and generosity, the congregation was able to expand its facilities to better serve its members and the community.

Samuel Hoover will always be remembered, by the members who knew him and worshipped with him, as a person who was faithful to the church. He was dedicated to it and committed to its growth and longevity.

Mr. Hoover was a person who lived a simple and modest life. His life was a testimony to what one person can do to affect the spiritual lives of many people for generations to come.



Samuel Hoover, an 11 year member of Howard Street Methodist Church from 1949 to 1960, donated \$20,000 to the new church project. He then set up a trust fund in the name of the church when he died at age 92 in 1959.

## A Chronological History of Important Dates & Events at Howard Street Methodist Church and St. Andrews United Methodist Church (1914 to 2010)

- 1914 St. Paul's Methodist Church members who lived in the south end met there for Sunday School.
- 1915 The south end members of St. Paul's Methodist Church plan to build a church.
- 1915 March 21, 1915 the Howard Street Methodist Church was chartered. Rev. E.H. Brooks was appointed pastor. Members met in Rev. Brooks' home.
- 1915 The new church was built on the corner of Howard and Chestnut Streets
- 1920 The congregation was growing and needed more room.
- 1929 The church was renovated and enlarged along the lines of Spanish architecture
- 1939 Howard Street Methodist-Episcopal Church became the Howard Street Methodist Church.
- 1941-1945 During the World War II years the church was served by Rev. J.T. Riley, R.R. Stevens, Gordon Jones and A.E. Owens.
- 1944 Howard Street Methodist Church was placed on the Williamsport Circuit.
- 1946 Rev. C.J. Hoover was appointed pastor at Howard Street. Rev. Hoover grew up in the south end and attended Howard Street as a youth.
- 1947-1955 Howard Street Methodist church was served by Rev. George Shimer, C.W. Whalen and Orrin T. Carroll.
- 1955 Rev. Robert Wallace was the first full time pastor at Howard Street. Howard Street became a station. The church rented a parsonage on Guilford Avenue. During this period, Howard Street had a membership of 94, the annual budget was \$4,000 and the pastor's salary was \$1,400.
- 1957 Land was purchased to build a new church and parsonage. The site was on the Downsville Road, south of Wilson Boulevard.
- 1958 Rev. Paul Conley was appointed pastor at Howard Street and was the first to serve St. Andrew's in 1960.
- 1959 Construction started on the new parsonage and the church to be named St. Andrews.
- 1960 Samuel Hoover, a member and church benefactor, died. Mr. Hoover set up a trust fund to help pay the church mortgage.

- 1960 The new church was consecrated on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1960. In that year the membership grew to 235.
- 1960-1980 St. Andrew's was served by Pastors Charles Sisk, John Ewald, Clark Blade, Dennis Upton, Fred Walz and Gene Perry.
- 1965 A Pictorial Directory was completed and the membership reached 330.
- 1968 The union of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church created the United Methodist Church.
- 1968 The Jacks and Jills, a ministry for children, was initiated and became a very successful ministry. It provided many memorable experiences for the children.
- 1969 The United Methodist Men were making and selling sidewalk sundaes at the annual Hagerstown Fair. The church averaged 140 persons per Sunday.
- 1970 The church mortgage was paid off after 10 years of fund raising and matching funds from the Hoover Trust Fund.
- 1975 The Trustees initiated a major renovation of the church. The main goal was to make the building more energy efficient.
- 1976 The Jubilators Quartet from Cumberland came to St. Andrew's on many occasions in the 1970's. Large crowds came to their concerts.
- 1977 The church hosted a Missionary Conference and a Bible Conference. The events were well attended and were valued experiences.
- 1980 Red carpet and pews were installed and dedicated on November 30, 1980. The church also purchased a Baldwin organ.
- 1983 A major snow storm hit Hagerstown on February 13, 1983. Twenty brave souls attended church. The total accumulation of snow was 30 inches.
- 1983 Ann Laprade was the first female pastor appointed to St. Andrew's.
- 1984 The congregation celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Howard Street and St. Andrew's. The celebration started at Howard Street and ended at St. Andrew's. Services were led by Superintendent Kenneth Tyson, Rev. Paul Conley and Pastor Ann Laprade.
- 1986 Rev. Gay Bulach was the second female pastor appointed to St. Andrew's.
- 1988 The Parents Day Out program was started as a ministry and outreach program for pre-school children.
- 1989 Memorial Gardens were planted on the grounds of the church.

- 1990 Trilogy, a contemporary musical group, was organized and consisted of church members who played instruments and sang.
- 1990 The Energizers, a senior ministry, was started in the early 1990's. The group participated in fellowship activities, took field trips and supported mission projects.
- 1990 The Disciple Bible Study was initiated in the 1990's by Pastor Norman Obenshain and continued by Rev. Travis Knoll. The study was well-received and well-attended.
- 1991 The church was made accessible for the physically handicapped.
- 1996 The church is growing and attendance averages 125 each week.
- 1998 The Bell choir is started.
- 1999 A Memorial Plaque was placed in the church narthex.
- 1999 Alice Weller, a member of Howard Street and St. Andrew's, died on August 31, 1999. Prior to her death, she was the longest living member of the church. She taught Sunday School and sang in the choir.  
William Crumbacker, a long and faithful member of both churches, died on August 14, 1999. Bill was a dedicated and loving member of the church. He also was a long time treasurer of the church.
- 1999 37 members joined the church in 1998-1999. Thirteen of the new members were teenagers who completed confirmation classes.
- 1999 200 individuals attend the Easter Sunday services.
- 1999 The Messiah College Singers made their second visit to St. Andrew's to present a vocal concert.
- 1999 Rev. Travis Knoll was appointed to St. Andrew's as the 38<sup>th</sup> pastor.
- 2000 A new church sign was installed on the front lawn
- 2001 Rev. Betty Dunlop was appointed pastor at St. Andrew's.
- 2002 A Parish Nursing Ministry was initiated. St. Andrew's adopted a new mission statement: "To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ."
- 2003 St. Andrew's dedicated a sanctuary painting by Marjorie Tressler titled "All God's Children Come to Me".
- 2004 Rev. Michael Henning was appointed pastor. Rev. John Schol was appointed Bishop of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. He initiated the "discipleship Adventure" concept.

- 2005 St. Andrew's congregation celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The youth participated in "Rock 2005" in Ocean City, MD.
- 2006 St. Andrew's conducted its first "Community Block Party".
- 2006 St. Andrew's members participated in the Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society.
- 2006 The Deaf Choir from Baltimore came to St. Andrew's and presented a concert.
- 2007 St. Andrew's and Emmanuel UMC joined to conduct a summer vacation Bible School.
- 2007 Nan McCurdy, United Methodist Missionary, came to Emmanuel UMC to report her mission work in Central America.
- 2008 St. Andrew's, under Conference direction, wrote and initiated a Safe Sanctuary policy. The policy was designed to provide a safe church environment for children and youth.
- 2008 St. Andrew's purchased supplemental hymnals titled, The Faith We Sing. This hymnal includes hymns that were not included in the United Methodist Hymnal and some contemporary songs of recent years.
- 2009 St. Andrew's completed work on a Church Directory and also developed a brochure for distribution to visitors.
- 2009 14 new members were inducted into church membership. Six members joined under Profession of Faith.
- 2009 St. Andrew's became an Acts 2 church. Briefly, an Acts 2 church, by Conference definition, pays its Conference Apportionment in full, increases its annual attendance and receives new members on Profession of Faith.
- 2009 St. Andrew's hosted a thanksgiving Eve Service featuring the Salvation Army Band, special vocal presentation and a message by Major Robert Lyles, the leader of the local unit.
- 2009 St. Andrew's and Emmanuel UMC joined for Easter services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- 2010 The Ad Council conducted an annual planning conference in January.

## Ministers/Pastors Who Served 1915 to Present

PASTORS	DATES OF SERVICE
Rev. E.H. Brooks	March to November 1915
Rev. C.W. Taneyhill	November to December 1915
Rev. R.R. Brewer	December 1915 to September 1916
Rev. C.E. Davis	September 1916 to April 1920
Rev. T.W. Lloyd	April 1920 to September 1921
Rev. Lon H. Baughman	September 1921 to April 1922
Rev. E.C. Riggin	April 1922 to May 1923
Rev. S.J. McFarland	June 1923 to April 1927
Rev. S. Paul Schilling	June 1927 to September 1927
Rev. C.C. Knapp	September 1927 to September 1929
Rev. Howard Pender	September 1929 to February 1930
Rev. R. K. Edwards	February 1930 to June 1930
Rev. W.S. Jones	June 1930 to June 1931
Rev. F.H. Love	June 1931 to June 1933
Rev. W.C. Harden	June 1933 to June 1934
Rev. Ira W. Shindle	June 1934 to January 1937
Rev. W. DeWitt Dickey	February 1937 to June 1939
Rev. J. T. Riley	June 1939 to June 1940
Rev. R.R. Stevens	June 1940 to June 1943
Rev. Gordon Jones	June 1943 to June 1944
Rev. A.E. Owens	June 1944 to June 1946
Rev. C. J. Hoover	June 1946 to May 1947
Rev. George Shimer	May 1947 to April 1949
Rev. C. W. Whalen	April 1949 to June 1951

## Ministers/Pastors Who Served 1915 to Present

Rev. Orrin T. Carroll	June 1951 to June 1955
Rev. Robert O. Wallace	June 1955 to June 1958
*Rev. Paul Conley	June 1958 to June 1962
Rev. Charles Sisk	June 1962 to July 1965
Rev. John Ewald	July 1965 to September 1970
Rev. Clark Blade	September 1970 to July 1972
Rev. Dennis Upton	July 1972 to July 1976
Rev. Fred Walz	July 1976 to July 1979
Rev. Gene Perry	July 1979 to July 1983
Rev. Ann Laprade	July 1983 to July 1986
Rev. Gay Bulach	July 1986 to July 1988
Rev. Norman Obenshain	July 1988 to July 1993
Rev. Andrew Cooney	July 1993 to July 1999
Rev. Travis Knoll	July 1999 to July 2001
Rev. Betty Dunlop	July 2001 to July 2004
Rev. Michael Henning	July 2004 to July 2018
Rev. Christopher Serufusa	July 2018

\*Rev. Paul Conley was the 27<sup>th</sup> pastor to serve Howard Street Methodist church which served the congregation from 1915 to 1960. The congregation moved to St. Andrew's in 1960. Rev. Conley was the first pastor of the new church.

Photographs of pastors who served Howard Street Church or St. Andrews UMC



Rev. E. C. Riggin  
1922-1923



Rev. Ira Shindle  
1934-1937



Rev. W. Dewitt Dickey  
1937-1939



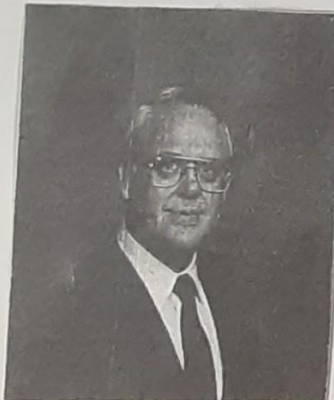
Rev. C. J. Hoover  
1946-1947



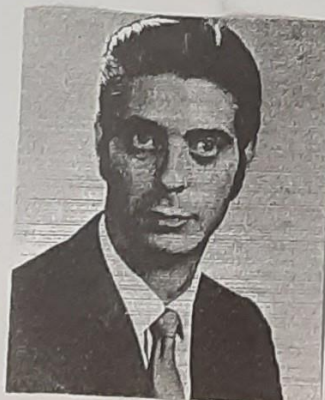
Rev. Robert O. Wallace  
1955-1958



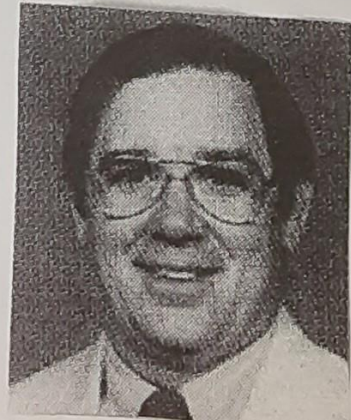
Rev. Paul Conley  
1958-1962



Rev. Charles Sisk  
1962-1965



Rev. John Ewald  
1965-1970



Rev. Dennis Upton  
1972-1976



Rev. Fred Walz  
1976-1979



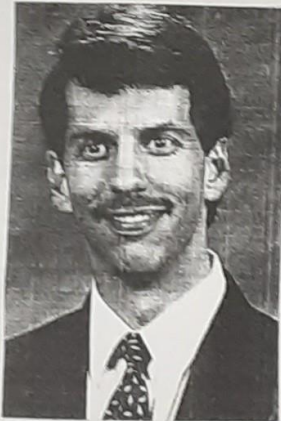
Rev. Gene Perry  
1979-1983



Rev. Ann Laprade  
1983-1986



Rev. Norman Obenshain  
1988-1993



Rev. Andrew Cooney  
1993-1999



Rev. Travis Knoll  
1999-2001



Rev. Betty Dunlop  
2001-2004



Rev. Michael Henning  
2004-

## Answering the Call

Three members of St. Andrew's United Methodist church became ordained ministers and served churches in Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Michael Bequeath, Ralph Stevenson and Rick Moser attended St. Andrew's and were active in the church during their formative years. It was during their teenage years that they decided to become ordained ministers.

Michael Bequeath, the oldest of the three, attended both Howard Street Methodist Church and St. Andrew's. He started his college education after high school, but did not complete his ministry education until years later.

Before Michael entered the ministry, he worked as a salesman in several businesses. Throughout these years, he remained active in local United Methodist churches. He served as choir director at both St. Andrew's and Emmanuel UMC in Hagerstown.

After approximately 15 years as an active layman in the church, Michael decided to return to college and fulfill his long-time goal: to become an ordained minister. Since his ordination, Michael has served churches in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Ralph Stevenson came to St. Andrew's as a young teenager. During his years at St. Andrew's he was active in youth fellowship, the choir and other ministries. It was during these years that he decided he wanted to become a minister. Immediately after high school, Ralph started his college education and preparation for the ordained ministry.

After completing his seminary training, Ralph started his ministry in Pennsylvania. Throughout his ministry, Ralph served churches in central Pennsylvania.

Rick Moser grew up in the church. He attended both Howard Street and St. Andrew's. As a youth, Rick was active in the youth fellowship and the Sunday School.

During his high school years, Rich talked about wanting to be a minister. After high school, Rick went to college to complete his undergraduate work and then completed his seminary training at Duke University in North Carolina. After his ordination, Rick served churches in North Carolina.

The members of St. Andrew's are pleased to recognize the achievements of these three men. They are commended for their many years of study and sacrifice to fulfill their goal to become ordained ministers and serve God and fellow Christians.

## Personal Memories of Howard Street Methodist Church Members

In March 2010, the members of St. Andrew's who attended Howard Street Methodist church were identified and asked to write a few paragraphs about their favorite memories at Howard Street Church. Fifteen members were invited to participate. The responses from the members were interesting as each member shared a variety of personal experiences that happened between 1930 and 1960.

The memories included important events such as baptisms, becoming a member, marriage at the church, attending church picnics, playing in the Sunday School orchestra and doing special work at the church.

Thanks to those members who shared the following memories:

### **Anna Grace Wilson**

I have fond memories of Howard Street Methodist church. I was baptized at Howard Street as an infant. I became a member at age 12. I can remember hearing the church bell at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning and the orchestra playing each Sunday before Sunday School. In the 1930's I enjoyed the church picnic in the summer, especially the ones at Pen Mar Park. We went to the park on the train and returned in the evening. In 1956, Howard Street Methodist church got its first full time pastor, Rev. Robert Wallace. It was during his pastorate that plans for a new church started.

### **Jenny Shaffer**

I remember the little church orchestra we had. My father and brothers played in the orchestra. My father played the trombone, Zeke (Arthur) played the drums, Frank (Junior) played the trumpet and I played a set of bells. I also helped my mother with the small children in Sunday School. Sunday was a special day for us. We went to church and Sunday School every Sunday. We couldn't roller skate on Sunday or go to the movies. We were taught that Sunday was a day of rest. Both of my parents were great church workers and did many different things for the church.

### **Frank Nield, Jr.**

I remember my father, Frank Nield, Sr. being the church janitor. He cleaned the church and even bought coal in the winter time. My brother Zeke and I mowed the grass around the church. We also shoveled snow in the winter. We cleaned around the church and the sidewalks. When we had communion at church, my mother made the grape juice from the grapes we grew. My brother and I carried the communion box to the church. We were told by my mother to be careful and not spill the juice. After communion we were responsible for putting the communion ware in the box to take home. Our hope was that there would be some juice left over so we could drink it.

We had a Sunday School Orchestra. There were about 6 or 7 members who played instruments. We played before Sunday School. We had good attendance at Sunday

School, averaging about 125 each week. Albert Powell was my Sunday School teacher. The class had 16-18 boys.

The church also had festivals and the members brought food to sell. Most items sold for five cents.

I can remember Bill Shaffer who was the church janitor and his pay was \$5-\$10 a month.

I will never forget the trips we made to Pen Mar Park for an all day picnic. The members at Howard Street joined in with two other churches. The picnic was on Saturday and we traveled by train from Hagerstown Station to Pen Mar. Each family took food and drink. It was a great day.

### **Arthur Nield**

I was baptized at Howard Street Methodist church as an infant and joined the church at the age of 12.

I remember my Sunday School teachers, but I have special memories of Mr. Charles Harbaugh who did special things with the class. He took us to Hagerstown City Park to play softball and he also took us groundhog hunting.

As a 17 year old senior in high school, I served as the custodian of the church for one year. One of my duties was to ring the bell on Sunday morning at 9:30 am.

After returning to Hagerstown from my tour of duty in the U.S. Army in Germany, I married Dorothy Jean Resh at the Howard Street Methodist church. We were married by Ref. Wallace, the church's first full time minister.

### **Judy Miller – On the Way to Church**

Long ago, when I was very small (and in the days when every family didn't have an automobile), my Mom, Dad and I would walk from our house on Spruce Street to the little green and gold church on Howard Street. The memories of those Sunday morning walks will always be very special to me as well as the things we did and said on the way to church.

No matter what the weather, we made our way down to Wilson Blvd, passing the open meadow which is now St. Andrew's. Making a right turn on the Howard Street we walked by Mr. Hoover's home on the way to church.

During the spring and summer months we would sing as we made our way and often I would swing between Mom and Dad's arms on the way to church. We chatted about what we might have for Sunday dinner, who we might see that week at church, and who might have a new hat or new dress. When it rained or snowed during the colder months, we made out just as happily.

I remember hearing the old church bell chime on the way to church. What a pleasant sound that was! I knew that we would be warm in cold weather because my parents told

me that Blaine Trimmer would go there early to put coal in the furnace. Upon arriving, I always went downstairs to join Mrs. Nield in singing all of those wonderful children's songs "Deep and Wide", "Climb Up Sunshine Mountain", "Jesus Loves Me", "This Little Light of Mine" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children". I can still see her sparkling little eyes and her beautiful smile as she stood at the front of the room.

After Sunday School I would join my parents and grandparents for the church service. I can still see the lovely colors the sun made on the floor as it shone through the stained glass windows. I remember the choir coming up the curving, narrow, stairs and entering the choir loft which was behind the pulpit. I remember Rev. Wallace and Rev. Conley.

But my most treasured memories are those of walking with my parents. What precious times those were, especially now, as I look back to remember all that happened: the singing, talking, laughing and the loving, on the way to church.

### **Nancy Wallech**

While still at Howard Street we had a very active young adult group. We held dinners at the church. We presented programs on special occasions. During those years, the members were Dorrie and Bill Crumbacker, Dick and Deanie Ohler, Woodie and Rose McNemar, Connie and Jim Resh, Bob and Nancy Garling, Shelby and Donnie Bowman, Ann and Ray Barger and others I am unable to recall. We had an annual Valentine's Day Dinner at the Shady Rest Restaurant on Route 11 in West Virginia. It was always well attended.

We held an annual Christmas Bazaar. During the months of November and December we would gather, usually at the Ohler's to make items for sale. One year we also published a church cookbook. It was quite an active fellowship group and an important part of the church.

St. Andrew's joined the Sunday School Bowling League in 1961. We had both a men's and a women's team. There were 68 teams in the league at that time. We bowled at Long Meadow Bowl on Tuesday evening. All women's teams were named for flowers. Our team was the "Asters".

The first Men's team consisted of Rev. Paul Conley, Leland Myers, Lyn Moser and Bob Garling. I cannot remember the fifth person.

The first women's team consisted of: Doris Moser, Margaret Myers, Anna Grace Wilson, Bea Clever and Nancy Garling. Neither team did well the first year, but we enjoyed the fellowship with members from other local churches.

My daughter was baptized and I joined Howard Street when Rev. Wallace was pastor. He was our first full time pastor.

As teenager, during World War II, our Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Daley, had us come to her house for taffy pulls and fun. We had a large group during this time. We also did many plays and were required to memorize every part.

As young adults, we had a very active group that held bazaars and hosted dinners. We also did some talent shows.

As a family, we moved to Maryland Avenue when I was 5 years old. The Williamson family were our neighbors and they invited my sister and me to go to church with them at Howard Street Methodist Church to attend Sunday School. That was 75 years ago.

As a young adult I served on the Building committee at Howard Street. At that time the committee was planning for the new church building on Maryland Avenue. As I am writing this I am reminded that I am the only living member of that Building Committee.

### **Dick Ohler**

Both of my parents were very active in the church back in the 1930's and 1940's. My sisters were pretty active too, and I believe all of my family was baptized there. Two of my sisters and myself were married there. I remember all of my Sunday School teachers and can still see Mrs. Nield singing "Climbing Jacobs Ladder" with her class. Back in the 1930's the Methodist Church had a train trip to Pen Mar Park, which we kids like. It was a really nice day, especially for us young ones.

My wife Deanie and I met while singing in the choir. We also have three children who grew up in the church.

One of my best memories was the years I spent as a Scout leader. We had a very good troop and attended summer camp at Sinoquipe for 13 straight years.

One other memory I have is the years I spent with the Candy Makers. We really had a good group of men and women who enjoyed making the hard candy. We all liked to work with our hands and we certainly enjoyed the great fellowship. Finally, the church has meant a lot to me and my family down through the years.

### **Carolyn Dietrich**

I grew up next to the Howard Street Church and attended Sunday School. While attending, I met a life-long friend, Dora Jean Shaffer. Her family was very active in the church. Dora Jean and I sang in the choir and participated in the Youth Fellowship. Dorie and Bill Crumbacker were our leaders in the Youth Fellowship.

Mrs. Margaret Nield was one of my Sunday School teachers. She was an excellent teacher.

In 1959, Larry Dietrich and I got married at Howard Street Church. Rev. Conley led the wedding ceremony. Our son Greg was born in 1963. Greg grew up in the Sunday School and had many wonderful teachers.

I count my many blessings for the friends I met at St. Andrew's and knowing that they will always be there when you need them.

## **Vickie Lookabaugh**

I grew up on Chestnut Street just ½ block from Howard Street Church. My Mom, Lillian, took the whole Rowe gang to church every Sunday. And, yes, I say gang because there were a lot of us.

I enjoyed playing on the large front porch of the church with all the other children. I attended Sunday School where I learned from great teachers such as, Mary Ohler, Maggie Nield and Eleanor Murphy. The Sunday School was in the basement and I remember that “musty smell” from the humid basement.

A familiar sound that will always stay with me was the wonderful sound of the church bell. I can remember that someone use to help me reach the bell rope so I could hang on and ride up and down as they pulled the rope.

My favorite activity was the great picnic at Pangborn Park. Every family brought a covered dish and we enjoyed the good food and fun. We had three legged sack races, a peanut scramble and group singing by the lake.

After Sunday School, my mother took us to worship. She loved to sing and had a good voice. Leland Myers was the Choir director and wanted Mom to sing in the choir. In order for my mother to sing in the choir, an adult would have to supervise us. This was the beginning of the nursery at Howard Street Church. We went to the nursery and Mom sang with the Adult choir. She loved wearing the choir robe and sang with the choir until she passed on to the heavenly skies.

During the holiday season the church was filled with the smell of hard candy. Making hard candy was a fund raiser at the church. As I remember, Mrs. Eleanor Murphy was the person who started the hard candy making.

When St. Andrew’s Church was completed in 1960, we continued to go to church every Sunday. We walked to church as a family regardless of the weather. We walked in rain, sleet, snow and sunshine as we walked the 6 blocks from Chestnut Street to Maryland Avenue.

## Revelations: The Story that Could Not be Told

The history of St. Andrew's is the experiences of the people. It is the actions of the people as they participate in the events of the church. Whether it is worship, church school, fellowship activities or fund raising events, the behavior of the people is usually what we remember.

At St. Andrew's most of our more memorable events were celebrations. These celebrations, for the most part, were done as remembrances of significant religious events or important dates in the church's history. As a church tradition, most of these events were well attended and provided great fellowship. Some of our church leaders have said: "We know attendance will be good when we include food as a part of the celebration." This is not to say that food is the reason members come, it is simply the added incentive and it works.

Over the years, at St. Andrew's, the fellowship dinners were very popular with the members. The fellowship dinners have had a lasting impression on all of our members. For example, in a children's Sunday School class, the teacher asked the children to name one of the Christian sacraments we celebrate at St. Andrew's. A student replied, "the covered dish".

A second thing we like to do at St. Andrew's is singing. We have had some wonderful times at the Sunday night hymn sings. Back in the late 1960's and early 1970's, the Asbury Choir came to our hymn sings and sang familiar hymns and spirituals. Their singing was from the heart and very spiritually uplifting. It was a real joy to hear their voices harmonizing on their special arrangements of well-known hymns. When they sang "The Lord's Prayer" you could sense God's presence.

As a congregation we like to sing, but don't always succeed in singling like we should. The reason for this is we are not familiar with the song. One explanation that was given for this problem was there are too many hymns. The United Methodist Hymnal has hundreds of hymns. Everyone knows at least 50 hymns, some know a hundred or more and the choir and the organist know a few more, but no one knows which hymns anyone else knows; so about half of the time we look at one another and wonder: Who selected that hymn?

To compound the problem, we bought another hymnal and the problem starts all over again. But we have learned through these experiences that beautiful hymns continue to be written and the lyrics fit well in a constantly changing culture.

While we like to sing and have fellowship dinners, we struggle from time to time with not having sufficient money to meet our commitments. As a church, we are constantly coming up with ways to raise money. At St. Andrew's we have had soup sales, Thanksgiving dinner, spaghetti dinners, bazaars, rummage sales, car washes, home-made candy, Wolfgang candy, parking cars for special events such as the Showcase of Bands and regional high school football competition. Back in the 1970's community groups and organizations used the stadium for various events.

One event in particular that got the attention of the United Methodist Men started with an article in the local paper. The article was about a nudist organization trying to rent a place in Hagerstown to have a convention and an outside facility to have recreational competition. The newspaper implied that the group contacted the Board of Education about using the School Stadium. Since the United Methodist Men park cars for events, the question was asked: "Should the church park the cars?" Robert Cox, President of the United Methodist Men, was asked this question and his answer was "We will name the parking lot the Garden of Eden and park the cars".

At St. Andrew's we never seem to have enough money. We are always hopeful that someday we will receive a large inheritance like we did in 1960. In the 1970's I was approached by one of our senior members. He was in his early nineties, and still very active in the church. One Sunday after church, he came to me and asked me how the church finances were and if we had enough money to cover our bills. I told him there was always a need for money. His reply was that one of these days he was going to give the church enough money that there would be no worries about money for many years. As I listened, I thought that the person was thinking about his personal mortality and that he was doing to donate money to the church and had already stated this in his will. I told him I thought he was a little premature with his idea and that he looked good and would live many more years. He looked at me in a puzzled way and said "I am not talking about dying, I am talking about winning the Maryland Million Dollar Lottery."

The officers and members of Howard Street Methodist Church and St. Andrew's agree that the two churches did not always have the successes they hoped for. From time to time the two churches struggled in meeting their financial obligation, but with determined leadership and dedication, they continued to meet the challenges before them.

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Church Directories are published from time to time and copies may be available in the church office. Photographs found in those directories emphasize that the church is people, individuals and families who come together in community to worship God and do God's work.

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# Confirmation



# Luau Sunday

